

**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**
144 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 22

WOSM Monday 05/26/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of Jude and today we want to continue to look at what Jude taught about “The Characteristics of the Heretics.” So, let’s open our Bibles and read verses 12 &13 of Jude again together:

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Now in these two verses, Jude says that the heretics are like five natural phenomenoms:

- Hidden Reefs
- Clouds Without Water
- Autumn Trees Without Fruit
- Raging Waves of the Sea
- Wandering Stars

Now in our Study- we have already covered the first three characteristics and today I want to begin to examine the fourth characteristic of the heretics that Jude shows us in verse 13. Jude says that the heretics are like:

wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam...

Now as we examine this fourth characteristic, we must remember that the point that Jude is making here in verses 12 and 13 is that the seducers; the heretics; the apostates; those whom Jude says creep into the Church bringing in damnable teachings- that these people are not what they appear to be.

In the first characteristic- Jude says that the heretics are like nautical reefs hidden just under the surface waiting to wreck the ships that pass by. In the second characteristics, Jude says that the apostates are like clouds which hold no water. They make great promises and perform elaborate religious rituals and ceremonies- but they do not possess the ability to give spiritual rain to those who are thirsty.

The third characteristic of the false teachers, Jude says, is that they are autumn trees who have no fruit. These people bear no fruit- personally- and their teachings produce only more greed; more covetousness; more flesh; and bring forth more sin.

Now today, I want us to look at the fourth characteristic of the heretics that Jude writes in verse 13- that these ungodly people who are foreordained to damnation are like **wild waves of the sea** and Jude says that they **cast[ing] up their own shame like foam**.

Now in the Bible- "the sea" is often used to describe those who do NOT know God. Let's read **Isaiah 57:20&21:**

20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.

21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

Now as we crawled out of the debris of our homes to look at the Gulf Coast, after Hurricane Katrina had passed by, what we saw was almost beyond belief. The sea had come in and had literally destroyed our beautiful Coast. The beach was littered with destruction and mire, which was neither beneficial nor was it life giving. In a word, what the troubled sea had brought to us was- Devastation.

And in the spirit, heretics bring devastation to those who follow them. It is common today to find people who were misled; deceived; led astray; lied to and/or abused by false teachers who taught them wrong. It is one of the most common characteristics among believers that we see today. Almost every single soul in Church up to and

including the Pastor has been negatively affected by the wild waves of the sea from the false teachers.

Yet, unbelievably, very little is being done right now to stop this tragedy from repeating itself all over again in the next generation. It is one thing to have this devastation occur in *your* life, but it is quite another thing to do nothing to stop it from happening again.

Even though devastation from raging waves of false teaching abound- Sound Doctrinal teaching is still almost non-existent in our Churches- even though teaching and learning Scripture systematically is the best and most effective way of keeping another spiritual wave of false teaching from rolling in to wreak havoc in the future.

After Hurricane Katrina, State and local Governments joined with the Federal Government to “raise the bar” as it pertains to building codes and requirements to construct dwelling places along the Coast. And we grumble and gripe about these new codes because they add more money and more time to construction- but the new requirements didn’t just pop into someone’s mind without reason.

The fact of the matter is that if we continue to build houses and buildings using the same methods and standards that were in place *prior* to Hurricane Katrina- we will no doubt see another wave of devastation come through at some point in the future with the same horrible results.

So, by raising the standards by which we build- a storm of similar size and strength of Katrina will have *less* devastating effects upon us in the future. That is called “Learning from the past.”

We must admit, dear friends, that we cannot control the storms- we cannot stop the troubled seas- that is in God’s Power alone to do. We do not know if and when another natural storm will come. But we *can* control how we build so that we may be prepared for the worst. And it is foolish to build using the old codes and then expect to be able to withstand the storm that is yet to come.

Likewise, in the Spirit, it is naïve and foolish for Christians to think that heretics are people who existed in the ancient past and who no longer exist. And it is like putting our heads in the sand to assume that false teaching is something that used to occur but is no longer going on now. No, wisdom demands that we raise the standards and build our hearts and minds on a higher code than what the storms

that occurred in the past were able to destroy. Although what they teach is not new- the modern day heretics are alive and well and they are actively teaching and preaching ancient heresies that are both contrary to Scripture and contrary to what the Church has taught for 2,000 years.

But because so many today simply do not know Scripture and because we do not know Church history- our generation is making the very same mistakes and falling for the very same falsehoods that previous generations did battle with. And the net result, dear friends, is that we are building a spiritual house with outdated codes that are not adequate to withstand the raging sea of false teaching that is coming.

The old adage that says *“Fool me once- shame on you; fool me twice- shame on me”* is so true. So those of us who have been fooled by bad Doctrine in the past- should be leading the way to champion systematic; line upon line; precept upon precept Biblical studies that will enable us to earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

But the tragic and sad reality is that after 2,000 years of Christianity- the modern Church is much weaker, less prepared; and more susceptible to false teaching now than ever. Our utter lack of preparing our people for the wild waves of heretical teaching that is boiling out there right now is precisely why we are seeing an exponential increase of ancient heresies making such a huge comeback in our day.

Because we do not study history; because we do not teach Doctrine; because we do not engage in deep, serious meaningful discussions about eternal issues- we are sitting ducks for the next wave of false teaching to roll in upon us- and rest assured that wave is coming.

And by saying that you are trusting God to protect you while not doing what you can to prepare for that next wave is really not genuine trust at all- it is a cop out on our responsibility to obey what Paul told every single believer in **2Timothy 2:15**:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

But because so many in the modern Church today do not believe that Doctrine is even important- accurately handling the Word of Truth has become a lost art. And this is why we are seeing such division in the modern Church- not because people like me are trying to get people to study and know the Bible. We have to remember that the only reason that Truth divides anyone is because some are not willing to submit to it.

If everyone in Church would bow their knees to inspired Scripture and throw out their man- made theologies- we wouldn't have any division at all. But because whole denominations have chosen to operate in isolation from Scripture; because throwing out 2,000 years of history and completely reinventing Church is the new wave today- we are seeing the utter fragmentation of the Christian Church on a scale never witnessed before.

And the answer is not to abandon Biblical Truth- no, no, no,- the answer is to teach it and proclaim it and obey it and love it all the more. The answer is not to cancel Bible Studies due to a lack of interest but to hold more of them. The answer is not to cancel prayer meetings- but to call more of them.

Our generation knows less about the Nature and Character of God; less about the Person of Jesus Christ; and less about the fullness of the Gospel than any generation before us- yet we have more tools readily available to help us understand more than any generation before us. So, our lack of knowledge is not the result of a lack of tools or information. No, we have more information available than anyone in human history. No, our lack is not a lack of information or techniques- we have all that in abundance. And it really isn't even a lack of time- because our generation spends more time in pursuit of pleasure than any generation in the history of the world.

What we lack is not information or time or techniques nor is it opportunity. What we lack is power and love. We do not love the Truth enough to sacrifice what we must sacrifice in order to spend time in the Bible and spend the time with God that God requires from us. It is just so much easier for us to watch TV than it is to read and study the Bible or pray- or visit a nursing home or pray with a drug addict.

The younger generation is not so much hooked on TV like we are- so they spend their time on the Internet and with Computer

Games rather than in the Word- but the net result is the same. Our modern pleasures and conveniences and technology have robbed the people of God of their power and love to crucify our flesh; mortify the deeds of our bodies; deny ourselves daily and to pick up our cross and follow Jesus.

Beloved, please hear me. Please do not waste your life. I beg you to not think that because you're opposed to gay marriage and because you're against abortion that you are spiritual. We must know that our spiritual obligations and our spiritual duties and our spiritual responsibilities as born again believers go way beyond simply voting for the right bills and campaigning for the right causes and joining the right organizations.

Being spiritual and using spiritual discernment and walking in the Spirit doesn't come about overnight and it will never be manifested in your life by accident.

Being spiritual is not some mystical mystery that floats down from Heaven or that you accidentally trip over or some hobby that you engage in periodically or that comes by someone else laying hands on you.

No, being spiritual; and knowing God's Will; and hearing God's Voice; and walking in the Spirit; and of performing acts of mercy and exercising spiritual discernment and being strong in the Lord and the power of His might are all real hard work and they demand a whole lot of time, and they will inconvenience you because they are the natural results that will automatically come forth from a lifetime of the discipline of a holy life.

And the sacrifice that is required to live this disciplined life of selflessness; the sacrifice that God demands of His people; the sacrifice that we must willingly make for Jesus will only come about based upon our devotion and our loyalty and our love for this Man Who lived and died and Who rose again and Who saved our wretched souls and Who filled us with His Spirit and Who sealed us to the day of redemption and Who called us before the foundation of the world; and Who drew us against our will; and Who bought and paid for us and who now leads and guides and directs our lives.- or not.

And if we love Jesus that much and if we value what He said that much and we desire to spend time with Him that much and we comprehend Him that much then whatever He requires of us will be

just fine and we will do what He has said to do and we will magnify Him alone and we will serve Him alone and we will rebel against anything that seeks to rob us of that kind of power and knowledge and relationship and victory and glory and we will reject false teaching and we will reject false prophets and we will be able to spot a heretic a mile off and we will love Jesus and we will serve Jesus and we will Follow Jesus and we will obey Jesus and we will cast our crowns down at His feet and we will be his people and He will be our God.

And this is why we 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.

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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.