

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

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

### Chapter 6- The History of Heresy **Jude 4**

#### 35. The History of Heresy Part 5

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WOSM Friday 12/21/07

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 our examination of The History of Heresy by looking again at the fourth verse of Jude- so let's read verse 4 together:

**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.**

Now we are continuing to examine just who these "**certain persons**" were that Jude speaks about here in verse 4 by studying the seven major heresies that have attacked Biblical Christianity since the Church was established over 2,000 years ago. Those seven heresy groups are:

1. The Judaizers
2. The Antinomians
3. The Gnostics
4. The Modalists
5. The Arians
6. The Pelagians
7. The Socinians

Now on the last broadcast- I was teaching you that although there have been many attempts over the last 2,000 years to destroy Christianity from both within and without- it was those attacks from *within* the Church that were the most insidious. Those inside attacks

had to do with those heretics and apostates who crept into the Church to teach and preach false doctrine or who came into the Church for the express purpose of deceiving the sheep and leading them astray.

Notice here in verse 4 that Jude says that these heretics will attack Biblical Christianity on three fronts. Jude says very clearly that these false teachers will warp the true Biblical teaching on:

1. The Grace of God
2. The Character and Nature of God the Father
3. The Person of Jesus Christ

Now as I have taught you on earlier broadcast- since it is true that Christianity was established by the infallible and inerrant and inspired Words that Paul and John and Peter, and the other Apostles penned down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit- what those Words say and what those Words mean by what they say is all important.

We must remember, brothers and sisters that any alteration of the inspired Words of Scripture in any way- any alteration of the meaning of those inspired Words of Scripture alters and changes what Christianity is and thus the Apostles viewed any attempt at adding to or taking away from the Words of the Bible to be an attack against the Church and an attack against God Himself.

So, when these certain men that Jude describes here in verse 4 began to infiltrate the Church like spiritual terrorists- the Apostle saw the great need of exposing their lies and of correcting their false teaching.

Case in point are the first two major heresies that attacked the Church: the Judaizers and the Antinomians. Both of these false teachings attacked Grace during the days when the Apostles were still alive.

Both of these groups did just what Jude says here in verse 4- they tried to change what Grace is and what Grace means and how Grace operates and what part Grace plays in the saving of the human soul.

The Judaizers- or better known by the term legalists- denied that Grace was sufficient to save fallen Man and taught their own man-made version of the Gospel which said that human works and human cooperation was needed in order for a person to be saved.

This effort by the Judaizers was not just an honest difference of opinion from well meaning people- no, this was a hostile attack against what the God the Holy Ghost had revealed to the Apostles about what role God's Grace plays in the saving of the human soul. Pretty serious stuff.

The false teaching of the Judaizers or the Legalists had the affect of *ignoring* the magnificence and the importance of God's Grace and it promoted Man and human works as the *real* catalyst that converted the human soul.

Now way before the Judaizers ever rose up to teach their heresy- God had already revealed that God Sovereignly saves lost souls by Grace alone through Faith alone because of Christ alone- absent any human works at all in **Ephesians 2:8&9**- so let's read that passage together:

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;**

**9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

So, from this verse we can see that the teaching of the Judaizers represented a real and serious threat to Biblical Christianity which is why the Apostles fought so hard against them.

Now along with the false teaching of the Judaizers- another group rose up in the first century which also attacked Grace. These heretics- who also had crept into the Church- taught that Grace was a license to sin with impunity. These people were called the Antinomians.

And on the last broadcast, we were talking about how all of the Apostles refuted the heresy of the Antinomians with the Word of God. Paul especially was brutal against this heresy which taught that Grace gave us license to sin after Salvation.

In what is called today "the greatest letter ever written"- Paul wrote the **Book of Romans** around the middle of the first century to give the Christian Church the correct understanding of how God converts the human soul. Almost everything that God revealed to Man about Salvation is found in **Romans**. And Paul wrote Chapter 6 of **Romans** specifically to rebuke and correct the heresy of the Antinomians.

Paul taught that because being saved was so much more than simply joining the Church- but Salvation was in fact having our old, rebellious, corrupt human nature miraculously and supernaturally regenerated into a godly and divine nature- and he taught that after we are saved- that there were tangible and measurable changes in both our behavior and our desires.

Paul and all the other Apostles taught that because being saved was literally being born again- the saved person no longer had the will or the desire or the inclination to continue in ongoing sin. That although he will occasionally sin- the saved soul has lost his ability to remain there; and he will quickly repent; and he will quickly confess his wrong and he will quickly run to Jesus because the new divine nature- the seed of Christ that now abides within him- cannot bear to displease God.

Paul used a curious phrase to describe the saved man. Paul said that the saved person was now “**dead to sin**”. It is as though he has literally died to his old way of life. And with that death to sin came an opposite and equal ability and power and desire to live like Christ. Look at **Romans 6:4**:

**Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.**

And **Romans 6:6**:

**knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;**

And he summed it up in **Romans 6:7**

**for he who has died is freed from sin.**

Paul continued his assault against the heresy of those who would abuse Grace by saying that we should reckon or consider ourselves to be actually *unable* to sin anymore because we are now dead to sin. Look at **Romans 6:11**

**Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Then Paul gives us an apostolic command to not allow sin to rule us in **Romans 6:12:**

**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,**

Now comes the blockbuster. Now comes the part that the modern Antinomians hate. Now comes the part that really chafes those who are members of the Church- yet who have not been born again. Paul now teaches that since we are saved- we cannot, and we will not live unto ourselves; we cannot, and we will not do as we please; we cannot and we will not do what is right in our own eyes- but we are commanded to conform; we are commanded to be molded and shaped and formed into the very image and likeness of Jesus Christ. We are told to submit; to yield; to surrender; to give up; to die to ourselves; to crucify this flesh; to mortify the deeds of our bodies and to bow our knees to the authority of Scripture. Look at what he wrote in **Romans 6:13:**

**and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.**

No wonder the Antinomians hated Paul. No wonder that the modern abusers of Grace in the Church today hate any preaching or any teaching that confines their sinful flesh. These people don't want anyone telling them how to live- not even God. The reason that they are like this is because they are not saved. They have not been born again. They don't have the new nature. They have not been regenerated. They don't have the seed of Christ inside them. They don't crave the Presence of God because they haven't been reborn. They don't love the things of God because they are still lost; and they are still dead in trespasses and sins. They can't bear Sound Doctrine; You couldn't pay them to seek God's Face for extended periods of time. They have no desire at all to study their Bibles. They would much rather fellowship with lost sinners in the world than they would saints in the Church.

Paul said that it matters how Christians live. It matters how they talk. It matters where they go and what they do. Antinomians taught that saved people have a license to sin, but Paul said that people who dwell continuously in sin are not saved. But he wasn't the only one.

Look what Peter wrote in **2Peter 1:3&4**:

**3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.**

**4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**

Beloved, the Antinomians have crept into our churches today and they have brought in this very same ancient heresy which excuses sin; and which promotes a low view of God and a low view of the Bible and a high view of Man. These heretics make silly statements about the seriousness of sin like, "Well, nobody's perfect" and "Well, boys will be boys" and they presume upon the Grace of God and teach that God doesn't mind if you sin a little here and there- don't worry about that- God loves you; God doesn't care whether you serve Him or not- it's all okay- He will forgive you. Go ahead- live life to the fullest- go do whatever is in your heart to do- God will always be there for you when you get weary of your sin.

Beloved Antinomian teachings like this only promote arrogance toward God. Teachings like this remove the fear of God from our hearts and that is why we must be bold to cry out against them and we must contend earnestly for the Faith that was once and for all handed down to the saints.

Well, I'm out of time for today- 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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