

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**

102 Going the Way of Cain Part 4

WOSM Thursday 03/27/08

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 God inspired Jude here in this verse to tell us that the heretics who creep into the Church to destroy it are compared in this verse to three Old Testament people:

- ✓ Cain
- ✓ Baalim
- ✓ Korah

Now over the last few broadcasts, I have been showing you what God's Word says about Cain. Jude says that the heretics who creep into the Church have "**gone in the way of Cain**". So in order for us to understand what Jude is saying- we must first understand something about Cain and then we must try to comprehend what "going in the way of Cain" means.

Now we have already seen that Cain tried to offer God something that God wouldn't accept. We saw that the Bible teaches that God totally rejected Cain's offering, while He accepted Abel's. So

part of “going in the way of Cain” is trying to force God to accept or to bless or to receive something that He has already said that He wouldn’t accept and bless.

We have also learned that Cain was only willing to serve God on his terms and in the manner that best suited him and not God. This is a common thing that is taught today. Many of the false teachers of our day promote man’s ideas and man’s feelings, and man’s glory and Man’s perceived needs above God.

We saw that to promote your dreams and your vision and your plans and your desires above God’s Will for your life is to “go in the way of Cain”. Beloved, God does not sit on His Throne so that what your heart craves can be given to you more often in greater abundance than before you were saved. Salvation is not supposed to make you *more* interested in your own selfish desires than when you were a sinner.

No, God sits on His throne to empower us to do His Will in the earth and we are His bond slaves that no longer hold any claim at all over our own lives and we are to do God’s bidding with joy and thankfulness without murmuring and complaining, but with heartfelt thankfulness that God loved us wretched sinners so much that He set His love upon us to save us. And so we are to be less interested in our own carnal desires than when we were lost.

Any teaching that promotes Man and Man’s accomplishments and Man’s glory above that of God is “going in the way of Cain”. And Jude says that any person who promotes the way of Cain is a heretic.

Perhaps you have noticed that an ever growing number of people in the Church today are more discontent now than they have ever been. Many feel more deprived now than at any other time in history. In a land of unbelievable opulence, blessing and opportunity- we have a tendency to feel that God has somehow forsaken us if we do not get shiny new toys and more and more possessions.

This is the result of the doctrine of Cain being taught in our day. And anytime we lower our view of God and raise our view of Man- Cain’s offering will look attractive to us. You see, in Cain’s view- God becomes the servant- Who exists for nothing else other than to do *our* bidding and we become the master who exists for no other reason other than to be catered to by God.

Beloved, we need to reject this way of Cain and not go in that way. We have a great need today to return to a Biblical view of God as being high and lifted up; of being exalted; of being absolutely and totally Sovereign in all things- even in Salvation.

And we also have a great need to return to a Biblical view of Man as being radically ruined in the Fall and of not being worthy of eternal life and of deserving everlasting torment in hell and because of the utter wickedness of our continual sin.

And when we develop a Biblical view of a Sovereign God and when we develop a Biblical view of a lost and fallen man, we will then be so grateful and so thankful for Grace and Mercy and Salvation- that whatever God would require of us would be just fine.

Our dissatisfaction with the straight and narrow path and with Biblical holiness and our quickness to become disillusioned over the things that God does is the direct result of us developing a view of both ourselves and God that is not taught in Scripture. We must understand that God has every right, as the Creator and Owner of all things, to exact whatever requirement that He pleases from everything that He has made and that includes us.

God is perfectly justified to order us and command us and give to us and take away from us whatever He wills at His pleasure. God is God and we are not.

And a Biblical view of God; a God centered theology would teach us that. But very few today have that correct and proper view of God. They have been taught by those who have “gone in the way of Cain” and they have been taught that God is supposed to cater to our whims and to do our bidding. And when God doesn’t answer in accordance to their wishes- because He won’t- they quickly get disillusioned and angry with God and they rebel and become very bitter and they fall away.

A Biblical view of Man would teach us that we haven’t earned Heaven by anything that we have done. We haven’t worked to become holy; we don’t deserve even the slightest glimmer of mercy from God. A Biblical view of man would teach us that Man sins in God’s Face all day long and God would be perfectly within His rights to instantly condemn the entire human race right now.

A Biblical view of Man would teach us that it is nothing but

God's Mercy that rewrote our lives and that it was his Grace that saved us and that it would have been just as easy for God to raise up a rock to serve Him as it would have been to save us.

So you see that God doesn't need us; God has no lack for anything. God didn't save you because He was lonely or because He couldn't make it without you. or because you brought so much that He needed to the table. God doesn't need anyone or anything. He is totally sufficient all by Himself. We are the ones who need God. We are the ones who benefit from Salvation- not God. But even though it is true that God doesn't need you- He did want you. And before the foundation of the world- God set His Love upon you and determined to save your soul and change your heart. So before you were born; before you did anything good or bad; before you were even conceived in your mother's womb- God chose you to set His Love upon you and it is God that drew you; and it is God that gave you a new nature and opened your eyes and gave you the gift of faith and it is God that washed you in pure Blood and forgave you and sealed your heart and changed your nature and put within you the desire to serve Him.

Therefore we are blessed just to be able to escape the fires of hell. It is our privilege to miss an eternity in Hades. And that ought to be enough. If God never did anything else for us except save our sinful souls from what we so richly deserved- He has still done enough for us to praise Him throughout all eternity. And it is enough- for those who have a Biblical view of God and themselves.

But for those who have gone the way of Cain- the glorious miracle of Mercy and Grace through Salvation is not enough; and the reason that it isn't enough for these people is because these people really don't believe that they were that bad. They really don't believe that God would actually send them to hell for their sins. They really don't believe that God is as serious about Sin and Hell as the Bible says that He is. And they have a prevailing attitude toward God that says, "*Yea, Salvation is nice- but what have you done for me lately?*"

Like Cain, these people are perfectly content with throwing whatever they choose at God and expecting Him to accept it as an offering. They will serve God- but only on their terms and in their own way; on their timetable and according to their wishes. They will give- but only when they want to; they will do only what they deem to be necessary; they will go when it is convenient and they will never, ever

accept for one minute that God would ever require or demand anything from them that would make them uncomfortable in the least.

These people have forgotten that it is God's good pleasure and God's good pleasure alone that gave us the free Gift of Salvation and nothing that we have done. And so because they don't know this- they take the same position as Cain did and they honestly feel as though God ought to be grateful that they give Him anything at all.

But those who have listened to Jude's warning and have not gone in the way of Cain are humbled by what God has done for them that they couldn't do for themselves. And those souls are thankful and they are grateful for what God has done for them that they don't deserve and haven't work to achieve. You see, brothers and sisters, this recognition of our own unworthiness coupled with God's Mercy causes a holy and supernatural love to well up within us that keeps us serving God no matter what. So you see, our faithfulness to God is all predicated on how we view God's Sovereignty and just how we view our own Lostness.

If you have been deceived by those who go the way of Cain and you don't think that God is Sovereign, and you mistakenly believe that your Salvation came about because of what you did for yourself- then you will never know this great love and you will not be faithful when the chips are down. You will be fine when all is well, but when persecution or temptation comes- you will do what is best for yourself regardless of what God says. Beloved, that is not Salvation- that is deception.

And if you have been deceived by those who go the way of Cain and you really don't believe that you are as bad as the Bible declares that you are- then once again, the magnificence of Grace and the Wonder of Mercy and your appreciation of what God has done will not be there and you will soon return back to your old ways.

Only by having a correct and biblical view of both God and man can we ever hope to arrive at a full appreciation of the wonder and the glory of Salvation and only then will we love God for what He has done enough to actually deny ourselves and follow Him forever- regardless of the circumstances. The Apostle John put it like this in **1 John 3:6:**

No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

John knew that those who can sin with impunity and without remorse are actually not saved. These people are deceived- but they are not saved. To be truly saved is to understand that we are now indebted to God for His great Love and Kindness and therefore whatever demands that He may make upon us; whatever hardships God desires for us to endure; whatever trials and tests and persecutions and problems that God has allowed us to go through; whatever tragedies that God has so graciously subjected you to are nothing compared to an eternity in the lake of fire.

The knowledge that God loved us so much that He saved us is enough to carry us through the darkest night and it is enough to allow us to endure the harshest of treatment from any man.

This is the attitude that the Church of Jesus once had and that is why when they burnt them at the stake; when they persecuted them; when they stole from them and took everything away from them; those who had a biblical view of Salvation and of God and of man and of sin would rejoice that they were counted worthy to suffer as a Christian.

Those who go the way of Cain, however, feel deprived at the slightest inconvenience. They feel forsaken when they don't get what they lust after. They feel slighted and wonder if God is asleep at the wheel. They ask questions like *"Where was God when I needed Him the most?"* And *"Why does God treat me so bad after all that I have done for Him?"*

Beloved this sinful talk is the direct result of the way of Cain being prominent in the Church today and we must rise up in our most holy faith and recognize this deception and cast it out. So I beg you today to honestly examine your hearts to see if that wicked way of Cain is lurking near you. I beg you today to pray fervently that we will refuse to lower our view of God and that we do not raise our view of Man in conflict with what the Bible teaches. And I beg you today to repent and return to Biblical Christianity. And I beg you 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.