

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 14- A Further Description of the Heretics **Jude 16**

156 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 2

WOSM Wednesday 06/11/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about "A Further Description of the Heretics". So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 16** again together:

These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an advantage*.

Now in this verse- Jude says that the false teachers who creep into the Church to deceive the simple are:

1. Grumblers
2. Those who find fault
3. Those who follow their own lusts
4. Those who speak arrogantly
5. Those who flatter people for the sake of gaining an advantage

Now on the last broadcast, we looked at the first of these five descriptions and today, I want to look at the second description that God the Holy Ghost inspired Jude to write down.

2. Those Who Find Fault

Now this second description is similar to the first- but there are some important differences. The word that was translated into English here as "complainers" is the Greek word, *that* means: *to be discontented of ones lot*; but this Greek word also means: *someone who*

*always finds fault.*¹

So, Jude says that the heretics are always finding fault or complaining about God's holy Purpose and Plan. This word describes a person who is perpetually discontented and dissatisfied. The false teachers brazenly attacked the Lord and His Truth—a fact Jude illustrated earlier in his letter in verses 5-11 by comparing them with the unbelieving Israelites; the reprobates of Sodom and Gomorrah; the fallen angels; Cain; Korah; and Balaam.

Now many people today say that the Path of the Lord is way too narrow and there are many books out today by the Church growth gurus who teach that if the modern Church is smart and if the modern Church wants to grow big and have lots of people sit on the pews and be popular with the masses of people and get lots of money that these people bring in- that the Church has got to radically *re-engineer* itself.

These modern false prophets teach that the Church of Jesus Christ must cease its proclamation of Divinely inspired Truth and get into the business of widening the narrow path and of enlarging the straight gate.

These pious pipers say that modern Americans have little time and little interest for serious and deep studies of Scripture, so Bible Studies- if you have them at all- must be real short; real shallow; and involve anything but the Bible. Today it is real hard to find a Bible Study that actually studies the Bible. Most modern Bible Studies involve studying a book written by a popular author *about* the Bible- but a real genuine study of what the Bible actually says and what the Bible actually means by what it says- is almost non-existent.

The Church growth experts also say that Prayer Meetings in the historic sense – where people gather and get on their knees and cry out to God in fervent and earnest supplication is on the endangered species list. To walk into a Church and see men and women and boys and girls engaged in sincere and passionate prayer is considered by more and more people to be a thing of the past. How tragic that is. This lack of earnest and fervent prayer is why the Church is so weak today. The lack of prayer and the subsequent lack of holy and godly and spiritual power is why the Church has had to resort to carnal and worldly and unbiblical tactics of political involvement and signing petitions and protest marches in order to see God's Will manifested in

¹ Greek definition,, *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* (Hendrickson Publishers, 1996)

our land.

But in Peter's day- things were different. Let's read **The Acts 5:1-13:**

5 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

2 and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?"

4 "While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

9 Then Peter *said* to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out *as well*."

10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

12 At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.

13 But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem.

Now as we read this terrifying account, we must take note of several facts that are completely out of place in our modern thinking and in the modern Church. First of all, this situation of God causing the death of two wicked hearts was in the New Testament under the

Grace of Jesus Christ- which shows that lying to the Holy Spirit was a sin punishable by death- even in the New Testament Church.

Secondly, Ananias and his wife didn't die because they kept some of their own money. No, the sin that they committed was lying about what they gave to God. We need to realize that they didn't have to give *anything* to God. And they did give some- but then they lied about it and said they gave all so other people would look at them and think they were really wonderful and spiritual people.

Thirdly, I want you to notice that there was a three hour time frame between when God killed Ananias and He killed his wife. And all while these two people were being killed by a sovereign Act of God- the Church Service was still going on! And that tells me that people who have a problem today with a couple of hours in Church on Sunday mornings would faint if they lived in the day when it was common to have Church all day long. Yet in the 2,000 year history of Christianity, it is more common to see the Church meeting for long extended periods of time than the shallow and abbreviated services that we have today.

Fourthly, the Bible says in verse 11 that great fear came on all the people. And that is very understandable and so we might say that lying to the Holy Spirit fell quickly out of fashion after this event.

Now the modern mind of lost Man would quickly say that this method of evangelism would be counterproductive for the Church. In our great wisdom, we would be tempted to say that the knowledge that going to Peter's Church might kill you if you tell lies would be detrimental to that Church growing. But if you think that way- you would be wrong. Look at the very next verse in **The Acts 5:14**:

And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*,

So even after the frightening news of God taking the life of two people for lying spread all over Jerusalem- instead of people staying *away* from Church- more people actually came. Now why was this true? Because even sinners want the Church to be the Church. And when the Church obeys Scripture and when the Church honors her Head and when the Church is obedient to Divine Truth- *everyone* benefits- even the lost. But when the Church looks and acts like the

lost world; when the Church talks like the world; when the Church operates like the world- *everyone* loses.

The Church of Jesus Christ is not supposed to be user friendly with lost souls, dear friends. The Church of Jesus Christ is not supposed to abandon Truth so that it will be more attractive to people who don't love Jesus. No, the Church of Jesus Christ is supposed to be the pillar and ground of the Truth. It is the one single place on earth that is the repository of holy, divine, inspired Truth. It is the only location on earth where the saved are told to gather together to worship Jesus Christ. It is the sole bastion on earth; the only refuge on this planet; the single oasis in a world of lust and blasphemy where songs that are written specifically to honor God are sung; where testimonies that bring glory to God are heard; and where God's infallible and inerrant Word is preached and taught and understood and believed and loved and obeyed; where prayers are offered and where people partake of the Lord's Supper and where saved people are baptized.

But when the Church has been infested and infected with worldly ideas and carnal methods and fleshly tactics and human wisdom and man made programs- the Church loses its power and loses its place and does not honor Jesus Christ and does not bring glory to God and does not edify the believer. When the Church is weak and worldly- it allows false teaching to creep in and it welcomes heresy inside and the Church loses its influence on the culture and the Church is mocked and laughed at and reduced to second class status and people no longer fear God and sin increases and society collapses, and the people groan under the weight of a weak, impotent Church that has lost its way.

But when the Church is strong; when the Church is praying; when the voice of God's people is reaching up into Heaven; when God's Word is honored and loved and when the people of God are not ashamed at the Gospel; when God is feared and sin is despised- then the Church is strong and it is filled with God' Spirit and it is filled with God's Power and it is filled with God's Truth and the Church becomes triumphant and it becomes victorious and spiritual discernment is high and heresy has no place and false teachings are rejected and false teachers are either converted or excommunicated

and Jesus Christ is worshipped and God is honored and the people are edified and sinners can see and be convicted and be saved.

A strong Church influences the culture because the people of the Church, who live in that culture serve God because they are saved, and they don't engage in pornography, and they don't gamble, and they don't rob a women of her virtue and the abortion clinics and the casinos and the porno shops and the night clubs go out of business due to lack of participation.

When the Church is strong, colleges teach the Bible and Businessmen become honorable again and Congressmen are on their face seeking God's Wisdom and little girls are virgins and little babies are not murdered. A thousand years before Jesus was born, God told Solomon:

2Chronicles 7:14

and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Our land will never see God's blessings or God's forgiveness unless and until the four "ifs" of this verse are met.

- ✓ Unless and until God's people- the Church- humbles ourselves
- ✓ Unless and until the Church begin to earnestly and fervently pray again
- ✓ Unless and until the Church begins to seek the Face of God again
- ✓ And unless and until the people of the Church turn away from our own evil ways.

If and when we do these four things- God has promised; He has guaranteed that He will hear our prayers; He will forgive our sin and He will heal our land. But not until we do these four things- first.

Those who find fault want the Church to become more like the world. They find fault with every Biblical aspect of Church life and practice and these deceivers want the Church to abandon the very things that will make the Church to be the Church again. It is precisely because the Church has been listening to these snake oil salesmen as to why we are so weak in the first place. So, we need to

rise up in our most holy faith and we need to reject the teachings of these men who find fault with everything that is righteous and holy and Scriptural, and we need to return to our first love so that the Church of Jesus Christ may be the light of the world and the city that is set on a hill again. Then Jesus will reign as Head of the Church and the Holy Ghost will move against sin and great fear will fall again and lost souls will be convicted and saved, and the people will be edified and strong and the altars will be full, and truth will be known and loved and obeyed and defended and the culture will be transformed. And the complainers will either be saved or sitting outside. Well, I've got to stop right here. 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.