

# Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude** Chapter 1- Introduction **Jude 1** 1 Introduction- Part 1

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Welcome my beloved in Jesus Christ. My name is Blair Bradley- and I am the Pastor of the Covenant of Peace Church in Gulfport, Mississippi. The Lord has graciously opened a door for me to begin to teach God's precious Word on this radio station and today, I am going to begin a verse by verse; line by line- precept by precept expository Journey through the **Epistle of Jude**.

Now Lord willing- we will meet together right here at this same time Monday through Friday to examine very carefully every inspired Word of every single verse of this great Epistle. My prayer is that through the full understanding of God's Word- that God will be glorified; Jesus Christ will be exalted; and that you will be strengthened in your walk with God.

So, let's begin our study today by reading **Jude 1** together:

**Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:**

Now this small, seemingly insignificant Book- the **Epistle of Jude** is kind of nestled in between the powerful and spiritual Epistles of the beloved disciple John and the frightening and prophetic **Book of the Revelation**. But the message of this Book is very clear, and its message is a chilling warning to us and a sober command to us that we should earnestly contend for the Christian Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints and so we *cannot* and we *must not* ignore this Book.

## **Biography of Jude**

Now very little is known about the man named, Jude. But what

we *do* know about this man- tells us quite a bit. For example- we read in verse 1:

### **Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James...**

So, we see here that the Bible tells us that Jude was two things:

1. He was a bond- servant of Jesus Christ
2. He was the brother of James

### **A Servant of Jesus Christ**

Now my Christian friends- there were *many* servants of Jesus Christ in that day and there were *many* people named James- so what makes *this* information so special? Well, first of all, when Jude called himself a “**bond- servant of Jesus Christ**” it really meant something because the word that was translated into our English Bibles is the Greek word, *doulos* (doo-loose [dou=lo\$- Strongs #1401]), which means: *a slave; a bondsman; a man of a servile condition.*

So by using this word- Jude was calling himself a “slave” of the Lord Jesus Christ. But *doulos* was not just an *ordinary* slave. You see, there is yet another, more descriptive definition of the word that was translated here as “bond- servant.” This word, *doulos*, also means: *one who gives himself up wholly to another’s will.*

You see, there were many different kinds of slaves in the Middle East at the time of Jude’s writing. There were those who were *born* into slavery. Then there were those who were *captured* from another country and *forced* into slavery. And there was also a third type of slave in the Middle East at that time. There were those who for various reasons were willing to forego their own personal freedom on behalf of another. These people *willfully* became slaves by giving themselves wholly to another’s will. And this is the kind of slave or servant that Jude said that he was. He had given himself totally and completely to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so, by saying this- Jude is telling you and me that he had been saved; he had been purchased by the Blood of Jesus Christ; he had been bought and paid for by the miracle of the New Birth and had become someone who no longer had any claim to live unto himself.

Now you and I could stand by and simply admire Jude for his dedication- but that would be a terrible mistake. Jude didn't write this Epistle simply so we would admire him. He wrote this so we would emulate and copy and follow him in service to the Lord.

You see, Jude was not simply telling us that *he* himself was a slave to Christ- no, by telling us that he was a servant- a bond- slave to Jesus- Jude was agreeing with all the other New Testament writers who unanimously preached and unanimously taught that *every* Blood bought saint of God should consider himself to be this kind of bond slave to the Lord Jesus Christ. For example- the Apostle Paul wrote in **1Corinthians 6:19**:

**Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?**

And the Apostle Peter agreed with both Jude and Paul when he wrote this in **2Peter 1:1**:

**Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ...**

And the Apostle John wrote about this in **The Revelation 1:1** when he said:

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place...**

So, we can see that it was a common and steadfast teaching among the Apostles that *everyone*- every single person who had been truly born again- was this kind of bond- servant or slave to the Lord. Each saint in the early Church considered himself to be nothing more than a slave- who by reason of God's glorious Grace in Salvation- had no further right to their own freedom and who had humbly and graciously submitted and surrendered themselves fully to the Will of God.

So, I ask you today, Christian man- are you surrendered like this, or do you still do what is right in your own eyes? Christian woman- are you a blond slave to Jesus Christ- or do you still live to yourself? Young person- are you like so many today in that you serve God- kinda- sorta- but in reality you're simply taking those *parts* of Scripture that please you or those *parts* that give you benefit, while leaving the hard parts to someone else?

Consider for just a moment what it would be like today if everyone in the pew of the modern Church considered himself to be dead to sin and a bonds slave of Jesus Christ?

But the startling Truth of the matter is that you are either this kind of slave to the Lord Christ or you are still lost- because serving God with abandon after Salvation is not optional, dear friends- no, you serve Jesus, or you don't belong to Him. Being completely sold out to Christ is not something that *some* saved people choose to do while others- who are equally saved- choose not to do. No, no, no you are either completely surrendered to Jesus, or you still belong to yourself. You are either totally bought and paid for by the Blood of the Lamb, or you are still for sale to the highest bidder. You either belong to God and serve the living Christ- or you are yet in your sins.

Now while there may be some doubt in many minds about this issue in the modern Church- there was absolutely no doubt where Jude stood on this issue. He was bought and paid for, and he said so. He belonged to Jesus, and he said so. He was at his Master's beckon Call and he said so. And these words here reflect that to us today; Jude's life reflected that; his mannerisms and his conduct reflected Who he served and Whose he was.

Now Jude could make a statement like this because he had a correct and a true picture of Who God is and who Man is. He was not confused about Who was the Lord and who was the servant. He was not bewildered about Who gave the Commands and who was to carry out the Commands. He was not confused about Who spoke with absolute Authority and who was to listen. He was not unlearned about Who directed and who was to obey.

But many seem to be confused about these things today. Somehow, we have come to the very opposite opinion that Jude was in. Somehow, we think that we can graciously give God access to *some* areas of our lives- while keeping Him out of other areas. How did we get so off base?

Jude believed that the only reason that he existed was to serve and obey and honor and please God, but somehow, we have come to the idea that the only reason that God exists is to serve and please us. May God forgive us for this sin. Jude believed that it was his duty; his responsibility; his honor and his privilege; and the very source of his joy to bow his knee and to humble his heart and to submit himself as

nothing more than a bond- slave to Jesus Christ. Jude said that God was in the very center of his Theology and his Doctrine and his World.

But somebody told us that *we* were the ones that were important. Somebody told us that *we* were to be at the center of our Theology and our Doctrine and our World. Somebody sold us bill of goods, beloved and told us that *we* were the focus of God- rather than God being *our* focus. Somehow, somehow we have come to believe that we're in charge. We seem to think that God owes us something. We seem to think that submitting to and obeying God's Will is somehow optional or something that we do if it is convenient or if we have the time or if it doesn't cost us too much.

Do you *really* think that Jude looked at it like that? Do you *really* think that Jude thought that the only reason that God existed was to give him stuff that he asked for? Do you really think that Jude thought that God owed him anything at all? Is that what you think of when you read that Jude was a bond- slave to Jesus Christ?

Now at some point after the Resurrection of Jesus- teachers began to rise up in the Church and teach things that were contrary to what Jesus had taught His Apostles. These people taught wrongly about God, and they taught wrongly about Man; and wrongly about Jesus Christ and wrongly about the Gospel and they began to deceive people and turn people away from the true Faith.

These people are called "heretics;" or "deceivers" or "false teachers;" or "apostates;" or "liars". And **The Epistle of Jude** was written specifically to identify who these people are- Jude called them "**certain men**" (verse 4), and to identify the dangerous aspects of their false teachings and to give us insight into their own personal characteristics- so that we could identify them and not be deceived.

So, over the next several months- Lord willing and by God's Grace, we will explore in depth all that the Holy Spirit inspired Jude to write about these heretics and their long, protracted "War against the Truth".

We will see that this "War on Error" is every bit as deadly and important as our current "War on Terror." And that nothing short of the survival of Biblical Christianity is at stake here.

Now even though heresy and heretics are *ancient*- sadly- they are not *extinct*. The very same false teachings that plagued the Church and the people of God many centuries ago are alive and well today and many in the modern Church have become infected. They teach that Man is in charge and not God. They teach that Man's Free will is

supreme and that God is bound or held captive by our will. We are taught today by well dressed men using slick and clever presentations that Man is the center of the universe and that God will not, in fact, He *cannot* do anything in the earth today without our permission, or our agreement, or our participation.

But Jude didn't teach that, and neither should we. Beloved, be careful about who you are listening to. Earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

Jude didn't simply say that he was *any* kind of slave- no, Jude said that he was a bond- slave of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that is important for us today. Here's why.

You see, the Bible is the inspired Word of God. The orthodox and historical position of the Christian Church about the Bible is that God literally breathed the original autographs and therefore all of God's Word is inerrant and infallible. And that means that not only what the Bible *teaches* is true- but that it doesn't have the ability to be wrong in part or in whole.

Now here is why this is important. Jude does not say that he was a bond- servant or a slave to Jesus Christ- but Jude says that he was slave of Jesus Christ. So what Jude is telling us here is that he didn't simply adopt some moral religious code to live by. Jude had not just *mentally* agreed with some interesting information about God. Jude didn't simply walk according to a set of man-made doctrines or a humanistic system of theology- no- Jude **belonged** to Jesus Christ. Jude had *personally* met Jesus Christ and had *personally* experienced the miracle of the New Birth. Jude had been regenerated. Jude had been born again. Jude had received inside his body a new, Divine nature. Jude was not simply an *improved* version of the old man- no, Jude had become a brand new creature! And so all those who are washed; all those who are born again; all those who are saved; all those who are regenerated; all those who are redeemed belong to Jesus too and they have lost their own identity and they no longer belong to themselves, and they too have cast down their crowns; and they have bowed their knees; and they are now bond- slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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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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.