

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

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

Chapter 5- Loving the Truth **Jude 3**

27. Loving the Truth- Part 2

WOSM Tuesday 12/11/07; WPAS Tuesday 05/27/08

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 continue in our new section of study which will deal with Loving the Truth. 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 on the last broadcast we dealt with the objections that some people have concerning defending the Truth, and I want to continue in that theme today. We saw last time that only if we have two things true in our hearts about the Truth will we be willing to fight to defend and preserve it, or in the words of Jude, only by having two things present in our hearts will we be willing to “**earnestly contend**” for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Those two things are:

1. We have to value the Truth so much that it is worth fighting for
2. We have to view the attacks against the Truth to be a real and serious threat

I liken the war against the Truth that we face today in the Church to another war that we face today as a nation.

On September 11, 2001, this nation was attacked. We were deliberately and maliciously attacked by those who high jacked airplanes and used these jets as missiles to endeavor to destroy our economy and our way of life.

Almost 3,000 men, women, and children died in that deliberate and premeditated attack. We lost more of our own citizens on 9-11 than we did in Pearl Harbor.

The 19 men who high jacked those plans and who slaughtered those people were all members of a violent and demonic religion that has from its beginning 1400 years ago espoused violence and murder as its primary means of conversion.

Many people in this country view Islam as simply another noble effort that man has to reach the same heaven that Christians strive to reach. They say that Islam and Christianity agree on the major points of theology and simply disagree on the insignificant points of theology. Even President Bush called Islam, “a religion of peace” and he has called those who are Muslims, “practitioners of the religion of peace”

In reality the opposite is true. Islam and Christianity disagree profoundly on the major areas of theology like vital areas such as Salvation, Original Sin, Atonement, Heaven and Hell, the Authority of Scripture, and the Deity of Jesus Christ. It is also true that Islam has an unchallenged factual history of extreme violence and brutality that cannot be matched by any other religious movement in human history.

What is interesting about this long and protracted war against terrorism is the way that it is being waged. Immediately after the attacks, this nation was unified in its response. We had been attacked. 3,000 of our own citizens- 3,000 civilians were murdered in places that were not military targets. Our righteous anger was certainly justified, and we responded as one nation.

From the very beginning, our President told us that this war was an attack on our freedom; our safety; our sovereignty; and our way of life. What he didn't tell you is that it was also an attack against our Faith. He told us over and over that we must understand what is at stake here. This war is not about politics, nor is it about who made mistakes. It is much more important than that. If we do not fight this war and if we are not willing to pay the high price for fighting it; and if we are not willing to do what it takes to be vigilant and to stay vigilant- we will lose. And if we lose this war- we will cease to be a nation. That is what is at stake here.

So, the real issue that we must decide as a nation is whether or not we value America enough to fight and die for her. We either do or we don't. And the real challenge is not that we value America today- because we do and we have and we pray for those who stand in harm's way. But the attack against us is still relatively recent. The real challenge will be as the years go by and the cost in human lives and resources mount and as the inevitable mistakes are made and as other Administrations come to power, and we begin to forget, and we begin to seek Peace at the expense of liberty and freedom; and as freedom and liberty lose their value in our eyes. We as a nation will not continue to defend and we will not continue to fight unless we continue to value that which we are fighting for. So the real challenge that we face long term in this country on the war on terror is that we maintain our love and our devotion and our loyalty and our value for our nation. Because only if our love and devotion and loyalty and value is high will we be willing to fight and die to defend it- long term.

This same logic applies to the Truth of God's Word. Unless we love the Truth; unless we value Sound Doctrine; unless we have a sense of loyalty and devotion to the Doctrine of the Apostles; unless we can comprehend the seriousness of the real threat against Objective, Truth- we will not be willing to defend it; we will not be willing to fight for it; and we will not be willing to die for it.

Unless you and I go way beyond simply believing in the Bible- we will not fight for it. We must come into a place where we don't just *believe* the Truth; we have to move way past simply *agreeing* with the Truth; we have to climb up higher than just *obeying* the Truth- You and I have to reach a place in Christ Jesus where we can actually *love* the Truth. We must value the Truth. We must have such a high view of that which God has said and that which the Scripture teaches that we will view any attempt to change or alter or pervert or add to or take away from Holy Scripture as an attack against God Himself.

Now before you think that this is simply the rantings of a crazy guy from South Mississippi, let's look and see how the men that God used to write the Bible viewed attacks against Sound Doctrine and the Gospel:

2Corinthians 11:3&4

3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your

minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity *of devotion* to Christ.
4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.

Galatians 1:6-9

6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

7 which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Now as hard as many of you think that I am- I have never said anything like this. But the Holy Ghost moved upon Paul to pronounce an eternal damnation on anyone who alters or changes the Gospel in any way whatsoever from that which the Apostles taught. Let's continue with words from the Apostle Peter:

2Peter 3:14-18

14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

15 and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

16 as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and ^efall from your own steadfastness,

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

From these passages, we can see that two things were true with the men who actually physically walked and talked with Jesus and with those whom God used to pen down inspired Scripture:

1. They thought that the Gospel; and Sound doctrine were very valuable and worthy to defend.
2. They saw the attacks against the Gospel and against Sound Doctrine to be a real and a serious threat.

And my goal here is to bring all of us into the same mind as the Apostles of the Lord and that we place as high a value on Truth as they did. The Apostle John had a very high view of Truth. 27 times in his Gospel account and 20 times in his Epistles, John used the word, "Truth". Here is a sampling:

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17

For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

John 3:21

But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

John 4:23&24

23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

John 5:33

You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.

John 8:32

and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 8:40

But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.

John 8:44-47

44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God."

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 14:15-17

15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

John 18:37

Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

1John 2:4

The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1John 2:21

I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

1John 4:6

We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and ^ethe spirit of error.

2John 4

I was very glad to find *some* of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment *to do* from the Father.

3John 4

I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

Paul especially was very forthright about insisting about getting the Gospel right and fighting to defend the integrity of the Gospel. Over and over and over in all of his writings, the Apostle Paul voiced his high value of the Gospel, or the Truth as he called it, and placed great importance on preaching and teaching and believing and loving Sound Doctrine.

1Timothy 1:9&10

⁹ realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰ and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

Titus 1:9

holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Titus 2:1

But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

I tell you that the Apostle's all taught that Truth; Objective,

solid Biblical Doctrine is holy and it is very valuable and it is worth knowing and it is worth studying and it is worth believing and it is worth obeying and it is worth loving and as we move into actually loving the Truth we will view any attack against the Truth as an attack of the devil and we will hear the words of Jude as he told us to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once delivered to the saints.

Well, I have to stop right here- but please join me again on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of Jude. May God help us all.

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