

# 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** 70. The History of Heresy Part 40

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WOSM Tuesday 02/12/08

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.**

Now we are continuing to study about who these "certain men" that Jude talks about in verse 4 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, the Total and Complete Depravity of all Humans, the Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man.

Now last time we were looking at the Doctrine of Original Sin which was at the heart of the Pelagian Controversy. Pelagius, the heretic taught that Man was fundamentally good and that the Fall of Adam had not damaged Man's inherent goodness. Augustine said that the Bible clearly taught that since the Fall of Man- all humans are born with a sin nature and that sin nature of fallen Man was so total and so radical in and of itself that it warranted eternal hell for every living human.

And both the seriousness and the horror of Original Sin and Total Human Depravity is clearly taught in the Bible. But although that is true, neither Original Sin, nor Total Human Depravity is

taught today in American public schools. The Federal and most State Governments of this country have ruled that they do not want what the Bible declares to be true about human goodness to be taught to our children. They say that they want the classrooms free from religious training. But guess what the schools teach our children today about human goodness? The religion of Secular Humanism; the religion of Pelagius; the religion of Darwinism; and the religion of the Sovereignty of Man's Free Will. The only thing that has been accomplished by trying to make our classrooms neutral about religion is that they have replaced true religion from the Bible with the false religion that Pelagius taught. So they still teach religion- they absolutely impose religion onto the minds of impressionable children- they just teach the religion of heretics. But because Total Human Depravity is true and because Original Sin is true- and because the schools now promote wrong and foolish and godless notions about self-worth and self- esteem and self- value and self- love to our children- we now have an entire generation of children who know not God.

So what are the rewards for removing Truth from our schools? What are the results for removing God from our schools? What are the results of our school boards and our legislators and parents losing their courage and losing their convictions and bowing their knees to the 1600 year old heresy of Pelagius and feeding it to our children? We now have armed guards in our schools and metal detectors and dogs sniffing for drugs and demon possessed children shooting other children and children graduating who can't read their own diploma and teachers molesting students. Boy, we've come a long way, baby.

Now it is bad enough that these false religions are being taught in our public schools to our own children, but what is worse is that most of these same religions are also being taught in most American homes; and you will find Pelagianism taught every evening on American television and you can read Pelagian Humanism in the lyrics of most American pop music.

And what is even worse than that, is that after 2,000 years of Christianity and in spite of the fact that most people in this country associate themselves as being Christians- Pelagius' heresy about Man's Free Will; Pelagius' heresy about Original Sin and Total Human Depravity being a myth is the dominate teaching in most of

the books being written by some of the most famous and popular evangelists today.

I was not taught about Original Sin nor Total Human Depravity when I was saved back in the early 1970's. And as a result of my lack of understanding of what the Bible taught about these fundamental issues- my whole concept and understanding of the Sovereignty of God; the Free Will of man and even Salvation was off base. And I am not the only one.

I have talked to many, many people recently about this issue and I have come to find out that hardly any person that I know; hardly any preacher; any deacon; or any church member has a clue about these two foundational Doctrines of the Christian Church and that is a shame and that is the reason that we have so easily accepted false and incomplete teachings about Man; false and incomplete teachings about God; and false and watered down teachings about Salvation, Sin, Personal Holiness, and Heaven and Hell.

I'm not talking about some obscure theological point- I am telling you that while we may have *some* truth about important matters- the average person who attends the average church today is so woeful uninformed about serious, Biblical, and eternal issues that it is frightening. No wonder that many of these ancient heresies are all making a comeback in our day.

So because we don't know; because we have copped out to a psychological bubble gum Gospel of feel good theology and have settled for "sermonettes" for "Christianettes"- we have a great need today to be taught what the Bible says about Man's inherent goodness. And we need to be taught what the Bible says about Man's Free Will and we need to be taught what the Bible says about God's Sovereignty and we need to be taught what the Bible says about the Total and Complete Human Depravity of Man.

And because it is true that many thousands of Americans are being deceived all over again with the very same heresies of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixteenth centuries- we also need to be taught about Church History and about the battles that have been waged and about the debates that were done and about the struggles that went on so that we may first of all, appreciate our own Christian heritage and secondly, that we may learn from the past and not be fooled and deceived by these same lies in our day.

So, go with me over the next several broadcasts as we explore verse by verse exactly what the Bible teaches about man's Lost condition.

At the heart of the issue is the basic question, "*Is Man inherently evil or is Man inherently good?*" Pelagianism and Secular Humanism, and modern Sociology, and modern Psychology, and modern Psychiatry, and modern Anthropology, and many, many of our most famous and popular preachers and teachers today all say the same thing: "*Yes, Man may periodically do bad things, but basically, at his core, Man is inherently good.*"

And while this may be the dominate theology in the world today- that statement is completely false and is completely UnScriptural. In fact it is the exact *opposite* of what the Bible teaches about Man. So if we are going to look at this honestly, we must understand that those who teach things contrary to the Bible are not well meaning, but misguided folk who are on a sincere, but wrong search for Truth. No, those who knowingly teach that Man is inherently good are the enemies of the Cross of Jesus Christ and are promoting UnBiblical Teachings.

The Bible teaches the Total Depravity of the entire Human race. Total Depravity means that Mankind was totally and radically and negatively affected by the Fall. And as we discuss this issue, we must be careful to understand the clear difference between "total" depravity and "utter" depravity. When we speak about "Total Depravity"- many people tend to zero in on the word, "Total" and get the wrong impression. Total Depravity is the term that the Reformers used in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to describe the results of the Fall and perhaps could be best expressed by saying Radical Corruption or Radical Ruination. The term Total Depravity doesn't mean that a person is always as bad or as wicked as they *could* be. It simply means that all men are born with a nature that is completely polluted as a result of the Fall of Adam. And that there is no area of human existence that escaped the ruination of the Fall.

For example, Joseph Stalin was responsible for killing seven times more people than Adolf Hitler and was a very wicked and evil man who did unthinkable things. Stalin was totally depraved. But while Stalin was totally depraved- he was not *utterly* depraved. Even though he killed over 45 million people- I suppose that he could have

killed 65 million. And although Stalin raped and tortured thousands- he perhaps could have abused tens of thousands. The point is that although Stalin was obviously wicked and evil- he had the potential to have been even worse than he actually was. So while the totality of Stalin's entire nature was corrupt and he did many vile and terrible deeds- he had the potential of doing even more vile and even more terrible deeds than he actually did. In fact, according to history- although this man was a monster- he was also at the very same time loved by many people. While Stalin was killing and abusing and murdering millions- he was also giving gifts and visiting sick people in hospitals and doing kind and noble things to other people. This is the mystery of iniquity.

The Bible teaches that Man is corrupt in his nature; in his heart; down to his DNA level. The sin that Adam committed in the garden passed on to all men through birth. We are all tainted with it and it affects every one of us.

For example, we all love to see and hold and play with cute little babies. All babies are innocent in the sense that they do know right from wrong. They are pure in their infancy as humans can be. But the Holy Bible says that every single baby is born with a fallen and depraved and sinful nature. And as that cute sweet adorable baby grows up- he will rebel; he will lie; he will cheat; he will steal; he will lust; he will covet; and he will act and do and think and behave in direct opposition to God. Why is that? It is his nature and human beings cannot act long term in violation to their nature.

And here is the interesting thing about it. You do not have to teach your children to disobey- they will *automatically* rebel against you and every other authority. No one has to teach anyone to lust or to lie or to steal or to cheat or to covet. We all do those things; and we do them all the time precisely because it reflects who we really are.

The unsaved world says that people who do bad things are bad people and people who do good things are good people. But the Bible doesn't say that. The Bible says that all men are bad, and they do what they do precisely because of who they already are. The Bible says that all men sin; all men transgress; all men lie; all men cheat; all men steal; all men blaspheme; and all men covet.

Now some people may sin more openly and visibly and blatantly than others; and some may sin more frequently than others; some

may sin to greater extents or in greater degrees than others- but all men sin. Some may only commit sin in their hearts- secretly- so no one can know- but the Bible is clear- there is not one single good person on earth; not one single righteous person- we are all sinners- we all sin and we all sin all the time. Look at what John said in **1 John 1:8:**

**If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

When a young child has a fever- the mother takes the child to the doctor. Why? Because the mother knows that the fever is caused by an infection. So the fever is really not the problem- the fever is the visible symptom of something else that is going wrong somewhere in the body. So since the fever is not the real problem- the goal of a good doctor is not to give something that will simply reduce the fever. No, the goal is to find out where the infection is so that we may attack the infection- then the fever will go away on its own.

So, it is with us. We are infected in our hearts and in our natures from the Fall. So, it isn't just that we sin- it is that we have a sin *nature*. We are completely corrupt in our very make up. So our visible sins that we commit are not really the problem. Now don't get me wrong and go and say that Brother Blair said that it was okay to sin- I am not saying that. But outward, visible sinful activity is the *symptom* of a far greater problem. The real problem is not our sinning- the real problem is that we are corrupt in our hearts.

And this is why the Ten Commandments are brutal and unbending and unyielding in dealing with the very issues of our nature. And that is why the Ten Commandments cannot save you. They were never designed to save you. They were designed to show you how bad you really are.

But why would God be interested in showing us how bad we are? Is God mean and does He get a kick out of telling us how bad we are? No. God uses the Ten Commandments as a teacher- a schoolmaster to prove to us that no matter how hard we try in our own power; no matter how much effort that we expend- while we may be successful in temporarily modifying our behavior just a little; and while we may change the way we dress or alter what we do or where we go- we do

not have the power; we simply do not have the ability to change our own nature. For that we need a Savior- and His Name is Jesus.

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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