

**Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was  
Once For All Handed Down to the Saints**  
An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**  
Chapter 15- How to Combat Heresy **Jude 17-21**  
167 How to Combat Heresy Part 3

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WOSM Thursday 06/26/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the **Epistle of Jude** and we are continuing to go over what Jude taught about just how we are to combat heresy when it comes. So, let's read **Jude 17-21** again together:

**17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

**18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.**

**19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.**

**20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,**

**21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**

Now on the last broadcast, we were looking at just what Jude was talking about in verse 17, when he said to:

**17 ... remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

**18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.**

In these two verses- Jude is reminding us that every single one

of the Apostles were faithful to warn us about the false teachers and so if we are to faithful to all that Jesus told us- we need to be aware that heresy is alive and well in our day and that it is a serious threat to Biblical Christianity.

Listen, I am as concerned about the decline of our culture as everybody else is and I want to see our nation return back to God- but dear friends- I want to see the Church return back to God too- and fact of the matter is that the Christian Church has been invade by an army of ungodly men who teach things that are not true and that are in contradiction to what is true and because we have not been taught nor have we learned Sound Biblical Truth- millions of people are falling for what these modern piped pipers say.

Now, while much of what is being taught by these people today is very popular- it isn't new. No, as we have learned in this study of **Jude**- much of what is being touted today as being a "New Revelation": or something that God is supposedly "raising up" in this last hour is really only a rehashing of ancient heresies that Jude tells us in verse 4 attack one or more of three areas of Biblical Truth:

1. How a sinful man is made righteous in God's sight
2. The Character and Nature of God the Father
3. The Person of Jesus Christ- in either His Divinity or His Humanity

But because we don't know Church history- we don't know that these issues have all been fought and settled hundreds of years ago. And so, when these heretics get up and teach- it sounds so good, and it sounds so wonderful and it makes so much sense- even though it is a direct attack against what God has already said.

The Apostle John warned us about these apostates in **1 John 4:1:**

**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

Now the Apostle of love even went further in his apostolic instructions on how we are to deal with those who preach a false doctrine. Let's read **2 John 10&11:**

**10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not**

**into your house, neither bid him God speed :**

**11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.**

Now we would consider doing what John clearly instructs here today as being harsh and unloving and even unchristian- but we must remember that John was inspired by the Holy Ghost to write this down- so if we disagree with these instructions- if we deem our approach to heretics to be more spiritual or more loving than what John says here- we are, in fact, not being loving and kind- we are being rebellious and disobedient to Scripture.

The Apostle Peter was equally as blunt as John was about false teachers and those who propagate another Gospel. Let's examine **2 Peter 2**

**1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**

**2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.**

**3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not standing out of the water and in the water:**

**4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;**

**5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;**

**6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;**

**7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:**

**8(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)ens were of old, and the earth**

**9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:**

**10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.**

**11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.**

**12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;**

**13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;**

**14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:**

**15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;**

**16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.**

**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.**

And of course, I don't want to leave out the Apostle Paul and what he had to say about those who bring in damnable heresy into the Church. Let's look at **Galatians 1:8&9**

**8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed .**

**9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed .**

Now you may not like me, and you may think that I am an alarmist and that I am way off base about what I am saying. But I trust that you *do* believe what John and Peter and Paul said about this issue. And upon careful examination, we find that when Paul said, "**Let him be accursed,**" Paul was not just saying, "*Shame on you.*" No, the Apostle Paul was pronouncing an Apostolic condemnation upon those who teach another Gospel in his capacity as one who had been personally commissioned by the Lord Jesus to establish the Christian Church. In other words, Church historians and theologians all agree that in these two verses, Paul was saying that anyone who teaches a false gospel is eternally condemned to hell.

Now I want to remind all of us that even though what these men said here sounds harsh to us- Paul and Peter and John were humble,

gentle, loving men of God, who worked with the worst people in society. They all preached the Gospel under horrible conditions, and they all lived a holy and godly life. They are wonderful examples of what Christians are supposed to be. They preached forgiveness and mercy and love and tenderness, and longsuffering and they practiced it.

But when it came to Doctrinal purity; when it came to Biblical Truth; when it came to the essence of the Gospel; and the Issues that pertained to the Character and Nature of God and the Person of Christ- these men and those who came after them firmly believed that if you monkey around with the Gospel- you doom people to hell. They believed that the only way for men to be saved was to hear the Gospel preached rightly, fully, and fearlessly and if the Gospel is changed; if the Gospel is corrupted; if the Gospel is altered- then no one can be saved.

So, these kind, loving, gentle, godly men were like pit bulls against anyone who brought in false teaching. They were the nightmare of every heretic and the thorn in the flesh for every single false prophet. And they told us through their writings in Scripture that we are supposed to be just as vigilant; just as precise; and just as careful about Doctrine as they were. In the words of noted theologian, RC Sproul- we must *“get the Gospel right.”*

But for the most part- we are not doing that today. And therein lies the problem. Far too many people today basically skim over their Bibles in a very shallow and very basic reading which will never unveil the unsearchable richness of God’s Word to them. We are satisfied with just listening to other people tell us what God said that we are supposed to know for ourselves.

God doesn’t want *anyone* to be ignorant of His Glory and so we, as children of the King, are commanded to dig down and spend time and ask and search and struggle and wrestle with the deep and powerful and eternal things of God until these powerful and glorious and beautiful and wonderful and these eternal matters become real and personal and ours.

And we will do this; we will make the time; we will take the Time, we will sacrifice whatever we have to sacrifice in order to do this if we see and understand the enormous value of doing this. Just like we see the value of going boating or doing our gardens or playing

sports or traveling around the country. We do those things, and we are willing to spend time and money doing those things because we see value in doing those things. So, we must pray that God gives us a love for Him and a love for His Word so that we will once again love what God loves.

And this is why we all 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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