

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**

108 The Error of Balaam- Part 1

WOSM Friday 04/04/08

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 are continuing our study of the Epistle of Jude and we have come to verse 11 which lists three Old Testament men with whom Jude is comparing the heretics.

1. Cain
2. Balaam
3. Core

Now look closely at verse 11 and see how Jude describes the heretics. He says that the heretics do three things similar to these three Old Testament men-

- A. They go
- B. They rush headlong
- C. They perish

And notice that Jude describes three problems that the heretics engage in that the three Old Testament people were also guilty of:

An ungodly way
A greedy error
An unholy rebellion

So when we put all this together, we see that Jude was inspired by the Holy Spirit to say that the heretics in the Church *go* in the *way* of Cain; and they *run* greedily after the *error* of Balaam; and they *perish* in the *rebellion* of Korah.

Now we have gone over the way of Cain to a great extent and now it is time for us to move on to what the greedy error of Balaam was all about. And on the last broadcast, I told you that this part of verse 11 of Jude unmasks the real underlying motivation of all heretics and all false prophets and all apostates- money. They do what they do and they say what they say and they prophesy what they prophesy and they conduct themselves in the manner in which they conduct themselves- for money. These heretics; these false prophets; these charlatans take advantage of weak and unlearned sheep; they manipulate unsuspecting lambs; they coerce undiscerning babes and they fleece God's flock in order to personally gain wealth.

Now many today view preaching like I am doing in this study as being wrong. They hold to the view that it really doesn't matter what we believe- as long as we are sincere. So these people see any warning by people like me as being divisive and of putting barriers between God's people. But I am not putting any barriers between anyone- dear friends- I am simply and honestly examining what God the Holy Spirit inspired Jude to write in this Epistle.

Beloved, true unity among believers is not some kind of spiritual Woodstock where we all hold hands and sway back and forth and sing Kumbaya. That is not unity- that is a fantasy. Unity; real unity; holy unity centers around Truth- Divinely inspired Truth. And without Truth- we have nothing to be in unity about. And unless and until we all submit ourselves to the authority of Holy Scripture- we will never have any real unity.

Now, me saying that does not create disunity because if I was not preaching these messages, people would still not be in unity. I cannot create disunity- I don't have that kind of power; but to suggest that Biblical Truth is the problem and that by dropping Sound Biblical Doctrine, we could all be in unity is the most ridiculous thing

I have ever heard. Sound, Biblical inspired, inerrant, infallible Truth is all that we've got. We have no revelation of Jesus Christ that is trustworthy and reliable and accurate except that one single specific Revelation which God has already provided for us in Scripture. We do not know or understand anything that is true about the Nature and Character of God the Father outside of Scripture and we do not know how to be saved and how to get in right standing with God outside of Scripture.

It is Scripture that teaches us what God loves and what God hates. It is Scripture that identifies for us what is sin and what is righteousness. No one; not one person; not a Pastor; not a Bishop; not a Pope; not a Prophet; not an Evangelist; not a faith healer; not a television network; not a Government; not a President; not any Nation has the right or the authority to substitute their word for God's Word; they do not have the license to create any Doctrine based upon their own human reasoning or their own logic and they do not have the authority to serve God on their own terms.

But people are doing precisely that all the time and it is *that* which has created our disunity- not someone like me that is crying out against it. It is the unwillingness of multiplied millions of people in the modern Church who are chasing spiritual fads and who are riding spiritual "hobby horses" and who are promoting new revelations and who are articulating elaborate dreams and visions and who are impressed with fancy personalities and lightshows and circus acts and yet who absolutely refuse to pursue solid, sound, Biblical Truth who have divided the Church.

Those who divide the Church are those who promote women to leave their God- given and God blessed roles as mothers and wives and sisters and daughters and have placed them in positions that God didn't design for them to be in. Those who divide the Church are those who in the name of "love and tolerance" bring in sexually perverted men and ordain them as priests and bishops and allow them to touch our children and administer the Lord's Supper and corrupt the House of God.

Those who divide the Church are those who have abandoned the Gospel and who are using Madison Avenue marketing strategies to grow the Church and who have put men in positions of leadership in the Church who are not qualified to lead. If they don't love their

wives- they can't lead in God's House- I don't care how much money they make or how successful in business they are. If their children are unruly and run the roads at night and are not in Church with their father honoring their parents- then that man cannot lead in God's House—if he cannot rule his own house how can he possibly expect to rule the House of God?

If that man is gambling and if that man has an alcohol or drug problem—let's pray for him; cast the devil out of him; weep with him; help him to overcome his sin- but for goodness sake don't give a man like that any authority in God's House.

And if a man is confused about Sound Doctrine; if he is pulled and torn over what the Bible teaches and what the Bible says- then by all means, work with that man- help him; but don't let him teach until he knows what he is talking about and until he can actually live what he teaches.

Now none of these things are popular today, but they are right and they are what made the Church strong and the reason that the Church is weak today is precisely because we have *abandoned* these tried and true Biblical Principles and have gone after the ways of the world.

So is it true that preaching against heresy and false teachers and false prophets is tearing the Church apart? Is it true that holding what people say and what people write and what people teach accountable to the Scriptures is a bad thing? And is it true that actually expecting these false teacher's Doctrine to be Sound and Biblical and holy and not to be the invention of a man or a group or a church is a bad thing?

Well, let's see what God's Word says about that. Jude uses interesting terms to describe the heretics in his Epistle. He doesn't give them any benefit of the doubt. As I have told you many times before, Jude, like John, Paul, and Peter were the most gentle men that you could ever meet. They were compassionate; patient; loving; kind; and genuinely cared for the people that God had placed in their charge. They worked with the worst that society had; they got their hands dirty with the lives of God's people. They labored tirelessly among those whom they shepherd without murmuring or complaining. Truly it must have really been something to have Paul as your pastor. It must have really been amazing for John to have

been your spiritual leader. I would have loved to sit at Peter's feet to hear what this man had to say about Jesus.

But if you ever one time dared to try to deceive the sheep; if you ever tried one time to bring in false teaching; if you tried to change the Gospel; or teach falsely about Salvation or about the Person of Jesus Christ; or about the Nature and Character of God- these same gentile and kind men became your worst nightmare. These men of God were absolutely ruthless when it came to defending the Truth. They were meaner than a pit bull when it came to confronting anyone who tried to alter the Word of God or change the Gospel. They attacked heretics with a righteous indignation that few have match before or since.

The Apostle John, who many today call the Apostle of Love, clearly told his readers to have nothing to do with heretics. Let's look at **2John 10&11**:

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;

11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

Now I didn't write that- the Apostle John did. But I sure believe it to be true- do you? You see, beloved, our modern culture places a much higher value on human relationships than we value Divine Truth- and we know that because these words of the Apostle John are rejected outright today as being mean spirited, unholy, and even unchristian- and yet God the Holy Ghost inspired John to write these words. This is an example of how far we have fallen.

The Apostle Peter used very pointed words to describe the heretics of his day. Let's look at what Peter was inspired to write about heretics in **2Peter 2:1-16**:

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.

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;
6 and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;
7 and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men
8 (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds),
9 *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,
10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,
11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.
12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,
13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you,
14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;
15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
16 but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.

Now I really don't think that Peter would be very popular in the modern Church. People would *not* be clamoring to have Peter come to their Church to hold a three day revival. This man of God was right as rain- but he would be ostracized today as being divisive and unloving and the modern Church growth gurus would be praying that

Peter could have a fresh baptism of kindness and mercy. But Peter along with Jude were examples of people who were earnestly contending 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.