

# Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

## An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

### Chapter 6- The History of Heresy **Jude 4**

#### 61. The History of Heresy Part 31

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WOSM Wednesday 01/30/08

Welcome again my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue our examination of The History of Heresy by looking at the fourth verse of Jude- so let's read verse 4 together:

**For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

Now we are continuing to study about who these "certain persons" that Jude talks about here in verse 4 really were, by studying the seven major groups of heresy and we are continuing to examine the sixth major heresy to attack the Christian Church late in the fourth century and early in the fifth century called Pelagianism.

As you will remember from our previous broadcasts, the British monk, Pelagius had attacked the Grace of God head on- just like Jude said would happen- by denying the Doctrine of Original Sin.

Pelagius taught that it was ridiculous to assume that all men were born with the Original Sin of Adam still upon them. Pelagius said that all men were born as a clean sheet of paper, and they stood on their own two feet. If they personally sinned- then they were sinners. But if they didn't personally sin- then they were righteous. And with this view- Pelagius had no need for God's Grace or God's Mercy or even Salvation from a sinless Savior. So, if men were to be saved at all, Pelagius said, they would be saved through their *own* power and their *own* will on their *own* time based upon their *own* choice and through their *own* power.

As I have told you many times before, Pelagius is the father of modern day Secular Humanism; modern day Sociology; modern day Psychology; and modern day Psychiatry. And sadly, many very popular teachings of the Word of Faith movement and many of the Health, Wealth and Prosperity preachers and teachers come directly from what Pelagius taught- as he rejected Original Sin and Human Depravity. Also, tenets of Mormonism come from this ancient heresy.

Now 1700 years ago- Pelagianism began to sweep over the world. It became the most serious threat to Biblical Christianity that has ever been, and it is accurate to say that the Pelagian Controversy stands today as the greatest heresy; the greatest evil; the greatest false teaching and perversion of Christianity that has ever attacked the Church to this day.

But God is faithful. And God raised up a former womanizer; a former immoral scoundrel who had been gloriously saved by God's Grace and who had become the Bishop of Hippo- a city in North Africa to confront Pelagius; do battle with him; and to completely and utterly defeat the Pelagian heresy and send it back into the pit from whence it came. The Bishop's name was Augustine and thank God that we have his writings and his thoughts preserved for us today.

Like Athanasius before him, Augustine didn't use human logic or human reasoning or his superior intellect to combat Pelagius- although he could have. Augustine was well able to thoroughly demolish Pelagius with his superior intellect as an elephant could have crushed a snake- but he didn't. Augustine was careful to follow in the path of those who had come before him- a path that we must be careful to observe and follow today. Augustine attacked Pelagius' heresy about Human Depravity and Original Sin point by point and defeated it point by point using the Holy Scriptures and the Holy Scriptures alone. Some 1100 years before the Power and the Glory and the Sufficiency of the inspired Holy Bible was rediscovered by Martin Luther and John Calvin and the Puritans and articulated by the Doctrine of Sola Scriptura- Augustine used Sola Scriptura to defeat the greatest challenge to Christianity that the Church had ever seen.

So, lets us revisit this period of our Church's history and let us examine these wonderful Doctrines of God's Word so that we too may

comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and depth and the height of the richness and the majesty of God.

Pelagius rejected the Doctrine of Original Sin. So, in order to see how wrong Pelagius was- we must know how right the Doctrine of Original Sin is. So let us turn to Scripture and read the infallible Word of the living God about our origin. Turn with me to that which the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write in **1 Corinthians 15:21-22**:

**21 For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.**

**22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**

Now notice that God says here something quite curious. God the Holy Ghost says through Paul- “**as in Adam all die**”. But wait- didn’t Eve eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil also? In fact, didn’t she eat the fruit first? Let us see by reading in **Genesis 3:1-7**:

**1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"**

**2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;**

**3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"**

**4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!**

**5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

**6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.**

**7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.**

So, the Bible says, “**as in Adam all die**”. It does not say, “as in Eve all die”. So why did God place the responsibility of the Fall of all of mankind on Adam and not on Eve? Some would stress the role of Biblical Manhood here and that is true to a point- but this goes deeper than a Man- Woman aspect. We must understand that Eve sinned because she was *deceived*. She was tricked; she was fooled. The serpent beguiled Eve and deceived her. But the serpent did *not* deceive Adam. Adam was *not* fooled; Adam was *not* tricked; Adam was *not* conned into eating the fruit. No, Adam sinned because Adam *wanted* to sin. Adam sinned because in his heart of hearts he *disagreed* with God. Adam was in premeditated and blatant rebellion to God and Adam sinned with both his eyes wide open. His sin was *greater* because he knew what he was doing, and he *wanted* to sin against God. In fact, Adam’s eating of the fruit was simply an outward manifestation of the inner rebellion that he already had against God.

You see, Adam wasn’t born. Adam didn’t come forth from a woman. Adam had never been a baby or a child or a young man. Adam was created. He was created as a full grown adult human being. Adam didn’t have a childhood. Adam didn’t have a time of adolescence. Adam didn’t have a past to be forgiven of like we do. Adam was grown when God made him. Adam was made in the very image and likeness of God. On the sixth day of Creation, God took a lump of clay and fashioned it into His own image and then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and Man immediately and instantly became a living soul. Adam was given total and complete dominion over all that God had made. He was immortal; and Adam had a free will and the only One that Adam was subjected to was God Himself.

God walked with Adam in the cool of the day. God talked with Adam and Adam talked with God and yet Adam was *not* content with this arrangement and Adam wanted out of the Garden. As strange as that may sound to us today- Adam was not satisfied with the way that God was running the Garden and Adam wanted to rebel against His Creator. That is why his sin was so horrible; that is why his sin was so great and that is why when Adam sinned, he took down with him the entire human race.

The Bible says that when Eve ate of the fruit she gave to her husband who the Bible says was “**with her**”. So Adam was standing

right next to Eve the entire time that the serpent was deceiving her and Adam had made no move whatsoever to stop satan and protect his wife from being deceived. So Adam was fully accountable to God for what happened and therefore Adam was in the greater wrong.

People have said that they just can't believe that Adam could be in the Garden of Eden and still not be satisfied. I tell you that this is really not that uncommon, beloved.

I know many people all over who have received much at God's Hand and yet they are not satisfied. They grumble and complain and belly ache and murmur and wish that they could have something else. Because when your heart is wicked no amount of God's Blessings will satisfy you.

You think it strange that Adam wanted out of the Garden? I know about a man named Esau who wanted out of the family of God. Esau was born in the family that God Himself had chosen and that God had blessed and that God had visited, but to Esau- it wasn't enough. This man wanted out of the family just like Adam wanted out of the Garden. Esau wanted out of the family so bad and he was looking for a way out so bad that he was willing to sell his own birthright for a bowl of soup.

Don't tell me that Esau was *that* hungry; and don't tell me that he had never been hungry before that day. Don't even tell me that he didn't get hungry again that *same* day. Esau selling his birthright had nothing to do with hunger. Esau sold his birthright because he was wicked in his heart. The Bible says that God *hated* Esau and Esau had an evil heart and Esau was wrong and he *wanted* out of the family and when a person wants out of God's Presence and when a person wants to get away from God's Garden- they will look for any excuse to do so.

And just in case you think that what I am telling you about Esau is hard to believe, listen to this- it gets worse. Lucifer was an arch-angel in Heaven and he wasn't satisfied with the way that God was running Heaven! Lucifer thought that he could get a rebellion among the angels together in heaven and that they could overthrow God Almighty. But it didn't take God but just an instant to throw him and one third of all the angels out of heaven and down to the earth. Jesus said in **Luke 10:18:**

**... I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.**

I tell you that there are many today who are not satisfied with what God has done for them. God has blessed them- but they say it isn't enough. God has moved for them- but they want more. God has changed things- but they still aren't happy. They think that they could do better. They sound like the children of Israel when after God publicly humiliated the mightiest nation on earth and freed them from 400 years of slavery- they said, "*Would to God that we were back in Egypt.*"

Beloved, please don't act like Adam. Please don't act like Esau. Please don't act like Lucifer. Those who are saved need to learn the priceless gift of godly contentment. We need to learn how to be satisfied with that which God has provided and resist the temptation of complaining and griping about everything in our lives.

Listen to me. This country is the greatest country on earth- but there is much about this country and this culture and this way of life that we call American that is evil and sinful and ungodly and UnScriptural which feeds our flesh and feeds our lusts and feeds our desire to live contrary to God and His Word. And as Christians we are told to *reject* those things and to cry out against those things and to denounce those things and to abstain from the very appearance of evil.

Listen- being dissatisfied with what God has done or with what God has given is not a godly attribute, dear friends- it is an attribute that we got from the Fall. It is an attribute that we got after Adam sinned and after he rebelled and after he turned away from God and that heart and that attribute and that nature is depraved, and it is wicked and it is sinful and it is evil and it exists in every single human being on earth. You and I are born with that fallen nature in us. We are conceived with that very same rebellious and sinful nature of Adam at the very moment of conception and every single human being since Adam is born totally and completely separated from God and in need of radically, supernatural, and miraculous Sovereign Grace and we are in need of Sovereign Love and we are in need of a Sovereign Savior- Jesus Christ, Who can regenerate our natures and birth us again and open our closed eyes and revive our dead souls and wash us in pure Blood and forgive us from all sin so that we may be delivered from our wicked nature and put on a new divine nature that is created in righteousness and true holiness. And this is why we need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all

delivered to the saints Well, I'm out of time for today- but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the **Epistle of Jude**. May God help us all.

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