

**CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH
THE BOOK OF JUDE
WATCH OUT FOR CREEPS (VS 4)**

I. APOSTATE TEACHERS OFTEN CREEP INTO THE CHURCH UNKNOWINGLY! (Vs 4a)
“Crept in unawares” here means “having settled in alongside, that is, lodged stealthily.” The idea is that they enter a Church unnoticed.

A. The Parable Of The Tares. (Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43)

B. The Group Who Added Certain Law Keeping To The Gospel. (i.e. The Judaizers)

These apostate teachers were mentioned in the letters from the Church at Jerusalem that were written for Paul and Barnabas and two others that were sent to the Gentile believers in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.

Acts 15:24 “Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:”

Paul mentions these in Galatians who’s error was the primary reason for writing the letter.

Galatians 2:4 “And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Paul warned the Church at Ephesus:

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

See also 2 Timothy 3:5-9 and 2 Peter 2:1-3

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II. APOSTATE TEACHERS LEAD OTHERS INTO ERROR!
(Also found in these same verses we looked at in the first point... Acts 15:24; Galatians 2:4-5; Ephesians 4:14; 2 Timothy 3:6-8; 2 Peter 2:1-3)

III. APOSTATE TEACHERS ARE DESTINED FOR DESTRUCTION! (Vs 4b; 2 Peter 2:1, 3; Revelation 21:8)
2 Peter 2:1 – “...and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”

2 Peter 2:3 – “...whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”

Revelation 21:8 – “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Understand that an apostate has received the light of the Gospel, but has not received life in the Gospel because of unbelief!

Understand that the apostate teacher may have received, in some degree, the written Word. In fact, he twists the Word of God to make it say something that it does NOT say and mixes error with truth! However, he has not received the living Word, Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures!

Understand that these apostate teachers are destined to judgment! They reject Jesus Christ; therefore, judgment is waiting for them!

God has ordained from the beginning of time that all unbelievers shall be judged. And both Jesus Christ and Scripture teach that the judgment for false teachers is to be far more severe than for other persons!

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IV. APOSTATE TEACHERS ARE UNGODLY! (Vs 4c)

That is, they have no reverence for God. They are as Pharaoh of old who told Moses in **Exodus 5:2**—“*Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.*”

They are not like God; they do not live like God; they are different from God. They have a different lifestyle than what God would have if He was walking upon earth. God is perfect, moral, pure, just, and loving. Apostate teachers are none of this!

They are deceptive! They lead people away from the love and purity of God, the love and purity revealed in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

They do not teach the truth of God’s love and purity demonstrated in Christ. They profane God and the truth of His love and godliness.

V. APOSTATE TEACHERS TWIST GOD’S GRACE INTO A LICENSE TO SIN! (Vs 4d)

“*Lasciviousness*” means “*morally unrestrained; disregarding accepted rules and standards.*”

Sin enslaves! So in reality, their liberty turns back to enslavement!

Romans 6:1-2 – “*1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*”

Galatians 5:13 – “*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*”

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Titus 2:11-12 – “*11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*”

VI. APOSTATE TEACHERS DENY THE LORD GOD! (Vs 4e)

“*Deny*” means “*to contradict, that is, disavow, reject, to deny and refuse.*”

They willfully deny the LORD God Jehovah as the only God!
They willfully deny His right to Lordship in their lives!

Titus 1:15-16 – “*15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. 16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*”

2 Peter 2:1 “*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.*”

VII. APOSTATE TEACHERS DENY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! (Vs 4f; 1 John 2:22; 2 John 9)

That is, they do not abide in the doctrine of Christ.

1 John 2:22 – “*Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*”

2 John 9 – “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*”

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Of course the Doctrine of Christ includes His Deity, His eternal existence, His virgin birth, His pure life, His suffering on our behalf for sin; His blood atonement for our sins, His bodily resurrection, and His visible and imminent return.

CONCLUSION

Beware of "*creeps*." Someone teaching doctrine contrary to God's truth! They will be judged, but we must be careful that we are not led away with their false doctrine!