

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

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

Chapter 14- A Further Description of the Heretics **Jude 16**

160 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 6

WOSM Tuesday 06/17/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about "A Final Description of the Heretics". So let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 16** again together:

These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an advantage*.

Now in this verse- Jude says that the false teachers who creep into the Church to deceive the simple are:

1. Grumblers
2. Those who find fault
3. Those who follow their own lusts
4. Those who speak arrogantly
5. Those who flatter people for the sake of gaining an advantage

And on today's broadcast, I want to continue to examine the fourth description that God, the Holy Ghost gave to Jude. Jude said that those who creep into the Church to bring in false teaching are:

4. Those Who Speak Arrogantly

Now again, I want to look at this fourth description that Jude gave us because there is so much in this verse that we need to understand. The phrase that Jude used here to describe these deceivers is very important to us so that we may recognize the same thing as it occurs today. Now the phrase, "**speaking arrogantly**" was used only

twice in all of Scripture- once here in verse 16 of Jude and then back in **2Peter 2:17-19**. So let's read that Passage together:

17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

18 For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,

19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

Now the Apostle Peter uses the phrase, “**speaking out arrogant words**” and then links that phrase to another word- **vanity**. So, Peter says that the heretics speak “**arrogant words of vanity**”. And the word that was translated into English here as “vanity” is the Greek word, *mataiotees* (may-tah-oh-tees), which means: *to be devoid of truth and appropriateness; to be perverse and depraved*. Now normally, the word, “vanity” has to do with pride and arrogance, but this particular word doesn't mean that- *mataiotees* has to do with the natural perverseness and depravity found in those who are lost and unsaved.

The word, “*mataiotees*” was only used three times in the entire Bible. The first one is in the passage that we just read in **2Peter**. The next time this word is used is to describe the carnal and depraved mind of the lost in **Ephesians 4:17**

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility [vanity] of their mind,

And the third time that this word is used is found in **Romans 8:20**:

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

Again, the use of *mataiotees* here is referring to the perverseness of the sinful condition that all lost people have and of how terrible that sinful nature is to God.

So, Peter is linking the false teacher's use of arrogant words to the utter depravity of an unsaved; unregenerate mind of those who are lost. And this again confirms what verse 4 of Jude told us about

these deceivers- these people are not saved people who are just a little bit of on their theology- but these “certain persons” are ordained for condemnation. Let’s read verse 4 of Jude again:

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

God, the Holy Spirit inspired Jude to say to us that those who infiltrate the Church and who through their own personal lives and through their teachings turn the Grace of God into something wicked; those who, through false teaching, deny the Nature and Character of God; and those who attack the Person of Jesus Christ in either His Divinity or His Humanity are not sincere but misguided souls- but that these people are, in fact, what the Bible declares them to be- ungodly people who are marked out beforehand for condemnation. So, they are in a completely different category than your average “Joe” on the street who doesn’t handle the Bible correctly.

Brothers and sisters, the reality is that most of us are off on our theology in some way. Most people’s understanding of the Word of God is haphazard at best in our day. Now when I say that- please don’t think that because that is true that – that is okay- because it isn’t okay. It is wrong and historically- it has never been this way before.

The Bible is not taught nor is it learned as it should be in our day. It is not studied; it is not read; it is not pondered; it is not discussed; and therefore, it is not understood like the Bible has always been throughout the 2,000 year history of the Church.

For nearly a century now, the American Church especially has emphasized subjective aspects of life at the expense of objective aspects. We have placed great importance on relational things, and our feelings and how we “feel” about issues rather than how we think about them. We have done this for so long that today our minds are not engaged in deep, serious, and eternal matters.

God wants us to be passionate about our love and devotion to Him- but we cannot sustain that passion long term without objective Truth and the absence of clear, deep and cognizant thinking has caused our passion to become shallow, and superficial and purely emotional and that has cheapened it.

You see, dear friends, Passion is like a river. When the river overruns its banks and flows out- it quickly loses it'd depth. It is free from the restrictions of the banks to be sure- but the result is that it becomes shallow. When the river is shallow- it cannot sustain life neither can it be productive. When a river overflows its banks it is always destructive.

The only way that a river can run deep is that it be enclosed on both sides by the banks. The banks cause the river to be deep because they define the river- and as long as the river is deep- it is able to sustain life and it is able to be productive and not destructive.

This is the way that it is with us. We yearn to be free- so we resist any effort to confine us. But pure freedom; unrestrained liberty without the steadfast restrictions of Truth causes our freedom to become anarchy- which in turn leads us into bondage.

So, although we strain against the restriction of Truth- only Truth will define us and only Truth will sustain our depth. So, we *need* Truth- and we depend upon it to allow us to flow deep and strong.

The Truth that we need to define us- to allow us to be deep is the Word of God- without that divine inerrant, infallible Truth guiding us- our freedom in the Spirit will turn into lasciviousness and error very, very quickly.

False teachers know this, and they manipulate our natural urge to be free and they feed us with partial truths and half truths and outright lies so that we will willingly go into error and destruction. The words that manipulate our urge to be free are those "great swelling words" that Jude and Peter were talking about.

These are those particular words that swell our heads about ourselves; they cause us to become important in our own eyes- rather than God and the result is that what we like and what we call' good" are those things that personally benefit us- and not God.

Our Lord said that along with loving Him with all our hearts and with all our strength and with all our souls- that He also wanted us to love Him with all our minds. So, we need to revive our minds and renew our minds through deep serious line upon line and precept upon precept studies of the Scriptures and we need to engage ourselves in serious discussions of deep eternal matters so that we may think- Biblically and so that we will begin to allow our minds to re- enter the arena of worship.

True worship – the sort that God seeks for- is not purely spiritual. It is spiritual and it is glorious – but it also contains another element that our current platform and model in the modern Church has marginalized- and that other part is Truth. Without knowing just Who we are worshipping- we cannot possibly worship Him in fullness. Without some concept of God’s Glory and God’s Power and God’s Holiness and God’s Righteousness- without some concept of Who God is that has been learned through studying God- our love for God is vague and therefore it is shallow.

For example- when we eliminate the hard sayings of Jesus and the difficult passages of Scripture and the complicated concepts of the Bible from our study and just stick with the basics and the simple- we are not loving and worshipping God with all our minds. We are copping out to an easy Gospel that comforts us and that makes no demands on our lives.

But we have to understand, dear friends, that much about what Jesus said is profoundly disturbing; in fact, it is downright frightening and yet we are commanded to read and study and believe and teach and preach and love and obey those parts too.

As humans, we have a need to hear that God loves us and we have great need to know that He is merciful and that He will forgive us and that He is Good, and those things do describe our Holy Heavenly Father and those things rightly bring us great comfort. God is Love and everything about God is Love.

But along with being Love- God is also Righteous and he is Holy and while it is true that His Holiness and Righteousness do not outweigh His Love- It is also true that His Love does not outweigh His Righteousness and Holiness.

Love without responsibility; love without duty; love without self sacrifice causes us to presume upon God’s Mercy. We tend to not appreciate or value God’s Love without the knowledge of our own unworthiness and sinfulness being ever present. So, while we may rejoice in God’s Love- we must not use God’s Love as an occasion to sin and to justify our lack of obedience- that would be to devalue God’s Love and to cheapen it.

So, Jude is telling us that the deceivers emphasize *parts* of Truth in order to deemphasize the other parts by giving us great swelling words designed to motivate us into error.

And this is why Paul and Peter and James and John and Jesus and Jude all spoke about ravaging wolves who would come in to destroy the Gospel; they each one talked at great length about liars and false prophets and false teachers, who would subvert the right way of the Lord and who would cause people to run aground on their Faith and who would lead many into hell.

And they all spoke often about the need to know Sound Doctrine and the great need that we all have to defend the Truth against all enemies both foreign and domestic and they all spoke about the need for all of us to know Scripture and that is what the Epistle of Jude is all about and that is what I am preaching about.

We live in such a climate today when Doctrine is so downplayed that very few people have all their ducks in a row- including me. But because that is true doesn't mean that we shouldn't work very hard to correct this problem- because it is a real serious problem.

I am well aware that saved people can be off base on some things that they say and even teach- and still be saved- but even though that is true- we have to come to terms with the fact that there is such a thing as real sure nuff heresy; and we have to also come to terms that heresy is a serious threat to the Church of Jesus Christ. It always has been and always will be and much of the New Testament was written to warn us about it. This is the purpose of the entire Book of Jude.

Heresy is real and it is serious, and it is deadly. Since heresy is real- heretics are real. Heretics and apostates and false teachers have attacked the Truth ever since there was a Truth. And God raised up men all throughout Church history to confront false teaching so that we would have the benefit of reading a Bible that was not corrupted and so that we could hear the true Gospel in our day.

If the heretics of centuries ago would not have been confronted like they were by men who loved the Truth- we would not know the Truth today. So thank God that people were willing to stand up and fight for the Truth. And this is why we all 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.