

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**

135 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 13

WOSM Tuesday 05/13/08

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 were looking at the second of the five characteristics that Jude gives us in these two verses, and we were discussing how that the heretics are **“carried about of winds;”** or in other words- the false teachers are led and driven by the latest spiritual fads to come down the pike; they are riding their spiritual hobby horses- but they aren't going anywhere.

You see, dear friends- the heretics have no genuine spiritual credibility, so they must create their own credibility by bringing forth “winds” of new- exciting teachings that attract immature and undiscerning sheep. These so-called “new winds” must be fresh and clever and catchy; and they must be popular and that in and of itself makes it attractive to most souls who are weak in the faith and who are not students of the Word of God.

The problem with these winds is that they are not Biblical and so they do not, and they cannot edify the spirit of Man. So, by nature- these spiritual fads do not and cannot last very long. So those who follow after them must jump from one fad to the next, always chasing a fantasy, always gaining more information- but never coming into the genuine, life changing and permanent knowledge of God. Look at what the Apostle Paul said about this in **2 Timothy 3:1-9:**

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

Like Jude, the main issue that Paul was addressing in this passage was false teachers giving people lots of information but not leading them to Christ. Paul and Jude and John and Peter and the other Apostles were brutal against the heretics who had a form of godliness, but who denied the real power; the true power; the genuine power of God that would transform the heart of fallen Man.

You see, we have become so shallow and so worldly and so carnal minded in our present generation, and we have become so used to operating by what we “feel” rather than obeying what God’s Word teaches that we often equate open shows of emotionalism and good intentions as being the power of God.

For example- someone can fall on the ground, and we think that this is the great power of God. So after awhile- the goal of the Church service is no longer to preach and understand the Word so that men can be convicted of sin in their lives and repent- no, because we are riding winds and spiritual hobby horses- the goal of the Church service now becomes an effort to see how many people can fall on the ground.

A modern day faith healer can blow on people, and they can fall over, and thousands roar their approval as though something meaningful has actually happened.

People can hoop and holler and jump up and down and do cartwheels and we say, “*God sure moved in this service!*,” when in fact, all that we have seen is an emotional outburst.

My brothers and sisters, listen to me. Most of the people who act this way are very sincere and would give their lives for Jesus- so I am not criticizing the fact that they are demonstrating their love for Jesus in an emotional way. What I am talking about is equating this emotionalism with the power of God. The power of God is holy; it is spiritual; it is different from human emotions, and it is permanent.

Human Emotions are part of the human experience and in their proper place and in their proper time, emotions are fine. We laugh; we cry; we are astonished; we are happy; we are amazed; we are bewildered; we are motivated by our emotions in many wonderful and good ways. And there is nothing wrong with that.

But our emotions are also highly unpredictable; they are also highly unreliable; they are not trustworthy; and our emotions- as sincere as they may well be- is not the same thing as the Spirit of God. Our human emotions are based upon our five natural senses. Human emotions are based upon what we see; what we feel; what we taste; what we smell; and what we hear. Human emotions are also motivated to a large degree by what we think—even if what we think isn’t even true.

How many times have you read or heard about someone being angry with someone else over a perceived wrong; or they were sad about something that they thought was true only to find out later that what he thought was true was not even true? They could have mourned for days; they could have been happy for days; they could have been angry for days based upon what they thought was true- only to find out that it wasn't true at all and as soon as they understood what was true- they immediately changed their emotions. Why? Because our emotions are based upon our five senses, and they are motivated by what we think.

This is why people can cry at watching a movie that isn't even true. They can sit in a theatre and intellectually know that what they are looking at is fiction, it isn't even real, yet they are caught up in the acting and in the music and in the visual effects so much that their emotions kick in and they laugh, or they cry, or they get angry, or they get happy. This is called emotional manipulation and Hollywood is very good at it.

But we have to understand, dear friends, that the heretics are very good at this emotional manipulation too. And much of what is called ministry today is really not ministry at all- but is simply the emotional manipulation of God's people and it is wrong, and it is not of God.

Emotions are wonderful in their proper place- they make life to be rich and full and deep and wide- but when we equate emotional outbursts or emotionalism with being the same thing as the Spirit of God; when we equate someone who is caught up in emotionalism as being touched by the Spirit or empowered by the Spirit- we are doing God and them a great disservice.

When we equate human emotions with God the Holy Ghost- we are reducing God the Holy Ghost to being as unpredictable and unreliable and untrustworthy as our human emotions are and we are enslaving the Holy Ghost to being motivated by our five carnal senses and we are limiting the power of the Holy Ghost to the arena of the flesh and that is a tragic mistake.

The Spirit of God; the Holy Ghost is not a branch of our emotions. Being filled with the Holy Ghost does not mean that you have been changed from being unemotional to being emotional. Being filled with the Holy Ghost means that you have gone from being

powerless and weak and easily led astray to having both the will and the power to do God's good pleasure and being able to spiritual discern right from wrong and having within yourself the God-given ability to resist the devil and overcome temptation. Now that is real power.

You see, beloved, God, the Holy Ghost is *superior* to our emotions; He is *higher* than our five senses. Being spiritual is better than being emotional. Being emotional can be fine in the proper setting, but pure emotionalism is not holy; it is not righteous; and it is not glorifying to God- because emotionalism is not and can never be spiritual. Being emotional is always earthly, sensual, base, carnal, and many times it is destructive.

Being emotional may not be wrong. Being emotional may be fine- but whether it is fine or not- being emotional is never being spiritual- the two are simply not the same.

Many of the modern heretics have become very good at manipulating the emotions of very sincere people and since we don't know that emotionalism and being spiritual are two different things- we fall into the trap that because these people can get others to respond- that they must be great men of God and what they are using is the power of God. But it isn't.

The real power of God is above emotionalism- it is superior to emotionalism- it transcends emotionalism. Look at what Paul said about the real power of God in **Romans 1:16&17:**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The Bible says that the Gospel is the power of God. The Bible says that the Gospel is what reveals righteousness to men. So, if you want power – if you want real spiritual and eternal power- then you need the Gospel.

But the truth of the matter is that very few really know what the Gospel is all about. We say that the Gospel is “Good News,” and that is true- but then we stop at that point. But what is the “good news?” Good news about what? Good news to whom? Some say, “*The*

Good News is that Jesus loves us” or they say, “*The Good News is that Jesus died to save us.*” And both of those statements are true, but both of those statements are very incomplete, and they do not do justice to the Gospel and if we stop right there- we will, in fact get an entirely different understanding of what the Gospel actually is.

You see, we must ask the question- “Why is it good news that Jesus died to save us?” And without a very clear understanding of why Jesus died- no one would even appreciate the purpose of His death. For example- when a soldier dies on the battlefield- we honor him to a point. But when we realize *why* he died on the battlefield- our understanding and our appreciation of *why* he died, and the value of his sacrifice grows enormously in our hearts and minds.

We have soldiers dying on the battlefield right now because they believe that freedom and liberty are such noble and sacred ideals that they are willing to die to give other people the opportunity to experience them. And it is a disgrace to their sacrifice to say that we are fighting over oil or that we are fighting to impose our will on other people- because that is simply not true.

The same way that our soldier’s death is being maligned by ignorant and evil people- that is the very same way that Jesus’ sacrifice is marginalized or minimized by people today.

Jesus didn’t die because He didn’t have anything else to do that day. He didn’t die because it was cute or it was fun- no, it hurt Him real bad to be nailed to that tree. The *reason* that Jesus died was to pay for the sins of the people that God has chosen to be saved by taking the full brunt of God’s wrath- that by rights- should have gone to us. Jesus so loved and honored His Father that He was willing to drink of that bitter cup and He was willing to pray until He sweat great drops of blood and He was willing to say, “*Not my Will, but thine be done.*”

So, preaching the Gospel entails much more than just telling someone that Jesus loves them. Preaching the Gospel rightly entails that we preach about the horror and the wickedness of Man’s sin in great detail. Preaching the Gospel entails that we talk about Man’s inability to affect his own salvation through his own power and good works. And preaching the Gospel entails that we teach and preach that after Salvation we are commanded to do good works and we are

commanded to bear good fruit and if the good works and the good fruit is not evident- then there is no Salvation.

So, the power of God is much more than emotional outbursts. The Gospel is the power of God and when men are not ashamed of that Gospel and when that glorious Gospel is preached rightly and fully and fearlessly then men are transformed, and souls are born again, and God is honored, and Christ is exalted and that is the greatest miracle of all and that 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.