

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

An Expositional Study of the **Epistle of Jude** Chapter 4- Enduring Sound Doctrine **Jude 3** 22. Enduring Sound Doctrine- Part 1

WOSM Tuesday 12/04/07; WPAS Tuesday 05/20/08

Welcome again my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to begin a new section of our study which will deal with the importance of Sound Doctrine. So, let's read **Jude 3** together:

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Now we saw last time how that the Church "received" the 27 Books of the New Testament along with the 39 Books of the Old Testament as the Canon, or the "rule" of Holy Scripture.

We also learned last time that contrary to what some people teach today- the Church did not "create" the Canon of Scripture- the Church *received* the Word of God from the Lord and thus the Church does not have the authority to add to or to take away anything from the existing inspired Books of the Bible. But rather because the Church "received" the Canon from the Lord- they understood that no one- no group; no Church; no organization; no Board; no Church Council- no one- has been authorized by God to do anything with the existing 66 Books of the Bible but to submit to it's authority. And they also understood that all Church Doctrine; all godly correction; all holy reproof; and all instruction in righteousness must come from the Bible and from the Bible alone.

Recovered documents tell us that the teaching of the early Church about this issue was clear and that while Church Tradition and History and official Church rulings, edicts, bulls, writs, pronouncements, prophecies, dreams, angelic visitations, individual

revelations, or ex cathedra statements may or may not be useful as tools by which to understand or comprehend basic facts or generational events- *none* of these products of man's wisdom and human reasoning rises to the same level of infallible inspiration as do all of the Holy Scriptures and thus no Church Doctrine; no godly correction; no holy reproof; and no instruction in righteousness should ever come from any of these things, but should come from the Scriptures and Scripture alone.

The best and most complete teaching that articulates this Truth is called "The Doctrine of Sola Scriptura", which is a Latin phrase meaning: "From the Scriptures Alone" and was developed by the Reformers of the 16th century. These godly men understood that unless Holy Scripture holds complete authority over the Church- then the leaders of the Church would soon dominate the Word of God and that would give rise to incorrect or incomplete teachings; heresies; and contradictions. Only by the Church being captive to the Word of God could the Church have complete assurance that what it believes and teaches is from God.

When Man- any Man- even godly and sincere Man takes the position that what he thinks; that what he believes; that what he has seen in a dream, or in a vision, or what an angel has revealed to him, or what has been prophesied in the Church, or what he *thinks* that the Holy Spirit has revealed to him- when any of these things begin to usurp authority over the inspired and written special Revelation that God gave through the Holy Scriptures- that person; that organization; or that Church is in fact, *isolating* themselves from God's Grace and are going down the path that could lead to believing and teaching "another" gospel that God didn't give.

No Person, no Group of Men- no matter what their title or their position- no Church Council; no Church Creed; no Pastor, no Apostle; no Prophet; no Teacher; no Evangelist; no pope; no Organization; no Author; no Church Tradition; no historical fact has the ability or the power or the authority or the right to say or teach or do or to believe any Doctrine; or give any godly correction; or issue any holy reproof; or provide any instruction in righteousness that is not based on the grammatical, historical, propositional and literary interpretation of the Holy Scriptures and of those Scriptures alone.

Without exception- history proves that any time a person or an organization or a Church falls away from this Truth- false doctrine; man- made philosophy; ridiculous fantasy; legalistic hardship; antinomian heresy and contradictory teachings come forth.

And this is not because the people who do this *mean* to go off base. I do not believe for a minute that everyone who teaches false doctrine or that everyone who believes false assumptions about God is evil or that they even mean to do it. Many times, they don't even know that they are off base. I am not challenging that. I do not have the right or the power to judge another man's heart or even his motive- no man does- but nevertheless, we all have the right as God's children and we all have the God ordained *responsibility* as leaders in the Church of Jesus Christ to hold each other accountable to the inescapable Authority of the Word of God and we are to test what is believed and taught and preached and written by the Berean test and while we cannot and we must not judge each other's hearts- we must examine everything that is written and spoken and taught to the Authority of Holy Scripture. And if what is taught or what is written or what is spoken is *not* Scriptural- we must challenge it.

Many of you have been in Church for years and yet you have never one time actually thought about what you believe or why you believe it and I suggest to you that that is dangerous. Like sheep- many of us simply accept whatever the pastor teaches and that is abrogating our responsibility to know what God has said and to hold our leader's feet to the fire.

Now I am not advocating rebellion in the Church- but what I *am* advocating is that you look at your Church's written Doctrinal Statement and see if it comes from Scripture. If not- then ask why not. If your Church does not have a written Doctrinal Statement- how do you know what your leadership believes and teaches about the great issues of life and godliness?

Any organization, any Church which does not deem it important enough to produce a written Doctrinal Statement that details exactly what they believe and teach is an accident waiting to happen. And I suggest to you that the absence of a detailed, written Doctrinal Statement proves two things: It proves that there is a lack of concern by the leadership of that Church over being Biblically accurate and it

also shows that the leadership of that Church probably doesn't know enough about the Bible to produce one.

Beloved, I didn't write this precious Book. I have had to study it just like God told you to study it. And I have been wrong about a lot of things and to the best of my knowledge, I have publicly repented when I found out that what I have said or what I have written or what I have taught was not Scriptural and, God willing, I will do so in the future. That is not the point. The point is that we all must make our calling and our election sure. We live in a day like Jude describes here- where sound, Scriptural, orthodox, correct Doctrine is the last thing on people's mind. And I tell you that that is a terrible mistake. That is why many in the modern Church believe and teach things that God did not say or that God said are wrong.

The Bible says that this lack of concern about Truth in the Church is not a sign of spiritual advancement. The notion that Doctrine is not important is not a sign of spiritual superiority- no, the Bible says that the Church not being able to endure sound doctrine is one of the signs that we are living in the last days. Read with me what Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost in **2Timothy 4:3-5**:

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Did you notice how the Spirit of God directed Paul to write this? He said in verse 3 that the time will come when "they"- the people of the Church- not the lost unsaved people- but the people who sit on the pews- will not be able to "***endure sound doctrine***".

Did you ever imagine in your wildest dreams that you would ever see a day when clear, sound, Biblical preaching and teaching would be so fought and so argued and so debated and so rejected by those who are in the Church? How did we get like this?

Can we begin to even fathom a worldwide religious organization that has a history that spans over centuries that has a full 60% of its official doctrine not found anywhere in Scripture? How could this be?

Recently, the Episcopal Church in America has, as an official act of the leadership of that Church, ordained an openly practicing and unashamed alcoholic homosexual as a presiding bishop, who, according to the news reports, has completely abandoned his wife and children and is living in open sin with another man. What possible excuse can this organization give to the Lord Christ for rebelling so completely; so thoroughly; so willfully from the clear proclamation of Holy Scripture about the qualifications of a bishop?

The answer lies in the fact that the Episcopal Church in America has willfully and premeditatedly over a period of years now abandoned the Doctrine of Sola Scriptura and no longer believes that their Doctrine needs to come from Scripture alone. Sadly, this organization, like many others, have set themselves and their own human reasoning above that of God's inspired and infallible Word and until and unless they change, I will not hesitate to join with the African Anglican Church in calling this once proud and glorious Church to repentance and to once again bow their knees to the authority of Scripture and to return to their first Love.

Now the word that was translated into English here in **2Timothy 4:3** as "endure" is the Greek word, *anechoo* (awn-a-koo), which means: *to hold ones self erect or firm in*. The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to say that the day was coming when the people in the Church; the people who say that they are saved; the people who think they are part of Christ's Body would not be able to hold themselves erect or to remain firm in Sound Doctrine. Now when Paul or Peter or any of the Apostle's used the term, "Sound Doctrine" they were not talking about what was the popular teaching of the day, or what was written in the latest best seller, neither were they referring to something that the church growth gurus had invented, or something that the Madison Avenue marketers were pushing; nor were they talking about what the social activists were proclaiming.

No, when the Apostles of Jesus Christ used the term, "Sound Doctrine" it meant something. Sound Doctrine, is that body of teaching that pertains to life and godliness and which is based solely from Holy Scriptures and which excludes all of Man's reasoning and all human influence and which came from the Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God.

Paul said here that the day was coming when the people in the Church would not be able to endure what God has said, they wouldn't be able to bear to hear or stand to be taught or even believe that being taught sound doctrine was important.

Beloved, this statement by Paul ought to scare us to death. When I hear some of the most popular preachers and evangelists and teachers and authors today say and teach and preach that we don't need Doctrine today- I begin to tremble. This is the sign that Paul was talking about, and this is not coming at some future date- it is here with us right now!

Beloved, we can forget about the Temple being rebuilt in Jerusalem and the 666 mark as signs of living in the last days- this unmistakable flashing red sign that the people of God no longer think that Sound Doctrine; that Bible Doctrine; that holy, God breathed, inspired Doctrine is important tells us that we are surely living in the last days.

Now it is a law of physics that any time that you remove one thing- you always replace it with something else. It isn't enough that Paul said that people in the Church would not be able to endure Sound Doctrine- that would be bad enough- but they don't stop there. When a Church that knows the Truth abandons the Truth- it replaces the Truth that it once had with myths and lies and falsehoods.

Paul said in verse 4 that when the Church gets to the place when it can no longer endure Sound, Biblical, Truth- it will replace that Truth with fables. Fables, fantasies, fiction, old wives tales, rumors, legends, mythology, popular opinion; personal opinions; human inventions; untrue statements; lies; falsehoods; heresies; and apostasy.

Well, I'm out of time for today- but please join me again on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse- by- verse Journey through the **Epistle of Jude**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

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.