

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

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

Chapter 10- The Error of Balaam **Jude 11** 116 The Error of Balaam- Part 9

WOSM Wednesday 04/16/08

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 been studying the Error of Balaam for quite some time so that we can see what Jude was warning us about. Now the issue of money is so important and the right and proper ways to handle money are so important that once again, I want to commend to you the most Biblical and thorough study on Money that I have ever personally seen. It is a DVD study from Word Pictures called, "*The Good Steward*" We went through this study in our Church a few years ago on Thursday nights and it revolutionized our entire Church. If you would like more information on this Study, write or call me and I will tell you how to get a copy for yourself.

Now we have explored many things about how what God says about money in the Bible is so different than what the modern Doctrine of Prosperity teaches. I want to continue this today by looking at what the Apostle James said about money. James' apostolic teaching on money and wealth is light years apart from what we learn here in America and sadly, it is also light years apart from what we hear in many of our Churches today. First of all, James said

that riches were not permanent- but that they were very fleeting.
Let's look at: **James 1:9-11:**

**9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;
10 and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering
grass he will pass away.**

**11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its
flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich
man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.**

The Apostle James also taught that, for the most part, wealthy people don't serve God and that wealthy people, for the most part, are the very ones who fight against those who do serve God. So not only are the overwhelming majority of most wealthy people *not* saved- but wealthy people are also not the Biblical example that we should follow after. Let's read **James 2:5-7:**

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?

7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

James also wrote down some very harsh words to those who were wealthy and who persecuted the Church and God's people in **James 5:1-6:**

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous *man*; he does not resist you.

Now I fully realize that God is not condemning all wealthy people here. I have met some very godly people who love Jesus and who are wealthy, so, of course, there are exceptions to this rule. But nevertheless, God the Holy Ghost inspired James to write these words to us and they should serve as part of our teaching on money and the Error of Balaam. So all that I have said, here are nine things to remember:

1. For the most part- everything that we have learned about money from our consumer driven culture is ungodly and unbiblical.
2. Much teaching about money in the modern Church is based on what the world teaches and not what God's Word teaches.
3. It is very hard today to find *anyone* who is actually putting Biblical Principles about money into daily practice.
4. Money is one of the most intoxicating things that satan uses to deceive us and to warp our relationship with God.
5. There are people within the Church of Jesus Christ today who for pay are rushing headlong into the Error of Balaam and sadly, they are very prominent and very popular and very influential even though what they teach is very wrong.
6. The majority of the modern Doctrine of Prosperity that is so popular today is sinful because it promotes discontent and greed and covetousness in God's people and does not honor God.
7. God's Biblical Plan for Financial Prosperity is not easy and it is not quick, but involves hard work, diligence, discernment, and taking responsibility over an entire lifetime of making mistakes and learning from them.
8. Everything that we know about money that is wrong and unbiblical and everything that we are doing with our money that is not pleasing to God and every way that we view money that is unholy can be fixed- if we are willing to repent and go God's way.
9. And finally, there are some resources available that will give you solid, Biblical teaching on what God's says about money.

Now you have heard me about this issue, but let's go into Church History and see if what I am saying is more in line with what the Christian Church has always taught about this issue than what the modern Doctrine of Prosperity teaches. Thomas Manton was a Puritan who lived in the seventeenth century. God used this man greatly and he was one of those men who penned down one the greatest confessions of Faith that the Church has ever had- The Westminster Confession of Faith. Manton said this about the Error of Balaam in 1662:

“People are usually drawn into error by the bait of gain and worldly profit.”

Manton then quoted both Peter and Paul to back up what he just said, in **2Peter 2:1-3**

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

3 and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

And in **1Timothy 6:10**

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Manton then went on to say,

“While we know that the love of money is the root of all evil, we also must know that the same love of money is also the root of heresies and sect making. Balaam had many good gifts. God is said to have put words in to his mouth. Balaam asked for God's guidance but was loathe to follow it, and covetousness eventually took over his heart.”¹

And John Calvin echoed the words of Manton, when he said,

“Jude says that they were deceived like Balaam by a reward, because they adulterated the doctrine of true religion for the sake of filthy lucre.”²

And Pastor John MacArthur writes this about the error of Balaam:

“Unlike true shepherds who give their lives for the sheep, these ministry mercenaries follow the error of Balaam rushing headlong into envy and greed. As a prophet for hire, Balaam is a prime illustration of false teachers- those who love wealth and prestige more than faithfulness and obedience.”³

I want you to also notice that when Jude wrote this, he used the term, “**rushed headlong**” to describe *how* the false teachers fell into the Error of Balaam. The Greek phrase that Jude used here is *ekcheo*, which means: *to pour out; to run out; to shed; to spill; and to gush out* and is used several times in the Bible. *Ekcheo* is used in **Matthew 9:17- the wine runs out; Mark 2:22- the new wine will burst the bottles and the wine is spilled; The Acts 2:17- I will pour out of my Spirit; Romans 3:15- the feet are swift to shed innocent blood; The Revelation 16:4- the third angel poured out his vial.**

Jude is saying that the deceivers “*ekcheo*” after the Error of Balaam; in other words, they are *totally* given over to this evil; they pour out their souls into the Error of Balaam without reservation; and they spill their soul into the Error of Balaam for pay with full passion.

Now one of the biggest reasons why the modern Doctrine of Prosperity is so wrong is because it breeds discontent in God’s people. We are told that evil men- not godly men- but evil men bring confusion and discontent into the Body of Christ. So when you are being taught that financial prosperity is a sign of God’s Favor and yet you are struggling financially- then you not only have a financial problem in your life- but now you are concerned whether or not you are really saved because you have been taught that all Christians are supposed to be rich.

We may want that new house or that new car and maybe it isn’t sinful, but nevertheless, God’s Will is different from your will and God wants you to stay in your trailer and God wants you to keep that old

car that is paid for- but because you were taught that God wants you to always have nice, new things all the time- it makes that trailer to appear to be a curse in your eyes and not a blessing and it makes that old car that runs just fine to appear to be a curse because your neighbor is driving a nice new car.

So because of false teaching- your heart is no longer grateful and thankful for God's Provision- but you feel slighted and you feel that you deserved something better. Beloved, those feelings are carnal, lustful, human emotions that Scripture teaches are based in a heart that is filled with discontent and ungratefulness.

So the unbiblical modern teaching of prosperity that says that God *always* wants you to have the latest and the greatest instead of learning the glory and the power of being content with what God has already provided has promoted discontent in your heart and we now look at God's provision as not being good enough. That, my beloved is a sin.

So, this new, unscriptural teaching has not built you up at all- it has led you into sin. These promoters of this new doctrine have not lifted you up out of the pit- they have dug the hole deeper. You see, dear friends, one of the greatest gifts that we can ever possess as servants of Jesus Christ is the gift of contentment. And godly contentment is hardly ever taught or promoted in the modern Church.

Beloved, I have endeavored to show you the very heart of Jude in this passage so that you may exercise spiritual discernment over those in the Church who are running greedily after the Error of Balaam for reward. Please be careful about this and may the Lord grant you eyes to see and ears to hear.

We are living in great and glorious times. We are living in a day when we are watching many last time events come to pass. But we are also living in the day when people will not be able to endure Sound Doctrine and shall be deceived and shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and when men shall be turned from the Truth and shall be turned unto fables, and this is why we all need to walk in wisdom and why we all 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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse- by- verse Journey through the **Epistle of Jude**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

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 Thomas Manton, *A Commentary on Jude* (Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 1999) page 163

² John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries* (Biblesoft, 2005)

³ John MacArthur, *Commentary on Jude and 2 Peter* (Moody Publishers, Chicago, 2005) pages 177-178