

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**

65. The History of Heresy Part 35

WOSM Tuesday 02/05/08

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 our examination of The History of Heresy by looking 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.

We are continuing to study about who these "certain persons" that Jude talks about here in verse 4 really were, by studying the seven major groups of heresy and today we are continuing to examine the heresy of Pelagianism which attacked the Christian Church late in the fourth century over the Doctrines of Original Sin and the Total and Complete Depravity of Man and the Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man.

Now the cornerstone of the Pelagian heresy was the concept of the unconditional free will and moral responsibility of Man. Pelagius incorrectly taught that in creating humanity- God did not subject Man to the law of nature- but gave Man a unique ingredient that He didn't give to His other creatures. Pelagius taught that God gave to Man a Free Will and that by utilizing his Free Will, Man could choose to do good and could choose to be saved and could choose to serve God. Of course because Man had the ability to choose good- he also had the ability to choose evil and thus the crux of all events in the earth was determined by the almighty supremacy of Man's so called Free Will.

So Pelagianism makes perfect sense, doesn't it? I mean, it makes sense that man has a Free Will. And it makes sense that he can choose to serve God and he can choose not to. Pelagianism just makes good sense, doesn't it? That is until you factor in one very important part that Pelagius left out. The Fall of Man.

As we have already studied, Man is not the same today as Adam was. Adam was made perfect and yet able to sin. So it is true that God created Adam with Free Will- but Adam was also created with immortality and he was also created with perfect emotions and he was also created with total dominion over everything that God had made. All of that is true.

But what is also true and what Pelagius would not include in his heresy is that Adam fell from that first estate because of his sin. And therefore- Adam did not retain his same status after the Fall. Adam lost everything in the Fall and with Adam- the entire human race was radically ruined.

Pelagius did not agree with Scripture about how devastating the Fall had been to Man. Was Adam the same after the Fall that he was before the Fall? Pelagius and the Secular Humanists of today say, "Yes!" Pelagius taught that the Fall of Man was a myth and taught that the Fall of Adam had absolutely no effect upon Man.

Augustine said, "*No, Man was not the same after the Fall*". Augustine agreed with Scripture and taught that Man was totally devastated by the Fall and was irreparably damaged because of the sin of Adam. So, let's look at what was at stake here.

Did Adam retain his own immortality after the Fall? The Bible says, "*No!*". Let's look at **Genesis 5:5**:

So, all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

So we see that after the Fall- even the Man that God had made in His own Image and in His own Likeness died. But did that same physical death pass on to all men? The Bible says that it did. Let's look at **Hebrews 9:27**:

And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men to die once and after this comes judgment:

So, all men are going to physically die as a direct result of what Adam did in the Garden. No man will escape death. Some men may die young while others may die old. Some may die sick; some may die well. Some may die in an accident; others may die of disease. Some may be killed in war or on the highways or by another person. Some may die on land; some may die at sea. Some may die in pain; others may die in relative peace. Good men die and bad men die. Sinners die and saints die. I am going to die and you are going to die- but all men will face a time of their own physical death as a direct result of what Adam lost in the Fall and once we die- all men will then stand before a righteous and holy God to give an account of what he did in his body whether it is good or bad.

The only people who will not physically die are those people who will be living when the Lord Jesus returns. And at the very moment of Jesus' return to this earth- those who are saved will immediately be translated and given a new body that is immortal and will dwell with Jesus forever in the glories of Heaven and those who are lost will immediately be given a body that is immortal and they will be sent to hell to be tormented forever in the lake of fire. Paul taught about this in **1Corinthians 15**.

So, we can clearly see that Pelagius was wrong about this and the Secular Humanists of today were wrong about this and Adam did lose his own immortality in the Fall and with that loss- all men now physically die.

Now what about Man's emotions? Adam had perfect emotions before the Fall. Did he retain those same perfect emotions after the Fall? Once again, the Bible is clear. All the emotions of mankind; all those things that originate from the heart and mind of man are wicked and corrupt and they too have been irreparably and irreversibly destroyed by the Fall.

The emotions and intent of the heart of Man is now fallen and his emotions are corrupt emotions and are not the same as Adam had before the Fall. Let's look at what the Bible says about this in **Genesis 6:5**:

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Let's also look at what Moses wrote in **Genesis 8:21**:

The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

Look at what Jesus said about the heart in **Matthew 15:18-20**:

18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

And the Apostle Paul agreed that Man's emotions and intent of his heart had been so damaged by the Fall that he no longer possessed any goodness or righteousness of his own. Look at **Romans 3:10-18**

10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

Pelagius and his heresy had been defeated Scripturally by Augustine on every point and he only had one point left and so he clung to this last point like a mad man. Pelagius taught that the Free Will that Adam had in the Garden had somehow managed to escape

being ruined by the Fall. Pelagius taught that Man had somehow been able to hold on to his Free Will even though everything else about Man had been negatively affected by the Fall of Adam. Of course, just how fallen Man was able to hold on to his free will was never fully explain by Pelagius.

So, the real issue at stake about Pelagianism is over the supremacy of Man's so-called "Free Will". Did the Fall take away Man's Free Will or did man somehow manage to retain Free Will after the Fall?

Now what is frightening to me is that when I was first saved back in the early 1970's - I was taught that Man *retained* his Free Will- and I suspect that most of you were taught that too. I didn't know anything about Church History back then and I really didn't know too much about the Bible either and so for Man to have his own Free Will just made sense to me. And I made the same mistake that many of you have made.

I would think that most of those who are listening to this broadcast today were either taught the very same way that I was taught or else you have somehow come to believe that lost, unsaved Man has somehow managed to keep the very same Free Will that Adam had in the Garden before the Fall.

Now even though this concept may make some sense to us- the problem with believing this is that we can't prove this concept by Scripture. So, what we are left with is a cornerstone of our theology that is not in the Bible. Yet even though the teaching that we have so easily accepts about human free will is not mentioned in Scripture- amazingly we still we hold on to this Pelagian error as though it were true.

Why? Why can we all easily agree that Man's immortality and Man's emotions and Man's consciousness were all totally destroyed by the Fall- yet we insist that the Free Will that Adam had somehow escaped damage by the same Fall? And we hold on to this error even in the face of many, many Scriptures which clearly teach just the opposite. And I think that the answer lies in the fact that we are, in fact, fallen creatures and as such- our basic instinct is to think that we are in charge. But the fact that we work so hard to be in charge doesn't prove that we are in charge at all- no, the fact that we who are fallen and depraved human beings work so hard to prove that we are

in charge only shows how fallen we really are.

We want to control our own lives and we do not want to give up that control- not even to God. We don't even want to give up control to God- even for Salvation. So somewhere in the darkness of our fallen minds- we really agree with Pelagius and we really agree with the Humanists and we too conjure up a blasphemy that proclaims that we are the masters of our own destiny; we are the captains of our own ship.

Christian brothers and sisters, it is really scary to listen to so many well meaning people today espouse the very same ideas that Pelagius taught 1600 years ago and then call it Christianity. We who say that we are the heirs of what Augustine promoted really are much closer to believing what Pelagius taught about Free Will.

We all need to be reminded that Pelagius was formally denounced by the Church in 412 A.D as a heretic, and his teaching of the Omnipotence of Man's Free Will was condemned as a lie and an UnScriptural error by the Christian Church 1594 years ago.

So when you hear someone begin to teach that you have a Free Will and that you can choose to be saved or you can choose not to be saved and that Salvation is up to you and not God- and is really nothing more than a matter of human choice- you can now know that the very same lie that Pelagius taught over 16 centuries ago has simply been repackaged and dressed up and made to look new and improved- and now you know that the Bible does not agree with this at all.

Beloved, this is why we need to return to Biblical Christianity and this is why we need to make sure that what we believe is Scriptural and why we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered 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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