

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

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

### Chapter 12- The Characteristics of the Heretics **Jude 12-13**

### 133 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 11

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WOSM Friday 05/09/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Book of Jude and we are now at the point where we are going to examine the characteristics of the heretics. So, let's read verses 12 & 13 of Jude again together:

#### **Jude 12&13**

**12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;**

**13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.**

Now on the last broadcast, we saw how that the heretics are like clouds without water carried about of winds. They make bold fantastic claims to have special power or gifts or special insight into Truth or they say that they have a hot line into heaven or a special anointing, or certain trinkets, amulets, pictures and tools that give them certain power or ability that the normal person does not have.

These unbelievable claims are what gives these false teachers their spiritual credibility in the eyes of undiscerning sheep because they have no credibility with God. And these heretics are very predictable. Here is how you can know. The more fantastic their claims- the less truth they speak. The more elaborate their costumes or the more intricate and detailed their ceremonies- the less real Truth they have.

The more religious trinkets that they pull out- the prayer cloths

from their bodies; the bottles of anointing oil from Gethsemane; the water from the River Jordan- the less Truth they possess.

When people want you to come see the statues that cry blood it is because they have no Scriptural Truth to speak. When people want you to travel to Medjugorje to see the Virgin Mary- it is because they have no Biblical Truth to share with you. When you have people buying RV's so that they can follow healing evangelists all over the country – know it is because they have no Sound Doctrine to teach.

This is the way that it was with the Pharisees in Jesus' day, and this is the way that it is with the heretics of our day. These people possess no genuine Truth, so they develop elaborate rituals and ceremonies, and they wear more and more fancy costumes, and they go through more and more detailed programs to make up for their lack of real Divine Truth.

Conversely, real men of God downplay themselves and they lead people to Christ. They de-emphasize themselves and emphasize the Word of God. Real men of God downplay the clothes that they wear and the personalities that they have and the emotional outbursts that they do and the personal experiences that they have, and they point people to Scripture.

My personality may make you laugh or cry depending on how I use it- but God's Word will set you free. My clothes may make you think something about me that isn't even true- but God's Word will prepare you to stand before God clean and pure. My ability to manipulate you and to motivate you and to get you to do what I want you to do may impress you and it may cause you to think that this ability is a spiritual gift- but God's Word will prepare your soul for eternity.

We have become so shallow today that we think that talent is the same thing as anointing, and we think that money is a sign of God's favor, and we think that success is measured in possessions and not in faithfulness. Someone can sing well, so we put him in the choir without any thought that maybe he isn't even saved. Someone can play a musical instrument and we think that they must be highly anointed of God- when they may not even believe in God. Someone can mention God three times in a song, and we think that it is a hymn that the Church needs to sing- when the writers of the song are not even Christians.

Some heretic promises you a new job if you will give him money and a man of God tells you to repent of your sins and we go with the heretic because we say that person “meets our needs”.

A heretic will tell you that all you need in order to prosper is to think positive thoughts and smile while the man of God will tell you that the Bible teaches that prosperity is totally dependant on how well your soul is doing with God and we go with the heretic because he makes us feel better about ourselves.

A heretic will teach you that if only you would get the right thoughts in your mind you wouldn't suffer like you are suffering and the man of God will tell you that God 's Word tells us to endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ without murmuring and complaining and we go with the heretic because he has a new revelation.

Heretics will teach you that it is God's Will to bless you no matter what and it is God's Will that you have lots of money and live in fine big homes and drive nice new cars and wear the best clothes and preach in big churches and that Jesus died so that you won't ever be unhappy. The man of God will tell you that God's Word condemns covetousness, and that greed and pride are sins, and they will tell you that anything that promotes sin is of the devil.

Heretics flourish in an environment that is spiritually shallow and Biblically inept. The heretics cannot prosper where the people study the Bible and are taught Sound Doctrine and know the Word. The waterless clouds can flow in and promise health and wealth; long life; and prosperity with no suffering, pain, or sickness and that you will hit more home runs and your children will have good teeth without braces and you will live in a nicer neighborhood and your dog will like you all for joining their tape club for only \$50.00 per month. What a deal! You get all that and you don't even have to repent; you don't have to serve God; you don't have to crucify your flesh; you don't have to mortify the deeds of your body; you don't have to pick up your cross and deny yourself daily and follow Jesus you don't have to suffer persecution and you don't have to even get dirty- what a deal!

The only problem with that deal that the waterless clouds promise is that it isn't real. It is in fact a lie. They are clouds without water and that kind of deal doesn't exist.

Beloved psychology and Christianity are not the same thing. And anyone who is using psychology and calling it Christianity is not doing justice to either one. Christianity is not the same thing as having a positive mental outlook. Being saved is not the same thing as thinking properly. Being Blood bought is not the same thing as developing a high self esteem; and being born again is not the same thing as feeling better about yourself.

Christianity is about God the Holy Spirit opening the eyes of sinful people so they can realize the depth of their own depravity and so they can realize the magnificence of God's holiness and righteousness and so they can see the great gulf that is between the two. Christianity is about God doing for you what you cannot do for yourself. It is about God giving you the new divine nature and of giving you the gift of faith and of enabling you to repent and to trust Christ for Salvation. It is about Jesus washing you with pure Blood and it is about God imputing to you by that gift of faith through a Sovereign act of God alone.

And from that moment on- every waking moment; every thing that happens to you- good or bad; every trial and every test; every blessing and every success is specifically designed to work together so that the ultimate good can come from it and that ultimate good is that through our trials and by our trials we are we are molded and we are shaped and we are formed into the very image and likeness of Jesus Christ and through the fire all of the hay, the wood and the stubble of our earthly carnal and sinful nature is burned off so that we may be as pure gold for the glory and the honor and the praise of Jesus Christ.

In Jesus- we lose our own identity; we decrease so that Christ may increase; we are no longer in charge of our lives and Jesus Christ is Lord and Master and God and King.

We are no longer top dog, but we are now bond slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ; humbled by God's gift of Salvation and humbled by the enormity of God's Grace and humbled by the majesty of Christ's Glory and humbled by the indescribable beauty of God's goodness. We seek not our will but to do His will; we live not to please ourselves but to please Him; we purpose to walk on the straight and narrow path; we strive to enter in at the straight gate; we work while there is yet day

for the night is coming when no man will work, and we labor to enter into His rest.

That real true biblical Gospel doesn't leave a lot of room for the "self" gospel or the "me" gospel or the "feel good" gospel or the fix me because I am broke gospel. But the real Gospel is the inspired inerrant, infallible Word of the living God and it is the only Divine Truth that man has and it is what we need and it is what will water our dry and thirsty souls and it is what will fill our hearts and make our souls sing and cause us to live for God and to know right from wrong and it will teach us how to live and how to please God and it will show us what God loves and it will show us what God hates and it will comfort us in trials and it will give us hope in despair and it will give us direction in the storm and it will never fail.

But the promises made by the waterless clouds will all fail. They will be proven to be the charlatans that they are. They will be shown to be the falsehoods that they are, and they will be exposed, and they will be proven to be teachers of another gospel.

Look at what Peter said about these people in **2 Peter 2:17-22:**

**17 These are wells without water , clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.**

**18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.**

**19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.**

**20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.**

**21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.**

**22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.**

These clouds without water can never do two things: Because they possess no rain- They can never refresh the earth and they can never make it fruitful. They can never refresh the earth in the sense that they can never offer any teaching; any words; any truth that brings comfort to the conscience in times of trouble. In this way they are barren clouds. These heretics also do not make the earth fruitful. No one can progress in true biblical holiness through their teachings. They may get new cars, but they cannot resist temptation. They may make more money- but they are now slaves to greed. Please listen to me. False teaching may give you temporary wealth or an increase in popularity or it may make you feel better- but false teaching cannot ever produce purity and godliness in the lives of those who follow after it.

You and I are living in a day of great pragmatism, relativism and a mad rush to find a simpler and an easier way to serve God beside the straight and narrow path and through living a life of self denial and you simply can't get there from here.

But the heretics say that they have found a new revelation. They have found a new gospel that requires no repentance. They have found a new salvation that makes no demands of its followers. They have found a new god that is like a kindly old grandfather who doesn't require obedience from his children and lives only to give them everything they want.

These false teachers have found a way to serve God that makes man to be God and makes God to be the servant- but Jude says that these people are not true men of God. Jude says that they are clouds without water and while they promise you a new way being a Christian- their teaching allows your bondage to sin remains. And this is why we need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. 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.