

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

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

Chapter 9- Going the Way of Cain **Jude 11**

106 Going the Way of Cain Part 8

WOSM Wednesday 04/02/08

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 again 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 we have learned a lot about Cain over the last 7 broadcasts, and I pray that you can see what God inspired Jude to write and how Jude compares the heretics to Cain. As Cain went- so go the heretics and as we will see today, that since the heretics refuse to submit to the authority of Scripture that they must go in the way of Cain.

In **Genesis 4**, we saw that Cain murdered his own brother over his rage that Abel's offering was received by God and his wasn't- showing us that "going in the way of Cain" means that those who follow this OT heretic will be furious with those who "go in the way of Abel". Those whose offering is bathed in Blood; those who seek to serve God on God's terms; those who seek all honor and all glory to go to God; those who seek to decrease so that Jesus can increase will be despised by those who seek to "go in the way of Cain".

Now there is one final attribute about Cain that is also true about all heretics that I want to discuss today. And in order to see this final trait, let's return to **Genesis 4:16-17**:

16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

17 Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son.

Now the Holy Bible says here that Cain, “**went out from the Presence of the Lord**”. And this is critical to remember as we look at what Jude is telling us about all heretics.

You see, heretics have no real relationship with Jesus Christ. They may know a lot *about* Jesus, but they do not know Jesus. They are unsaved, lost, ungodly, and unconverted souls who are trying to pervert the right way of the Lord- so they do not know Jesus. They live in *isolation* to the Presence of God. They walk *outside* God’s Presence. And they isolate and insulate themselves from the Authority of Scripture.

And this means that, like Cain, heretics have no genuine spiritual credibility. They have no license from heaven; no true anointing; no genuine relationship with God; no holy Power with God; no Scriptural Authority- so because they are utterly vacant of true spiritual credibility- they invent and create and manufacture their *own* credibility.

The only true credibility that anyone going in “the Name of the Lord” should have, is the Word of God. Ministers of Christ are sent to do one thing- Preach the Word. And they are not to preach *their* own word; they are not to operate in *their* own wisdom; they are not to use *their* own ideas; and they are not to share *their* own personal opinions. No man has any authority from God to speak anything other than God’s Word. Anything else that we say and everything else that we speak about or teach, or exhibit is a waste of time and a distraction from the main mission of ministry. Clever phrases; entrepreneurial skills; individuality; personality; style and mannerisms; charisma- all these things are all *hindrances*- not additions to the Gospel. Human reasoning; human logic; human ideas; carnal, fleshly tactics do not assist Gospel ministry, beloved- they detract from it.

Madison Avenue marketing techniques; Wall Street financial schemes; American Business initiatives; Circus acts, clown stunts;

and sports attractions are not tools employed by the Gospel- they represent things that *take away* from genuine Biblical ministry.

So real preaching is not about the preacher. It never has been and never will be. When preaching is about the preacher- then it is not real preaching. Biblical preaching is all about what God has done and what God has said. Scriptural preaching allows men to see Jesus Christ; it allows men to hear Jesus; it allows men to know Jesus; it allows men to love Jesus; it allows men to clearly see their sins and come to God for Mercy and Grace. Real preaching can do all of this because God has inspired what He spoke and when what God spoke is faithfully preached- it has that kind of effect on people.

What Man has said can make other men feel good; it can motivate and stimulate people to do great things; it can inform and educate them- but it does not possess the power to convict them or to change them or to forgive their sins or to save them- only what God has said can do that. Motivational speakers or so called “life coaches” are not the same thing as ministers of the Gospel. Most of the motivational speakers that are popular are not even Christians- many of them are modern day Gnostics. “Self- help” books, and pep talks about how you can take charge of your own life and produce a “better you” are not equivalent to preaching the Gospel.

And even though all these “self- help” concepts are very popular today- but they are nothing more than modern manifestations of the ancient heresy of Pelagianism and should be avoided by the true believer.

Our calling as preachers is not to meet the “perceived” needs of carnal, lukewarm, backslid, or unsaved people. Our calling is not to make lost people feel better about themselves. We are not supposed to empower anyone; we don’t release any so- called “giants” or “warriors” that sit dormant inside of people. We are not told to share ancient secrets about how to get more money or how to twist God’s Arm so that we can get whatever our lusts crave after. Our Purpose is not to “raise” people’s self- esteem. And our Calling does not really involve us transforming the so-called “culture”. Our job plain and simple is to preach the Word of God without fear and without fail and as men see their own sinfulness through the light of the glorious Gospel- they will come to Jesus and repent and beg God to have mercy upon their

wretched souls and as God changes and washes and transforms men's hearts- then they will be saved.

So, we are to faithfully and rightly and fully and fearlessly preach what God has said and only what God has said. Anything else that we preach is just in the way. And every single preacher will be judged by a holy God as to how faithful he was to that Calling.

Now although it is true that real heretics are not saved and have no genuine credibility- they still have to possess *something* that will make themselves attractive so that other people will follow them. So, they create their *own* credibility through unbelievable and fantastic tales of special information or special revelations or special ceremonies; special rituals; or special contact with God that no one else has. This is designed to cause simple minded people to follow them.

The heretics do not preach and teach what God has said in Scripture; the heretics do not have any genuine spiritual credibility because God has not given them any. So, these people are forced to manufacture *their own* credibility by saying that God speaks to them and has revealed unto them secrets and insights that no one else knows. They say that they have seen new and very elaborate and detailed visions and dreams which can be taught through tapes and books and sermons. Of course, all of these visions and all of these dreams and all of these special communications from God are said to be sanctified because they are "based" in Scripture. And that is a code word that means that they are sprinkled with a few verses of Scripture that are taken out of context to trick people into believing them.

I want to give you a real life example of someone who has no genuine spiritual credibility because he will not, and does not preach the Bible- so he has had to manufacture his own credibility and has done quite well doing it. This man wrote a book a few years ago about how that God wants everybody to be rich and wealthy. In the introduction of his book, this false teacher tells us why he wrote the book and what you can expect to get out of his book. This man says that among other things, the reason to read his book is so that you can:

- ✓ Develop a healthy self- image

✓ Choose to be happy¹

In the first chapter of his book, this man says that the interpretation of **Ephesians 2:7** is that God wants everybody on earth to get more money; get a large raise on your job; live in nice homes; drive better cars; send their kids to better schools; and live in nicer neighborhoods. Let's look at this verse to see if this man is telling the Truth:

so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Now by looking at the verse that comes right after this verse, we can clearly see that the Apostle Paul was telling the Church in Ephesus that the “surpassing riches” of God’s Grace that God gave through Jesus Christ” was Salvation- and *not* financial prosperity. It was *spiritual redemption*- not a new car. It was *deliverance from sin* not deliverance from a bad neighborhood. It was *restoration of our broken relationship with a holy God*- not a summer home in the Hampton’s. This verse of inspired Scripture talks to us about the most valuable and rich Act in all of recorded history. It tells us about Jesus being brutally beaten and murdered; it speaks of Jesus’ vicarious Death on the Cross; it shouts aloud about God placing upon Jesus the sins of the world and through that substitutionary Death on the Cross- our sins and our transgressions and our lost condition could be forgiven and we could be delivered from the unspeakable Wrath of God against those sins and we could be washed in holy and pure Blood and we could be *declared* to be “righteous” by a Sovereign act of a merciful God and we could have the glorious honor of being adopted into the family of God so that now we have the incredible privilege of serving God and of bearing good fruit and of doing good deeds so that we can give to God the Glory and the honor and the praise that He so richly deserves.

Ephesians 2:7 tells us that the riches of God’s Glory through Jesus Christ to us is that God doesn’t give us what we deserve, but instead He gives us eternal life that we cannot earn and don’t deserve. But the author of this best- selling book is undeterred and says on page 5 of his book that **Ephesians 2:7** means “that God will give to everyone what the author calls “*God’s far and beyond favor*”² and the

author then goes on to tell us what that favor is: A new house in a better neighborhood and a new car and a big new church with lots and lots of people in it that he can share this great news with.

But the Truth is that **Ephesians 2:7** does not even hint about anything that this false teacher writes about. No one in their right mind can read this verse and get any other meaning other than this verse deals with the glorious truth about Salvation. In fact, the entire Book of Ephesians deals that subject.

So where did this author who commands a national audience get his interpretation from? Did he carefully and prayerfully go to the Greek and exegete the precise meaning of the words of **Ephesians 2:7**? No, he did not. Did he do any historical research to see under what conditions Paul the Apostle wrote this verse? No, he did not. Did the author of this fantastically popular book even bother to check with the great commentators of the past like Matthew Henry or Charles Spurgeon, or the Puritans or Jonathon Edwards to bring forth a hidden truth that many today may have overlooked? No, he did not. Is this man's definition of riches as being "*God's far and beyond favor*" found in any Greek dictionary or thesaurus? No, it is not. Did he even attempt to explain his reasoning behind why and how he came to the conclusion that **Ephesians 2:7** doesn't speak of Salvation but means that God wants everyone to feel better about themselves through the abundance of their possessions? Sadly, no he did not.

Well, where did this guy get that **Ephesians 2:7** means that we are all supposed to get more stuff? He made it up- plain and simple. He took it upon himself to privately interpret the inspired Word of God based upon some other motivation other than to preach the Truth. And he did this over and over- because all throughout his book- this author says boldly and repeatedly- "*this is what God means*"!

Now I do not have the right or the power to judge this man's heart and I am not doing that. Maybe he didn't *mean* to write what he wrote. Maybe someone put a gun to his head and *made* him write what he wrote. I don't know. But I do have the right and I do have the responsibility to hold what this man wrote and what he teaches against the Authority of Scripture. And when *anyone* does that- you can see that what this man wrote is not a new revelation from God at all- regardless of how popular it might be- but is, in fact, a lie and is

not Scriptural at all and this book actually warps and changes what Scripture says and should not be believed or accepted by anyone seeking to love and serve Jesus Christ faithfully.

So, this book is *not* a noble effort to preach the Gospel. This book is *not* a careful examination of what the Apostle Paul preached to the Church at Ephesus. This book is *not* an attempt to carefully and prayerfully teach all men to repent and come to Jesus. This book is *not* an attempt to research and investigate and arrive at propositional, objective, holy and divine Truth. No, this book is just another effort by another man with no spiritual credibility at all to create his *own* credibility by twisting the Scriptures and to write a book that appeals to the prurient lusts of unconverted people so that he can become wealthy off the Gospel. And this is exactly what Jude warned us about right here in this verse.

And this is just one example of why we need to examine what is being taught and why we need to hold it up against Scripture to make sure that what we are being fed comes from the Mind and Heart of God and not the mind and heart of man. And this is why we need to earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. 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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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.

¹ Joel Osteen, *Your Best Life Now* (Time Warner Group, New York, 2004) Introduction

² Ibid, page 5