

# 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**

#### 32. The History of Heresy Part 2

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WOSM Tuesday 12/18/07

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 I have received several letters, phone calls, and E-mails concerning this broadcast and I thank you for writing and calling. One question that comes up is, *"Why are you dealing with this particular subject? Why Jude? Why teach about Sound Doctrine? Why now?"*

My brothers and sisters, I believe that the Church of Jesus is in trouble-especially here in America. I fully believe that ultimately, God will sustain and build His own Church- I am aware of that- but that wonderful promise does not in any way negate our responsibility and holy obligation as leaders in the Church to preach and teach the whole counsel of God. We live in a culture where we would rather be popular than correct; where we would rather just go along to get along than we would know and live and proclaim the Truth. And as a result of this laid back, cavalier attitude about the things of God- the Church has adopted a very low view of God; a low view of the Bible and a high view of Man- and we accept things as being true that we would have never accepted 50 or 60 years ago.

When I was a young child, the public school system in this country adopted a change in education that put more emphasis on how children felt and not on whether they were really learning anything. And this change- now several decades old- allows children to graduate who are not

educated. We give diplomas out to people who can't read them and who don't appreciate them. And we have done the same thing in the Church.

In our desire to see more people saved- we have lowered the bar about what it actually means to be saved- and the result is that we have more people going to Church- but we have fewer people who have been miraculously born from above. Far too many people today do not seem to understand that Salvation is not about joining the church; it isn't about going down front or praying a prayer; or crying or having a change of mind or a temporary emotional experience; it isn't about singing in the choir; it isn't even about being in the ministry. Salvation is a supernatural and miraculous transformation of the human nature- and only God can do that.

But as many as really do believe- the Bible says that God gives them the right to become the sons of God and part of that right is the blessing of knowing and learning about God Himself; and the desire to obey Christ; and the overwhelming earnestness to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Those who have been born again desire the Presence of God- and this desire is part of the new divine nature- so you will find these people praying and seeking after God. These re-created souls desire the Word of God- they can't help it- they have fallen in love with Jesus- so you will find them involved in deep and serious Bible Studies; And those who have passed from death unto life by the miracle of the new birth desire to fellowship with those who desire the other two things.

For over 1900 years, the Christian Church faithfully taught the Apostles' Teaching. All of the leaders of the Church were required to learn what the Apostles taught and then teach it to others. They didn't invent new things to teach- they taught the Divine Truth of Scripture. And the result was that the average person sitting on the pew 50 years ago knew more about Sound Doctrine than do many of our Church leaders today- and that is a shame and a reproach. We would not have the sin and the abundance of the social ills that we have today in the Church if the leaders were awake and alert and faithful to the Word of God.

So because I truly believe that the course that we have been on now for several decades is the wrong course- I am calling the Church to repentance and to return to her first Love and a return to Biblical Christianity. And that is why I am teaching Sound Doctrine. And you either appreciate this or you don't- but whether you hear or whether you forbear- you still need this.

Now on the last broadcast, we began to look at specific areas of Doctrine that are very important and which have been attacked over the last 2,000 years by several heresies and false teachings. Now let's look again at verse 4 of Jude:

**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.**

Notice what areas Jude says will be attacked by these “**certain persons**” who creep into the Church to pervert the right way of the Lord:

1. Turning the Grace of our God into licentiousness
2. Denying the Lord God
3. Denying our Lord Jesus Christ

So we can see that Jude warned the Church in the first century that those who teach and preach false doctrine will attack three areas of the common Doctrine of the Apostles:

1. The Character and Nature of God the Father
2. The Person of Jesus Christ in both His full Humanity and His full Deity
3. The Gospel- specifically Justification

Now Jesus was and is the single most important figure in all of human history and therefore, Jesus is the most loved and the most hated Man in all of history. The question of just Who Jesus is- has taken up libraries of books over the last two millennia as hundreds of thousands of people argued over various attributes of our Lord. The Apostle John said that Jesus was the One and Only of the Father- and that makes Jesus to be the most unique and the most exclusive Person Who has ever lived.

But because no man can be saved without Jesus- it becomes extremely important that we understand precisely Who Jesus is. Therefore, those Biblical Truths that deal with the Person of Jesus Christ must be clearly articulated and taught and understood if we are to effectively ward off false and wrong understandings about Jesus Christ. Here is a sampling of some of the battles that have been waged in the Church over the last 2,000 years about the Person of Jesus Christ:

- ✓ Was Jesus a created being who was “made” by God at some point after Creation?
- ✓ Was Jesus Christ literally God Almighty wrapped in human flesh?
- ✓ Did Jesus literally die and then literally and physically rise from the dead or was He put to sleep and then simply woke up?
- ✓ Was Jesus sinless?
- ✓ Was Jesus born of a virgin or just a young lady?
- ✓ Was Jesus a real live Person or was He simply a spiritual concept?
- ✓ Was Jesus fully God or was He merely angelic?
- ✓ Was Jesus God or was Jesus simply *a* god?
- ✓ If Jesus was God- then why did He say that His Father was greater than He was?

Now I fully understand and agree that a lost sinner does not need to know a lot about these Doctrines in order to be saved. When God gloriously saved me on June 25, 1971, I didn't know *any* Doctrine; I didn't know *any* Scriptures for that matter- I didn't even know **John 3:16**. So I fully agree that lost souls can come to Christ without knowing a lot of this. But that is not the reason that I am teaching you about Doctrine. I am not preaching and teaching a Salvation message by bringing you this study on the Epistle of Jude. And Jude didn't write this Epistle to win lost souls to Christ. This message is for the Church; for those who are already saved. This message is for those who do need to know right from wrong; for those who are out there endeavoring to reason with the lost from the Scriptures so that they can be won to Christ.

Listen, I am very interested in winning lost souls to Jesus. But I won't be buying air time on Christian radio to try to reach the lost. When I was lost- I didn't listen to Christian radio; I didn't read Christian books; I didn't go to the Christian bookstore; I didn't go to Church and I made fun of those who did.

So when I preach a Salvation message, it will be on secular radio and it will be a Salvation message- and I am faithfully doing that right now. But these studies are for those who are already saved and who desire a deep and holy walk with God.

And the people who crave the Presence of God want to know exactly Who Jesus is. And the people who are really serious about their walk with God understand the need for Sound Doctrine. And those who are trying to refute all the lies and misconceptions about Jesus out in the world are fully aware of the value of broadcasts like this.

You may not know this- but it really does matter what we believe and it really does matter what we teach and preach and any attempt to say that it doesn't is nothing more than a lame excuse to disobey the Word of God.

Christian brothers and sisters- it is true that God will save you just like you are- thank God that is true. But it is also true that once you are saved- God loves you so much that He will never allow you to remain just as you are- but will mold you and shape you and form you into the very Image and Likeness of Jesus Christ. And that process will involve deep, serious line upon line Bible Studies just like this.

So my goal in these broadcasts is to teach Sound Doctrine to those who are already saved. And that is why I say what I say and talk about what I talk about. It doesn't matter to me if everybody agrees with me or if nobody agrees with me- we are in a war over the very soul of the Christian Church today and God expects us to rise up and do a better job of defending the Truth than we have been doing. Jude says here in verse 4 that ungodly people are creeping into the Church while the leaders of the Church are asleep in the night and they are bringing in what the Bible describes as "damnable heresies". Damnable heresies are those serious false teachings that rise to the level of being able to damn those who believe them. So, all of this is real important.

Now in addition to knowing exactly Who the Bible says that Jesus is- we also need to know the Truth about how sinners are saved. We need to have a Sound, orthodox, Biblical response to these questions:

- ✓ Am I required to become Jewish in order to become Christian?
- ✓ Am I still obligated to keep the ceremonial and the dietary laws of Moses today?
- ✓ Is a person justified by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone or are we justified by Grace through Faith plus a little human works? Which one is it?
- ✓ Is Salvation a long extended "process" that begins with infant baptism and goes all the way through life into a few hundred thousand years in Purgatory or is Salvation a moment- a glorious one- time event where I am instantly justified by the shed Blood of the Lamb of God? Which one is it?
- ✓ The Righteousness that enables me access into Heaven- is that righteousness mine or is it Christ's?

- ✓ Is that Righteousness of Christ imputed or credited to me instantly by Faith, or is that Righteousness my own personal intrinsic righteousness that I develop over a period of years through good deeds and through the sacraments of the Church?
- ✓ Is my Salvation obtained through the Communion service; or through Baptism; or by keeping God's commandments?
- ✓ What role does Mary- the mother of Jesus play in my Salvation? A little; a lot; or none?
- ✓ Is lost, unsaved, unregenerated man spiritually "okay" or is he spiritually "sick" or is he totally and completely "dead" in sins and trespasses?
- ✓ Is Salvation a Sovereign supernatural miracle of God, or is it a cooperative effort between God and Man?
- ✓ Who is in charge of Salvation- God or Man?

Since the birth of the Church in the first prayer meeting in the Upper Room, there have literally been hundreds of heresies and hundreds of heretics who waged war against the Truth. But of all the many false teachings that have been thrown against the House of God over the last two thousand years- there have really been only 7 major groups of heresies and all of the hundreds of false teachings that exist today are simply derivatives of one or more of these seven groups or foundations.

Here are the seven groups:

1. The heresy of the Judaizers
2. The heresy of the Antinomians
3. The heresy of the Gnostics
4. The heresy of the Modalists
5. The heresy of the Arians
6. The Pelagian Controversy
7. The heresy of the Socinians

And Lord willing, over the next several broadcasts, I will go into each of these seven major heresies so that you may have a working knowledge on how to deal with them when you are confronted with them- because rest assured, my friends- these seven major heresies are all very much alive and with us today in some form. Now each of these false teachings are perversions or distortions of the clear and inspired Doctrines that are

taught in the Scriptures, and although they are very ancient- they are not extinct.

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.