

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude** Chapter 8- Woe Unto Them! **Jude 11** 97 Woe Unto Them! Part 1

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Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing in our Journey through the Epistle of Jude and today I want to see what Jude meant when he pronounced an everlasting and eternal condemnation upon the heretics who bring in false doctrine and ungodly teaching into the House of God. So, let's read verse 11 of Jude together:

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Now the first thing that Jude tells us here in verse 11 is that he repeats the damnation that God Himself has placed upon the heretics and false teachers who have brought their lies into the Church. Jude says, "**Woe unto them!**" Now while we seem to have an enormous amount of tolerance for false teachers today- Jude and Paul and Peter and John and Jesus and the other New Testament writers had none. And that is not because these men were rude, and we are nice; and it is not because we are more spiritual than they were.

No, the reason that the Apostles and Jesus treated heretics different than we do is because we are *less* spiritual today than they were 2,000 years ago. It is because we are wrong, and they were right. It is because these men valued Truth and they loved Truth and they cherished Truth and they defended Truth and they died to give Truth and they died to contend for the Truth while many of us seem to look at Truth as an inconvenience and as a burden and many times, as an embarrassment.

As I have told you many times, the men that God used to raise up the Church were godly and holy men. They were specially chosen and

specially equipped and specially gifted and specially anointed like very few before them and absolutely none after them.

They were also humble and gentle and compassionate and kind and loving men to anyone and everyone who wanted to know Jesus, or who was struggling with sin; or who was battling temptation, or who was needing encouragement. But these same men who worked with the worst of society and spent many patient hours comforting the believer were like pit bulls with the heretics. They were brutal against anyone who tried to come into the Church to bring in false Doctrine; they were absolutely fearless against false prophets and their rejection and denunciation of liars and false teachers was swift and sure.

And if we are to be faithful to the Word of God today; if we are to be faithful to Jesus and if we are to be faithful to those whom God chose to establish the Church- we must look at heretics just like they did; we must talk to the heretics just like they did; we must reject the heretics just like they did, and we must condemn the heretics and their lies just like they did.

To do any different is not being spiritual or kind or even Christian dear friends- it is being foolish and unfaithful.

The Apostles' swift and sure condemnation of heretics and the 2,000 year old history of the Church being swift and sure to denounce heresy and heretics come from the knowledge of who these people really are.

The heretics that Jude was talking about in this inspired Epistle are not well meaning but slightly off base people. The heretics that Jude was talking about are not saved people who are just a little inconsistent about their Theology and Doctrine. The heretics that Jude was talking about here are not people with whom we have a difference of opinion with that is not serious or important.

No, as I told you many times before- neither you nor I have the right to judge another man's heart, nor can we even judge their motives. And I am not doing that in any of these broadcasts and you shouldn't do it either.

We should not break fellowship with anyone over issues that are not concerning essential areas of Biblical Truth. That is wrong. Well, then just what matters are essential Christian Doctrines? There are three that Jude discusses in this Epistle:

1. The Person of Jesus Christ- in either His Divinity or His Humanity
2. The Character and Nature of God
3. Grace- specifically about the elements of the Gospel and Salvation

These are three areas of Divine Revelation about which there can be absolutely no discussion. If anyone for any reason disagrees with or tries in any way to alter what Scripture teaches about these three issues- they are not believers at all but are lost and deceived. Both the Divinity and Humanity of Christ; The Virgin Birth; The Sinless Life; The Death, Burial and Resurrection; and the exclusivity of Christ fulfilling all the Old Testament prophecies pertaining to the Messiah are all critical attributes of the Person of Jesus Christ. Any deviation from any of these Biblical truths about the Person of Jesus Christ constitutes heresy. And we are correct not to fellowship with those who do not accept these Truths.

The Sovereignty of God; God being Creator; God's Immutability and Eternality; God's Impassibility and Infinity; God's Immateriality and Immensity; God's Omnipotence; Omniscience, and Omnipresence; God's Wisdom and Light; God's Majesty, Beauty, and Ineffability; God's Life and Immortality; God's Unity and Trinity; God's Holiness and Righteousness; God's Jealousy and Perfection; God's Truthfulness and Goodness; God's Mercy and Wrath all make up what the God Himself revealed in Scripture about Himself. And any deviation from any of these absolute Truths about the Nature a Character of God constitutes heresy.

The Fall of Adam; Original Sin; the fact that Man is now dead in trespasses and sins and totally separated from God and eternally lost with no hope of ever being able to save himself. The concept that Man's sins are so utterly offensive to God that God would be completely justified to condemn all men into hell, but instead, in His great Love and Mercy and for His own Glory, He chose to save some. God effectually works in the earth to draw those whom He chose before the foundation of the world so that He may regenerate them and give them a new nature, thus giving them the capacity to repent and believe the Gospel. Salvation is a Sovereign work of a Sovereign God by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone without any

human works or human contribution. The righteousness that we have that allows us to pass through God's Tribunal is not our righteousness but is Christ's that God imputes to us by faith. And those whom God chose, those whom God drew; Those whom God regenerated; those whom God saved those whom God sealed will ultimately persevere, by God's Grace, unto the end and enjoy the glories of Heaven forever. This is what the Bible declares to be true about the Gospel and Grace and any deviation from these Truths constitutes heresy.

Now we should be friendly and kind and merciful and loving and generous and compassionate and longsuffering with all men- but if they do not accept these three areas of Divine Revelation- we cannot and we should not embrace them as brothers; we should not call them Christians; we should not allow them to teach in our Church and we should not accept anything that they have to say about life or godliness because they are deceived and they do not follow Jesus Christ and they are not submitted to the authority of Scripture.

Now people today may call that stand "harsh" or "mean spirited" or "unloving" or "cruel" or even "unchristian"- but Jesus called it being faithful and if by taking this stand- I am labeled to be wrong- then I am in very good company- because all of the Prophets; all of the Apostles; Moses; Jesus; and 2,000 years of Church leadership took the very same stand.

Jude says that all heresy attacks one or more of these three areas. And any doctrine; any teaching; any book; any prophecy; any vision; any church ruling; any papal edict and any theology that rejects or twists or seeks to change or alter anything about these three areas is of the devil and cannot and must not be tolerated by the Church, or God's people. Paul put in like this in **Galatians 1:8&9:**

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

So, whatever you may think about me- I trust that you believe that Paul was writing inspired Words here and so these three areas are non-negotiable. These three areas are just like the Bible declares them to be. There is no room for any difference of opinion over these

three areas. If you reject one or more of the tenets of the Person of Jesus Christ; the Character and Nature of God; or the Gospel- you cannot be saved and you cannot go to Heaven. The attempt by anyone to monkey with these three areas makes that person a heretic- plain and simple. And it is to these people that Jude was talking about and that we have been studying now for several months.

And I'll tell you how right this is. If anyone begins to deviate from these three issues today- it is almost certain that what they teach has already been taught by one or more of the heretics of the past and you can go right to the history books and see the very same false teaching and get the background on it and you can then see how the fathers of the Church confronted that heresy back then.

Now I want you to notice that neither Jude nor I have discussed a whole host of other issues. And simply because I am not mentioning them here in our study of Jude does not mean that they are not important. They are important. All I am saying and what Jude was saying is that even though Christians may honestly disagree about things like styles of music or the Rapture; or Last Day Events or other issues like that does not mean that we are not brothers and sisters in Christ and that we should break fellowship over these things. We shouldn't. We are commanded to love one another and to pray for one another. And we should work real hard to not let those lesser issues divide us.

But the Person of Jesus Christ; the Nature and Character of God; and the Gospel are three areas on which the entire Christian Faith stands and if you alter or change these areas- you no longer have Biblical Christianity- but you have manufactured an entirely different man- made religion that is not the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

Beloved, we may well agree with Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses and Roman Catholics and Hindus and Muslims and Buddhists and Hare Krishnas and Taoists and other groups about the great social issues of our day. We can join with them about issues like Abortion and Homosexual Marriage and embryonic stem cell research and a whole host of social and moral issues- but unless and until these people submit themselves to the authority of Scripture on the issues of the Person of Jesus Christ; the Nature and Character of God; and the

Gospel- they are not Christians; they are not our brothers sisters in Christ; and they are not saved.

And any attempt to compromise or water down these three areas of Divine Truth or any attempt to push them aside so they don't stand in the way of us coming together is not a noble effort for unity but is in fact being ashamed of the Gospel and is a sin.

If we lose these three areas; if we change anything about these three areas; if we alter what these three areas say and mean- we lose what it means to be a Christian; we lose the Church; and we lose Christianity.

Paul and Peter and John and the other Apostles and Jude knew what was at stake here and I pray that we will wake up and realize that just like the natural terrorists are serious and want to destroy the United States- so too, these spiritual terrorists want to come right into the Church and change what the Bible teaches about these three areas. We cannot and we must not let that happen.

Unbelievably, there are those foolish American who still don't understand the serious of the terrorist threat against us. They still think that there is no threat and as long as it doesn't affect them personally, they are not alarmed. They are not willing to fight; they are not willing to defend, and they certainly are not willing to die precisely because they do not love this nation. They don't view the terrorists as being a serious problem at all- no, unbelievably, they view those who are defending us against the terrorists as being the problem. They want to cut and run; lay down our weapons; and try to talk to savages who believe it is a good thing to strap bombs to their own children.

The same thing is true in the spirit about the Long War against the Truth. The spiritual pacifists see no value at all in Sound, Biblical Doctrine being taught in the House of God to those who are saved. They don't think heresy is a problem at all. No, these people really think that Biblical Doctrine is the problem. They look at evil men who creep into the Church to bring in damnable heresy as being wonderful people who seek to free us from the shackles of the bondage of believing the Truth and they see the people who want to defend the Truth against these heretics as being the real problem. They do not think that it matters what anyone believes as long as they love Jesus- and it really doesn't matter to them Who Jesus is. These people look

at any attempt by anyone to defend the Gospel as a complete waste of time and a hindrance to love and peace.

But if that is true, then why is there so much in the Bible about the necessity and importance of teaching and learning and proclaiming and defending Sound Doctrine? Why did Paul tell Timothy to learn it and teach it and pass it down to others that would come after him?

If these modern liberals are right and Sound Biblical Doctrine is a hindrance to love and peace- then why did Paul and John and Peter condemn people for teaching false doctrine? Was Paul and Peter and John a hindrance to love and peace as well?

And what about a nearly 2,000 year long history of the Christian Church in which there are countless numbers of documented examples that we have already gone over in great detail in this study where the Church gathered together to settle a dispute over Doctrine and where they excommunicated the heretic and the heresy. Are we to believe that the Christian Church been hindering love and peace now for 2,000 years?

And if the actions toward heretics and false prophets and false teachers by Jesus and the Apostles and the collective wisdom of the Church is not reliable and is not to be emulated by us today- then who do we follow? Dr. Phil?

No, what we are witnessing today is simply the result of living during the time of the great falling away and we are seeing an unwillingness by some to be obedient to the authority of Scripture and to see the real threat of heretics in our day. We are witnessing nothing more than the emasculation of the Church and a lack of courage and fortitude on the part of some who are unwilling to defend what they say that they love because it might soil their clothes, tarnish their reputations, or disturb their relationships. These people are ashamed of the Gospel, and they should be ashamed of themselves. Well, I've got to stop right here. 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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