

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**

77. The History of Heresy Part 47

WOSM Thursday 02/21/08

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 there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus

Now we are continuing to study about who these "certain men" that Jude talks about here 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.

On the last broadcast, we saw that since God is one and the Bible was authored by the one true God- then all the Doctrines of the Bible are interwoven into one single system that reveals to us the Person and Nature and Character of God. Therefore, how we view Original Sin determines how we will view the Sovereignty of God; and how we view Man's Free Will- will determine how we view Salvation.

If we have an unbiblical understanding of Original Sin; if we hold to either a Pelagian or a semi-Pelagian view of Original Sin; if we do not believe that Man was radically ruined in the Fall and totally incapable of Salvation apart from Grace- then our view of God's Sovereignty will be of base and will not be biblical either.

Only by a Scriptural understanding of Man's helpless, hopeless

plight due to Original Sin may we then fully grasp the importance of God's Sovereignty. You see, if I do not believe that lost Man is utterly lost in the Biblical sense of being so lost that we need a Savior- then my view of Man's potential to save himself; Man's potential to correct his own problem through education or the infusion of money or the changing of location or the through the development of science and technology will also be of base.

If my understanding of the Lostness of man is not Scriptural, then my understanding of how Man can be found will also be unscriptural. And this is precisely what our universities; our educators; our social sciences; our public schools; and our Government has done.

We spend billions of dollars every year in this country trying to make bad people to be better people. We are taught and we have come to believe, as President Ronald Reagan said many times, that Man is basically good and all that Man needs is to be educated, or to be given money, or technology or medicine or a change of location- and his own inherent goodness will shine through.

Our entire system of Sociology, Psychology and Psychiatry is built around the Pelagian or Humanistic concept that rejects Original Sin and says that Man is good, and all that Man needs to reach his full potential in life is to adopt special methods or techniques, or systems.

This false and wrong concept of Man's lost condition leads to a equally false and wrong concept of God's Sovereignty. A high view of Man leads to a low view of God. A low view of Man leads to a high view of God. And this is true throughout all of life.

When we exalt Man's potential; and we exalt Man's importance; and we exalt Man's rights; and we exalt Man's value; and we exalt Man's power; and we exalt Man's abilities; and we exalt Man's glory- we are in effect deifying Man and we are in effect teaching and believing that Man is his own god and we are by default lowering God's importance and we are lowering God's rights and we are lowering God's value; and we are lowering God's power; and we are lowering God's abilities; and we are lowering God's Glory.

And this is the system of the unsaved; unregenerated lost world. This is the system that Pelagius brought to the world, and this is the

system of the godless Humanists. But this should never be true with those who belong to Jesus.

The Church is empowered to honor Jesus Christ; we are inspired to exalt Christ; we are enabled to worship Christ; we are infused to magnify Christ; and we are animated to be able to lift Christ high and magnify Christ to the World and make people to see Him to be near; and cause all men to see Him as being larger than their problems and more important than they are and more valuable than anything else and more precious than gold and more serious than life and more beautiful than creation and more lovely than a summer's dream and more glorious than the sun that shines in its strength.

So if it is true that all Doctrines are tied together- which it is; and if it is true that how we view one Doctrine will affect how we view the other Doctrines- which it is; and if it is true that if we are off base on one Doctrine- we will be off base with the other Doctrines- if those things are true- which they are- then we must say three things:

1. The study of Biblical Doctrine by those who are saved is vital to the success of Christianity in the earth
2. Only by studying Biblical Doctrine in a systematic way can we connect all the Bible Doctrines to each other correctly and fully
3. The only systematic Doctrine that exists on earth that is completely from Scripture and Scripture alone is Reformed Theology

If we are to win the Long War that is raging against the Truth; if we are to be successful in combating heresy in our day; if we are to have the answers to serious issues and serious topics like Original Sin; Justification; Man's Free Will; and God's Sovereignty- if we are to be able to speak intelligently about these things- we must immediately begin to study these historic Biblical Doctrine carefully and fully and we must earnestly and humbly beseech the Holy Spirit to illuminate our hearts so that we may understand and to open our eyes so that we may see and to open our ears so that we may hear what God has said.

And we need to have a revival in our own hearts of the vital importance and infinite value of studying God's Word through the discipline of dedicated and consecrated times of uninterrupted deep

consideration of what God has revealed to Man in Scripture about the issues of life, lest we become so contaminated by a godless Humanistic world system that we no longer can hear the Voice of God.

The reason that the DaVinci Code and other Gnostic heresies are so popular today is not because they are intelligent- because they are not. It is not because these false teachings are true- because they are not true. It is not even that these lies are making a point about something- because they are not making a point.

Gnostic heresies like The DaVinci Code and the Gospel of Judas and the Gospel of Thomas and the so-called Lost Books of the Bible are ancient attempts at casting doubt about the validity of inspired Scripture and have been proven to be foolish and inaccurate and ridiculous arguments that were examined and thoroughly debated and settled long ago.

No, the reason that these ancient heresies are making a comeback in our day is a direct result of the Church and those in the Church de-emphasizing Doctrine and de-emphasizing Bible Study and de-emphasizing history and de-emphasizing godly discipline in our lives and in our homes and in our Churches.

Lies do not find a home unless the Truth is out to lunch. Heresy can never build a nest in someone's heart and mind unless that person has a "vacant" sign attached to his heart and mind. Apostasy always fills the void left by an absence of Truth. False teaching always rushes in when Truth is ignored or rejected.

When those who say that they love God are so engaged in being entertained and so engaged in a lost and fallen culture and so intertwined in the ways of that culture to the point that they no longer seem to ever have the time and no longer seem to have the desire to learn the things of God- then it is guaranteed that apostasy and false teaching and lies will rush in to fill that void.

You see, our culture makes sin look attractive. Our culture promotes and values sin. Every aspect of our fallen, corrupt civilization promotes Man; the god of self; all for the honor and glory of Man. We are much more interested in Brad Pitt's illegitimate child and with the NBA finals and with our new car and that latest song and making sure our summer squash is coming up than we are with the Sovereignty of God or Original Sin or Human Depravity or prayer meeting or Bible Study or fasting or unforgiveness in our hearts or

pride in our lives. And the devil knows that. And that is precisely why the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons and the Scientologists and the Gnostics and the Humanists are growing by double digits every year.

It is much easier for us to sign a petition to seal our borders than it is to confront our children with shacking up. It is much easier for us to wear a ribbon on our collar than it is for us to actually reach a lost soul. It is much easier for us to join an organization than it is to actually study Sound Doctrine- but until we do confront our children and until we do present the Gospel to the lost soul and until we do study Sound Doctrine- we are weak and we are poor and we are miserable and we are blind and we are naked and we are unable and unprepared and unwilling and unable to defend the Truth and to stand up against sin and we are unable to give to God the Glory that he deserves; the glory that He has earned and the Glory that He is entitled to receive from those who say they are His and unless we repent and unless we return to Biblical holiness- we will surely find ourselves weighed in God's balances and found wanting.

That is why of all the places on earth- the Church is supposed to be different. The Church is the place where God's Word reigns supreme. The Church is the place where Truth is taught and believed and loved and obeyed. The Church is the place that stands apart from the corrupt culture; stands apart from the teachings of Man and stands apart from the greed and the pride and the arrogance and the corruption of fallen Man.

What God has said, the Church is supposed to say. The Church is supposed to teach that which God has said. The Church is supposed to believe what God has said.

Pragmatism is fine in the Business world where the customer is always right- but it is a sin to bring pragmatism into the Church precisely because people are not always right; people are sinful and wrong and wicked and corrupt and evil. We are not suppose to give people what they want in Church- we are supposed to give people what God said to give them in Church.

The Lost world wants to entertain people- but God doesn't want people to be entertained- God wants people to be convicted of sin and to repent and to be saved and to be edified. The Lost world would never want anyone to feel bad about anything that they have done or

anything that they are doing now- but God doesn't want sinners to feel comfortable in Church- God wants sinners to feel horrible about their sin- so horrible that they will repent and not go to hell. Christ didn't die so that His Church would be popular- Christ died a horrible death so that His Church; the Church that He is the Head of; the Church that belongs to Him; the Church that He bought and paid for with His Own Blood would be right and obedient and true and holy and pure and faithful to Him.

Beloved, we must remember that fallen, lost, unregenerated Man does not seek to be in right standing with God. Man has no inclination at all; no desire on his own to serve or to please God. Everything about Man is all about Man. Therefore, any teaching; any Doctrine any ministry that originates from the heart and mind of man will not be able to correctly show us a true and accurate picture of the horror of sin or a true and accurate picture of the majesty of God or a true and accurate picture of the pricelessness of Salvation. Only God's Word can do that.

And this is why we must all earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. 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.