

Contending For The Faith  
January 16, 2020 Lesson #2 *The Faith*

Jude's Opening Remarks: To Believers

Jude 1:1 Jude, the [bond] servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved [kept] in Jesus Christ, and called:  
Sanctified = hagiozo = made holy

- God loves His children. His purpose > transform them into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- As God's children, we are already sanctified or set apart for and unto Him.
- Through His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, He is progressively sanctifying us.
- Sanctified and being sanctified is the present state of growing, maturing believers.

Called = invited by the hearing of the Gospel [John 1:9; John 3:16; Rom. 10:13 - Every man]

- The "called" are those who have not only heard, but who also accepted the invitation as the Holy Spirit convicted them of their need as sinners and of God's provision in Christ. [I Cor. 1:22-24; II Thess. 2:13-14]
- The "calling" is past tense for those who have come to faith.

Interesting: kept or preserved = 5083 = téréó: The only salutation in the NT that uses this verb.

- Watchful care; close attention; present possession; continually kept; retain in custody
- Christ keeps believers secure for eternal life.
- This is not the fate of condemned apostates.

Notice Paul in Philemon 1: Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus...

With this term, Jude might be referencing the eternal security of the believer. Prisoners can and do escape, but their breakout is only possible if the one holding them is remiss in their handling - something not possible with an all-powerful and all-knowing God.

Unlike the false teachers that were accosting the early Church, Jude writes to those who are under the lock and seal of Christ and are different than those described by John in his epistle that, "went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. [I John 2:19].

Notice in verse 6: the unrighteous angels are "KEPT" also, but for judgment.

Thus, there are 2 "prisoners" of God. IN the same way the ungodly angels cannot lose their punishment, the Christian cannot lose their salvation.

Kenneth Wuest: Word Studies in the Greek New Testament

"Jude, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who by God the Father have been loved and are in a state of being the permanent objects of His love, and who for Jesus Christ have been guarded and are in a permanent state of being carefully watched, to those who are called ones."

Jude 1:2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Jude's letter describes a great deal about sin and judgment. He is very careful in his salutation to define the special place believers have in the heart and plan of God.

True believers would be kept safe in Jesus Christ for all eternity.

Mercy = eleos = kindness for someone in need: relief from the MISERY of sin

Peace = Eirene = state of harmony relief from the CHAOS of sin

Love = agape = deep unconditional affection relief from the FEAR of sin's consequences

Because they are set apart and preserved, God's soldiers are the recipients of God's choicest blessings: Mercy, Peace and Love. [multiplied in our lives]

God, in His mercy, does not give us what we deserve. He gave our punishment to His Son on the cross.

Isa. 53:4-5 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. [Please note the context: transgression, sins, iniquities.]

❖ Because of Christ's work on the cross, believers enjoy peace and love.

❖ The cross is God's demonstration of His love.

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth [demonstrated] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

❖ His love is experienced within when His Spirit comes into the believing heart.

❖ As the believer grows in his spiritual life, he enters into a deeper relationship of love.

Wiersebe: Those who know Jesus Christ as Savior enjoy a unique position.

❖ We are called by God to be set apart for God that we might enjoy love with God.

❖ While fellowship with the Father might change from day to day, our relationship as children cannot change.

❖ We are preserved in Jesus Christ.

Remember: Jude will conclude his epistle by bolstering courage of believers in Christ's power.

Jude proclaims Jesus as "Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless."

### Concluding Thoughts On Jude 1:1-2

BELIEVERS	APOSTATES
Have heard the call: Accept, Believe	Have heard the call; Choose not to heed
Are Beloved	Are Rejected
Are Kept For Glory	Kept For Destruction
Experience Mercy	Experience No Compassion
Experience Peace	Experience Turmoil
Experience Love	Experience God's Wrath
Slaves Of God	Slaves Of The Devil
God Is Their Father	The Devil Is Their Father

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and Exhort You That Ye Should Earnestly Contend For The Faith Which Was Once Delivered Unto The Saints. [entrusted to God's holy people]

- A. Written to the beloved or ALL true believers. ALL are called to defend the TRUTH.
- B. Jude's concern: The Faith is under attack from false teachers who are spreading dangerous heresies.
- C. The Holy Spirit redirected Jude's message to urgently exhort [paralambano = call alongside, call to aid] all believers to engage in an epic battle which they cannot afford to neglect.
- D. Contend = epagonizomai = to agonize upon; contend or fight strenuously in defense of  
Exert intense effort
  - Present Infinitive = the struggle will be continuous
  - Continuous fight against false teaching
  - Church should expend every effort to resist apostasy and heresy in the body

Note: A true contender [as in a sport] vigorously endeavors to win the competition, not holding anything back.

Note: Other passages caution us that we are to avoid being contentious.

We are to speak the truth in love lest the truth be lost in the noise of our poor attitude.

[I Cor. 13:1; Eph. 4:15; Phil. 1:27; II Tim. 2:24-26]

- E. Once for all delivered - it is not subject to revision. [I Cor. 15:3-4; II Pet. 3:2-4]
- F. To the saints - those who are sanctified through faith in this Gospel.

Several verses in the New Testament reinforce Jude's call to contend for the faith.

I Tim. 6:11-21 Paul charges Timothy to "fight the good fight of faith" as a soldier of God in pursuit of holy living, persistent service, and defending the gospel.

I Cor. 9:24-27 To the church in Corinth, Paul advises believers to see themselves as runners in a race who "run in such a way as to get the prize."

Phil. 1:27 To the Philippian church, Paul writes, "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel"

Fight, run, and strive—in other words, "contend earnestly" for the faith.

- The struggle is for "the faith," the saving truth of Jesus Christ & His teachings.

II Cor. 11:3-4 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For if he that cometh preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

G. Campbell Morgan "The Jesus that men want to see is NOT the Jesus they need to see."

I Thess. 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye Received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that Believe.

## Contend for The Faith:

Your faith is something by which you believe on God in your heart; a man's faith.

1. The Faith is not something anyone has manufactured. It was delivered to us.
2. It is one body of facts consistently delivered by authoritative persons, the Apostles.
3. Embodiment of doctrine given to the church through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
4. The Faith refers to a revelation, a body of truth that came from God Himself.
5. Once For All Handed Down - It was delivered to us, handed to us from the Lord.
  - Conveys a finality and unchangeable aspect to the object being spoken about
  - Greek = hapax = a single occurrence and something that is decisively unique

Consider: What does this say about any "new" revelation regarding salvation that is supposed to come from God?

- ❖ There is no need for any further revelation from God. Any person claiming such revelation is either a deceiver or being deceived.

The Body Of Truth, The Faith, is referred to over and over again in the Holy Scriptures.

Matt. 16:15-18 And He said, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the anointed of God, the Son of the living God . . . And Jesus said, And I say unto thee, Peter, that upon this confession, upon this *petra*, this rock, upon this great stratum, upon this confession of faith, upon this creed, that Jesus Christ is the divine holy Son of God, I will build My church!

I Cor. 15:1-3 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; <sup>2</sup> By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

[II Cor. 5:21 Jesus died for our sins, was raised from the dead [Matt. 28:3-5], ascended into glory [Acts 1:9-10] and someday is coming again. [Matt. 24:30; Acts 1:11] This is THE FAITH.]

I Cor. 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, ...

Paul received a body of truth by direct revelation from God and he delivered IT to the people. Every time a man partakes of the Lord's Supper, he declares THE FAITH.

Rom. 6:3-5 Every time a man is baptized, he confesses THE FAITH. He is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the triune yet one God. [Matt. 28:19]

I Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

- Paul lists 6 points of THE FAITH.

When Paul received it, he went into Arabia and the revelation of God burned in his soul.

Gal. 1:11-12, 16-17 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately

I conferred not with flesh and blood: <sup>17</sup> Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

### Five Essential Fundamentals of The Faith

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ | John 1:1; John 20:28; Hebrews 1:8-9                  |
| 2. The Virgin Birth                   | Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27                 |
| 3. The Blood Atonement                | Acts 20:28; Rom. 3:25, 5:9; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:12-14   |
| 4. The Bodily Resurrection            | Luke 24:36-46; I Corinthians 15:1-4, 15:14-15        |
| 5. The Inerrancy of the Scriptures    | Ps. 12:6-7; Rom. 15:4; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20 |

Consider: This epistle is extremely helpful to use in answering the claims of the cults, -isms, and false doctrines being taught.

- Many cults say the Revelation of God did not stop with the NT, but that we need new books and new revelations and new apostles.

Jude refutes this idea. Contend for the faith that was ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS. Since this faith was entrusted "once for all," Jude intends to stand against those who claim to receive "new" revelations of truth.

Heb. 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Key Point: Through Christ's personal teachings and the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has already given the full message of truth to the apostles.

Note: The Holy Spirit speaks to us, but He will always line up with the written Word.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:12-13 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

<sup>13</sup> Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Paul gives a similar warning: Do not let anyone pervert the Gospel of Christ with new and different teachings. Danger of preaching & teaching another gospel!

Gal. 1:6-9 I marvel [am amazed; shocked] that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: <sup>7</sup> Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

- ❖ God has spoken, and any new, continuing, or special revelations of "truth" are to be rejected.

❖ Any claim of additional revelation is evidence of apostasy

Deut. 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Spurgeon: The truth is like a lion. Whoever heard of defending a lion? Just turn it loose and it will defend itself." Proclaim God's Word; it will defend itself.

Consider: There need never have been any martyrs among the Christian religionists, never any trouble. When those first emissaries from Jerusalem came preaching the Lord Jesus Christ, all other religionists in Rome and all of the religionists in Greece, said, "Here, we have a beautiful Pantheon." [Greek word *pan* = every kind; *theon* means "god".

❖ You could worship any god you pleased at the Pantheon.

➤ Jupiter, Juno, Aphrodite, Mercury, Demeter, Poseidon, Neptune...

When they began preaching the Lord Jesus Christ, the keepers of the Pantheon...

➤ "Glad to have another god. Pick out the niche for him. Anybody that desires can bow down to him."

BUT, the Christians said, "Our God is not just another god He is the one true and only God. There is no such thing as bowing down before this and that god and then bowing before our God.

I Tim. 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

➤ He alone represents THE FAITH, once for all delivered unto the saints. [Jude 1:3]

Because they REFUSED to put Jesus in their Pantheon,

➤ they burned them at the stake.

➤ They put them in boiling cauldrons of oil; sawed them asunder; crucified them

➤ They exiled them; slew them; cut off their heads with the sword

➤ They drove them into the dens and caves of the earth.

➤ They rotted in filthy dungeons for THE FAITH. [Heb. 11:36-38]

50 AD: The Apostles were bringing God's Word to the nations. The Gospel is rapidly spreading.

❖ Early church was predominantly Jewish, however the Gospel was reaching deep into the Gentile world.

❖ Some Jewish Christians were teaching that Gentiles had to observe the Mosaic Law and Jewish customs in order to be saved.

❖ This clearly contradicts that salvation was by grace alone through faith alone, in Christ alone. [Acts 15:11].

❖ Apostles and church leaders held the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian council and gathered in Jerusalem to settle this issue.

❖ Peter declared the Holy Spirit was given to uncircumcised Gentiles in precisely the same manner the Holy Spirit was given to the apostles and Jewish believers at Pentecost.

The Gospel message and God's Word were under attack by false prophets. Satan was working to derail the Gospel and The Faith very early. The Holy Spirit, working through the Apostles, corrected the direction of the Church.

- ❖ There are still groups today that teach Christians must obey the OT Law.
- ❖ There are Churches still preaching a Gospel of works rather than faith = false gospel.

#### 53-54 AD: I Corinthians 55 AD: II Corinthians

- ❖ The Church is not conforming to The Faith or The Gospel message.
- ❖ If they had lived the Gospel message as it was given to them, the dissension and disunity would have been addressed by the foundational truths Paul had laid.

Consider: Of the 7 Churches only Philadelphia stayed steadfast in faith, kept God's word and endured patiently. This ALL before the first century had come to an end. Heresies infiltrated the Church from very early. Many of these heresies have remained throughout the history of the Church.

❖ Many deny the full deity of Jesus Christ. All deny the plain teaching of Scripture. Early church fought and condemned MANY heresies. However, they soon strayed from the truths of the Scriptures, The Faith.

- Prayers for the dead, veneration of angels and dead saints
- Worship of Mary as co-redeemer, worship of the cross, images and relics
- Sale of indulgences, transubstantiation, confession of sin to a priest
- Doctrine of purgatory, papal infallibility
- These and many other "doctrines" contrary to The Faith became "orthodox."

In 1199, Pope Innocent III wrote concerning "heretics" who had translated the Bible into French and dared to discuss it among themselves. He declared...

- "That no simple and unlearned man presumes to concern himself with the sublimity of sacred Scripture, or to preach it to others."
- Soon after his decree, the burning of Bibles in the vernacular began, as did the burning of some of their owners.
- Those who resisted the pope's order were often delivered to inquisitors who had them tortured into making confessions. Those who refused to recant were burned alive.
- In the centuries that followed, the bishops and rulers of Catholic Europe used all possible means to ensure that the ban imposed by Pope Innocent III was observed.

The Catholic hierarchy certainly knew that many of its teachings were based, not on the Bible, but on church tradition. If the people would be permitted to read it, they would become aware of the incompatibility between their church doctrine and Scripture.

## This Faith Is Worth Contending For

The faith that we cherish was preserved for us with the blood of hundreds of reformers. From 1555 to 1558 Queen Mary, the Catholic ruler in England, had 288 Protestant reformers burned at the stake—men like John Rogers, John Hooper, Rowland Taylor, Robert Ferrar, John Bradford, Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer, and Thomas Cranmer. Why were they burned? Because they stood by a truth—the truth that the real presence of Jesus' body is not in the eucharist but in heaven at the Father's right hand. For that truth they endured the excruciating pain of being burned alive.

Warning: I Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- He devours us by leading us away from The Faith > Full Truth Of God's Word.

Question: Does Satan have a "game plan?"

Spurgeon: Satan's game plan: simply to counter God's Word.

- The Faith is "the gun that will win the battle, though many have tried to silence it."
- We must be prepared with the Full Armor of God.

From the beginning Satan has tried to counter God's Word.

Jer. 23:16 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain [give false hope]: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.

- Warning: These prophets do not speak words from the mouth of God.

II Pet. 2:1-3 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

<sup>3</sup> And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

It is very clear what Satan's plan is: Attack, attack, attack. Attack the Word of God. Lead the faithful astray. Divert the Church away from teaching the whole Word of God and have it focus on a lie. We see it today with the Jehovah Witnesses, the Mormons, the Prosperity Gospel, the Charismatic Movement and many others heresies that focus attention away from true Gospel message. We see these churches leaving their first love and pursuing a different gospel. We see it in these so-called "mainline" Churches this very day. To these lukewarm churches that resemble the Laodicean Church of Revelation God has promised to "spit you out of my mouth". These churches that are neither hot or cold are those that claim to know God but live as though He doesn't exist. These churches need to repent and return to the Gospel message or else God has promised them that He "will come and remove your lampstand from its place."



## Are We In The Millennium Now? Has The Devil Been Bound In The Church Age?

Rev. 20:1-3 "And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time."

- The primary distinctive of amillennial theology is the belief that we are currently in the millennial kingdom. The clear meaning of the text in Revelation 20:1-3 is that Satan is bound in the millennial kingdom.
- Satan is not bound in any way. The 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> centuries alone can attest to the very fact he is free to roam the earth.
- What does Scripture actually say about whether Satan is currently bound as Revelation attests to in the millennial kingdom?

I Pet. 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

II Cor. 4:4 - Paul in this passage refers to Satan as the "god of this age." The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Eph. 6:10-17 - In this passage it seems Paul didn't get the memo about Satan being bound. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

<sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

I Thess. 2:18 Paul continues to just not get it. Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

These passages do not depict a being who has been bound and shut up in a pit. Jesus' casting out of demons in Matthew 12:22-29 is evidence that He had the authority to bind Satan. But as the multiple New Testament texts have already affirmed, this binding did not take place at Christ's first coming. With the aforementioned Scriptures clearly defining that Satan is loose in the Church age it becomes clear that the Millennial Age is not upon us.

What is God's plan - it is His Inspired Word and as Spurgeon taught "This is the gun that will win the battle." Take heart because though many have tried to silence it the Word of God is everlasting and enduring. Take heart because like the Philadelphia church if our churches preach the unadulterated Word of God *the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.*

II Tim. 1:13-14 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

- Thing = paratheke = a deposit, a substance, a body of truth, that body of doctrine

Consider: Throughout Paul's years of ministry he never added to it nor took away from it. When he came to the day of his martyrdom, he said...

II Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept The Faith:

- The Same Gospel he received, believed and preached, he was preaching at the end.

Charles Spurgeon: The Holy Ghost revealed much of precious truth and holy precept by the apostles, and to His teaching we would give earnest heed; but when men cite the authority of fathers, and councils, and bishops, we give place for subjection, no, not for an hour. They may quote Irenaeus or Cyprian, Augustine or Chrysostom; they may remind us of the dogmas of Luther or Calvin; they may find authority in Simeon, Wesley, or Gill—we will listen to the opinions of these great men with the respect which they deserve as men, but having done so, we deny that we have anything to do with these men as authorities in the church of God, for there nothing has any authority, but "Thus saith the Lord of hosts." "