

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**

78. The History of Heresy Part 48

WOSM Friday 02/22/08

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 there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus

Now we are continuing to study about who these "certain men" that Jude talks about here in verse 4 were by studying the seven major groups of heresy and today we are continuing to examine the heresy of Pelagianism which attacked the Christian Church late in the fourth century and the lasting legacy that this heresy has had on our culture.

On the last broadcast, we saw how that since one Doctrine is connected to every other Doctrine and since we are being literally invade today with an illegal army of heresies that are overwhelming our spiritual borders, that three things are true:

1. The study of Biblical Doctrine by those who are saved is vital to the success of Christianity in the earth
2. Only by studying Biblical Doctrine in a systematic way- a line upon line; precept upon precept way- can we connect all the Bible Doctrines to each other correctly and fully
3. The only systematic Doctrine that exists on earth that is completely from Scripture and Scripture alone is Reformed Theology

Pelagius left us with a false image of Man and a false image of God. The heresy that attacked the Church late in the fourth century gave us a low view of Sovereign Grace and a high view of Man's Free Will. Pelagianism, which evolved into Humanism is now dominate in the earth and is the prevailing view of Man and Salvation in the mind and heart of Man today and sadly, is once again knocking on the door of the Church to gain entry and acceptance in the House of God.

Some of the most popular and widely used Church growth models that exist today are semi- Pelagian in nature and put forth a concept of Man and God and Grace and Free Will that Pelagius taught 1600 years ago. And the really sad part is that many in the Church don't even know it. Truly, we are in desperate need to return to the Bible and to earnestly contend for the Faith.

We live in a day when the fear of God is at an all time low. Men do not fear God; we do not honor God and we do not fear God's wrath. This is not an accident. A low view of God always brings forth a glaring lack of the Fear of God. A low view of God brings forth a lack of godly fear. A lack of godly fear brings forth an increase in sin. Where there is no respect for God and the things of God- there is always an increase in man's propensity to sin. We feel the liberty to sin and to keep sin and to dwell with sin precisely because we have lost the Fear of God.

In our heart of hearts, we really don't grasp how seriously offended God is with our sin and how seriously angry God is about our sin and how serious God is about judging our sin. This unbiblical and unwise view of sin is the product of years of minimizing God's Righteousness and Holiness in our hearts and minds. We do not see God as being exalted as high as the Bible exalts Him and we automatically assume that God is not any different than we are.

We have done this for so long and we are so accustomed to God being no different than we are, we hear foolish and frightening statements like- *"Well, God understands me and He doesn't hold this sin against me"*, or *"Me and God have an agreement about this sin"*, or *"I'm not speaking to God right now because I'm mad at Him."*

No one who has a biblical view of God would ever think or say that God wouldn't hold sin against them. The Bible is clear, God's extreme and infinite hatred of sin is forever painted in our hearts and minds as we look at the Cross. God hates sin so much that He

required; I say He required Jesus to be beaten to a bloody pulp and to die and excruciating death by crucifixion and to spend three days in the bowels of the earth. The Romans didn't kill Jesus; the Jews didn't kill Jesus. Jesus said in **John 10:17-18**:

17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down , and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus was beaten; He was whipped; He was rejected; He was maligned; He was spit upon; He was laughed at and mocked; He was nailed to a tree; He was scorned and ridiculed; and His heart literally ruptured within Him because that is the price that God demanded; that is the price that God required to pay for my sins and your sins.

If you know that to be true; if you believe that to be true; if your mind and heart can ever grasp just a little of what Jesus went through- you will never look at sin the same way again; you will never laugh at sin again; you will never think that sin is cool or that it is hip or that it is funny; and you will never marginalize sin ever again. If you could ever return to a correct and Biblical view of sin- you will not tolerate sin in your own life ever again- as soon as you see sin in your life you will repent immediately and beg God to take it away; you will not minimize how serious sin is to God and you will certainly not be so foolish and wicked to think that God won't hold sin against you.

Yes, He will hold your sin against you and any teaching that says that God won't hold your sin against you is a lie and any person who tells you that God won't hold your sin against you is a liar and the Truth is not in him.

The Bible says in **Isaiah 5:14**, that in the last days, hell will have to be enlarged to take care of the masses of humanity that will be thrown head long into it. The Bible says in **The Revelation 14:11** that the smoke of the torment of those who burn in hell will ascend forever. The Bible says in **1 Peter 4:18** that if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear. The Bible says in **Hebrews 2:3**, How shall we escape, if we neglect so great Salvation.

Brothers and sisters, the only view of sin that matters is God's view of sin. The only view of God and Man and Grace Free Will and Justification that matters is not your view and it certainly is not my view- it isn't the modern popular view it isn't the latest snake oil salesman's view on the Hay, Wood and Stubble Network- but it is God's view.

Pelagius said that we can save ourselves- but we can't. Pelagius taught that Original Sin was a myth- but it isn't. Pelagius said that Man's Free Will was Sovereign- but it isn't. Pelagius taught that we didn't need Grace- but we do.

You know, this isn't rocket science. If what the Bible teaches about Original Sin is right- then much about what we have been taught about Man is wrong. If what the Bible teaches about God's Sovereignty is right, then much about what we are being taught about the Sovereignty of Man's Free Will is wrong.

Either God is Sovereign or Man is. Either God's Grace is needed for Salvation, or it isn't. Either Original Sin has condemned the human race, or it hasn't. If Pelagius was right and if his teachings were right, then the Church owes him an apology and we need to all become Humanists, who value and promote the power and glory of Man's ability to choose. But if Pelagius was in fact a heretic, then the Church was right for condemning him and we need to stop teaching Pelagianism and we need to stop espousing semi-Pelagianism and we need to rediscover the Bible and we need to embrace the Bible and we need to stop being ashamed of what the Bible says about God's Sovereignty and Man's Depravity and just preach it and teach it the way it is written.

If Salvation is a cooperative effort between God and Man, then the Bible is wrong and Pelagius was right. If Man doesn't really need Salvation, then the Bible is wrong, and Pelagius was right. If lost, unsaved Man has the power and the ability in his lost state to simply choose to serve God- then we don't need God's Grace.

If the key to being what God wants us to be is to build up our self esteem and our self worth and our self importance- then we don't need the Cross. If all that Man lacks in order to be right with God is to get more money or to acquire more possessions or to have a better job or to drive a nicer car or to live in a better home- then Blood bought Salvation is not necessary.

But if Pelagius was one of the certain men that Jude talked about in verse 4. If Pelagius was ordained for condemnation; if Pelagius was a heretic; and if the Bible is true and if Original Sin has condemned the entire Human Race and if Man is totally and completely Depraved and unable to choose to serve God in his lost state and if Man is indeed dead in sins and trespasses and if Man is so lost that he cannot save himself- then we *do* need Grace and we *do* need the Cross and we *do* need Salvation and we really *do* need our black hearts washed with Red Blood and made whiter than snow.

And if that is true then the one single way to achieve real, genuine, Heaven sent, life changing Salvation is to preach the Gospel. Not a social Gospel- but the Gospel. Not a therapeutic Gospel- but the Gospel; not a feel good Gospel- but the Gospel; not an easy Gospel- but the Gospel and we must preach that Gospel fully and we must preach that Gospel rightly and we must preach that Gospel fearlessly and we must preach that Gospel for the Glory of God and we must preach that Gospel to every creature, and we must not be ashamed of that Gospel for it and it alone is the power of God unto Salvation.

My Christian brothers and sisters, Pelagius couldn't have been more wrong than he was and his influence on the culture today is perfectly understandable because the culture is not saved. Our American Culture is just as sinful as any other culture. Our social desires and our national ambition is just as corrupt; just as ungodly; just as selfish and just as lost as any other culture. Jesus didn't die for the culture- Jesus died for people. We cannot save the culture- the culture cannot be saved. But we can preach the Gospel and God can save some out of the culture.

Beloved, the notion that if we affect change in our culture that it is the same thing as getting people saved is a Pelagian idea- not a Biblical idea. Pelagius taught that the way to salvation was good works. Pelagius taught that if we work real hard and if we put forth enough effort and if we enact enough legislation and if we pass enough laws and if we modify our behavior enough- we can save ourselves and our culture and our society. Pelagius, the heretic taught that.

The Bible says that man *cannot* save himself. He *cannot* save himself because he *cannot* change his nature. And Man can modify his behavior till the cows come home- but simply starting certain activities or stopping certain activities won't get Man one inch closer

to Salvation than if he didn't do anything at all. This is why the Gospel is so offensive- it confronts our efforts to save ourselves and exposes them as being sinful.

When Jesus confronted Nicodemus in **John 3**, He was talking to a Pharisee. This man prayed and studied the Bible 12 hours a day every day since he became a man. And he worked real hard, Paul said to create for himself a righteousness that was not the righteousness of God. Jesus looked at this man who prayed more than any of us have ever prayed and who studied the Bible more than any of us have ever studied the Bible and Jesus told him that it was all for naught.

Jesus told Nicodemus that in spite of all his effort and in spite of all his good and noble and religious work to make himself acceptable in God's sight- he had failed, and he too had to be born again by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone. Jesus told Nicodemus that all his work his entire life to earn his salvation had not brought him any close to God than was a prostitute.

Do you think Nicodemus was happy to hear that? No, he was not. It made him angry. He was not angry at himself for trying to earn his own salvation- no, he was angry at Jesus for telling him that it was all a waste of time. Now we know that at the end, something did happen to Nicodemus, but his initial reaction to the Gospel being presented correctly and fully to him by the Son of God Himself was complete and total rejection.

And I tell you that we must guard our own hearts to make sure that the Gospel does not offend us. And we must make sure that we are earnestly contending for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.