

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**

28. Loving the Truth- Part 3

WOSM Wednesday 12/12/07; WPAS Wednesday 05/28/08

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 we are continuing to look at what will enable us all to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. And we are talking about how we must love the Truth. And we have already seen that unless two things are true in our minds and hearts- our contending- or our willingness to love and fight for the Truth and defend the Truth - will not be earnest and if it is earnest at all- it will not remain earnest very long. Those two things are:

1. We must love or value Sound Biblical Doctrine and Objective Divine Truth so highly that we are willing to defend it from any attack.
2. We must have a firm comprehension that any attack against the Truth of God's Word is a real and a serious threat to Biblical Christianity.

Jude tells us here in verse three that we who are in the Church; we who are saved; we who carry the torch of Christianity; we who have been handed the mantle of the Church must preserve that which has

been handed to us. The Church is the pillar and ground of the Truth and it is now in *our* hands- *we* are now responsible for what happens to it. And Jude is telling us that we must make sure that we do not allow evil men to destroy that which God has placed into our hands. So we are to earnestly or sincerely; or with the utmost in soberness- which is what the word “earnestly” means- we are to earnestly contend; to fight; to struggle; to maintain the Faith; the single faith; the Christian Faith that has been once and for all delivered to the saints.

Jude says here that this Faith was *delivered* to us. It was delivered in the same sense that this word is used to describe a woman bringing forth life. Jesus *delivered* the Truth to us. He birthed it. It took great care and great suffering and great pain and great agony on His part to deliver Truth to us- and so if we respect what Christ did- if we value at all what Christ went through- we will not minimize Truth- because it came to us at such a high price.

And this Christian Faith that was delivered to us was delivered once and for all. It is not true to say that Christ is at this time delivering Truth to His Church. That is simply not true. The modern mind set in the Church that views Divine Revelation as an ongoing process of God is just flat out wrong. And it is this incorrect approach to Scripture that gives rise to the abuses and excesses that we now see in the Church.

Divine Revelation is only given in two ways. God has chosen to reveal Himself to Man through two and only two vehicles. There is what the Church has called “The General Revelation of God” and then there is what is called the “Specific Revelation of God”. The General Revelation of God is where God reveals general information about His Own Omnipotence and His Own Glory and Power and His Own Goodness in and through the Created Universe. The Specific Revelation of God is where God reveals specific and detailed information about Himself such as how Man may be justified; what pleases God and what angers Him; and the formation and operation of the Church. And the source of all specific Revelation is the Holy Scriptures and the Scriptures alone.

There is no new Revelation of God in the earth today. There are no new Doctrines; no new comprehension of God or Salvation; or any of the major teachings of the Bible being created today and there

should never be any effort by any so-called “prophet” or “apostle” to add to or to take away from existing Bible Truth. Any attempt by anyone for any reason to create new doctrines or to alter in any way existing Bible Truths is in itself heresy and is an attack on the already existing Truth. And to illustrate this point, it is again necessary to bring out a natural example.

We are, at this present time in this country, engaged in a great battle. The battle is called many things by many people. It is called by some “a cultural war”. Others call it a “battle for the soul of our nation”. Whatever you call it is fine- but it isn’t a discussion- it is a battle. And it is a very serious battle. The so-called secular progressive agenda to remove every vestige of God and of Christian expression and heritage from our society is a real and a serious threat. Some one is going to win this battle and someone is going to lose.

The apex of this struggle for the soul of our nation centers around the Supreme Court. Most all the money and effort and campaigning and attacks and counterattacks and persuasive activities that is expended centers around who is going to sit on the Supreme Court.

The Founding Fathers created the Supreme Court so that all of the laws that Congress passed would be interpreted as either being in line with what the Constitution says or would be found to be in violation to what the Constitution says. The Supreme Court Judges responsibility therefore is to interpret the Constitution.

The problem exists because there are two schools of thought as to how the Constitution is to be interpreted. One side says that the Constitution is a “closed Document”. What is meant by that is that the Constitution is what it is. It says what it says and it doesn’t mean anything else by what it says other than the grammatical and propositional reality of the words that are written in it.

That doesn’t make the Constitution perfect- neither does it make it complete. But it does mean that it is what it is. If the Constitution is silent about an issue- and it is- then those who hold to the Closed document or Conservative rule of interpretation do not allow for a judge to create or to invent his own interpretation.

If there arises an issue in which the Constitution doesn’t address- then the proper recourse is for the nation to turn to the House of Representatives where a slow and deliberate process of

compromise and argument will go on to add an amendment to the Constitution. That amendment must then go to the Senate for ratification and then to each of the fifty states.

Those who hold to this conservative or Closed Document approach to interpretation would not allow a judge- any judge- not even a good judge- to have the power or the authority to interpret the Constitution anyway that he sees fit or to make law- even if that law needs to be made.

The other view of Constitutional interpretation is called the Open Document or liberal view of interpretation. This view says that the words of the Constitution don't mean anything in and of themselves but that the judges- by virtue of their appointment- have the right and the authority to determine what the Constitution means.

These people view the Constitution as an "open" or "living" document that ebbs and flows with the ever changing fickleness of society. Those who hold to the open document view of the Constitution desire a judge who will interpret the Constitution based upon his own personal conviction of what the Constitution *should* say- not what it actually does say. These people do not use a literal grammatical, propositional or historical approach to the Constitution- in fact they ignore the words of the Constitution all together and apply their own wisdom and their own values and thrust these subjective and personal things into the text of the Constitution.

As you can imagine, those who hold to an open view of the Constitution; those who believe that the Constitution is a living document are making confusing and contradictory rulings that change from one court to the next because their rulings are not based in truth- their rulings are based on what are called opinions.

So we have the two sides- and the battle over which side will control the Supreme Court is bitter and brutal and ugly. And the battle has a religious element to it also.

The altar on which the conservative or closed document group worships is the text of the Constitution itself. They hold firmly to the position that the verbs that the founding fathers used when they wrote the document in the last part of the 18th century are still verbs today; and the nouns are still nouns. That, for example, when the Constitution says that Congress shall not pass any law that

establishes a religion nor will pass any law that prohibits the free exercise thereof- that it means exactly that. That there is no so-called wall of separation between Church and State and that the only entity that is limited in the battle between Church and State is the State- specifically Congress- and not the Church. So the altar on which the closed document people worship is the text itself and their sacrament are the words of the text.

The altar on which the liberal or open document people worship is the right of privacy, which by the way is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution. So, for example, judges who hold to an open document approach to the Constitution would always form their opinion about any other law based upon the right of privacy- not on what the Constitution actually says. So the altar on which the open document people worship is the so-called right to privacy, and the sacrament of these people is abortion.

The very same logic applies to the Holy Bible. There are two views on the Scriptures. There are those who view the Bible as being the inerrant, infallible inspired, God breathed Word of the living God. They view the Scriptures to be perfect in part and in whole. They view the Bible to be a closed document. It is what it is. It says what it says, and it means what it says. And unlike the Constitution- these people know that the Scriptures can not and should not be updated, altered, added to or taken away from in any way.

These people hold that there is only one correct interpretation of the Scriptures. These people use a literal method of Biblical interpretation that involves a careful process of research employing language, grammar, history, archeology, and literary rules. They carefully and painstakingly compare Scripture with Scripture to arrive at the one single correct and true interpretation. Their goal is to “take out” of Scripture- or to exegete- what the Holy Spirit put in it.

How the correct interpretation affects them is of no concern to these people. If the interpretation commends them or condemns them- it is what it is- the Word of God. They are on a real and genuine search for Truth- they are not looking to have the Bible agree with them or their lives- they honestly want to know what God has said. These people never read into the Bible what they want it to say. Neither do they cherry pick parts of the Scriptures while leaving others out. These people make no allowance for changing social or

moral conditions in their interpretation- what God says is sin- remains sin.

But there is another group in the Church today. Their approach to the Scriptures is entirely different. They view the Holy Bible as an “open” or a “living” Document. They view the Scriptures to be dead in themselves and they, the interpreters, are what gives the Bible its meaning and life. These people believe that they have the authority and the power to interpret the Bible any way that they choose- using any method they choose. So they are free to ignore literary, language and grammatical rules. They are free to use other documents to interpret the Scriptures. They are free to take words out of context. To these people- the power resides in them – and not the Scriptures. They seek to put *into* the Bible what they want the Bible to mean.

Their effort to study the Bible is an exercise in trying to find anything that might justify their lives. They do not seek after objective Truth- they want Truth to be flexible- so that they can feel better about themselves. When society changes- these people say that the Scriptures should reflect that change. And these people would say that sin is only sin if they think that it is sin.

Beloved, just as the Battle over the Supreme Court is raging in this country- so too, the battle over the Holy Bible is raging in the Church. In the first century, God raised up men Jude who cried out against the effort by some in the Church to bring in false teaching and doctrines of devils. Jude warned the Church day and night for years to love the Truth enough to earnestly contend for it- but they didn't listen. In just 26 years after Jude told us to earnestly contend for the Faith- five out of the seven churches in Asia were overrun with heresy and false doctrine and were told by our Lord to repent.

Now the ball is in our court. Today we hold the torch of the Truth in our hands. We are the stewards of the House of God and God is speaking to us again in these last days that we must love the Truth; that we must value the Truth enough to be willing to defend it and to fight for it. Yes, God is telling us again to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once delivered to the saints. What will be our response?

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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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.