

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**

161 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 7

WOSM Wednesday 06/18/08

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 Final 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 today's broadcast, I want to continue to examine the fourth description that God, the Holy Ghost gave to Jude. Jude said that those who creep into the Church to bring in false teaching are:

4. Those Who Speak Arrogantly

The days that we live in are very powerful days. You and I live in a time of great conflict and our nation is currently engaged in a war over its very soul and we are watching the systematic dismantling of Western civilization right before our eyes. People are wanting answers, and many are turning to things that they ought not turn out of sheer

desperation. Truly we live in a time when men's hearts are failing them for fear.

We live in a day when many are calling for the complete restructuring of the Christian Church- these people say that unless Christianity remakes itself- it will soon die. They point to declining attendance and the increase of secularism among Church members as signs that unless the Church caves into the whims of the pagan culture- Christianity will become irrelevant in our day.

I disagree. I think that it is true that we very well may lose our nation and our culture to the evil ones. Now I don't *want* that to happen, and I am working very hard along with millions of others to try to prevent that- but we must keep in mind that the Church has always been separate from the nation and has always been separate from the unregenerate culture.

Jesus said in **Matthew 16:18** that He was going to build His Church and the very gates of Hades would not prevail against it. The gates of Hades did not prevail against the Christian Church in pagan Rome; the gates of Hades did not prevail against the Church in pagan Europe; the gates of Hades did not prevail against the Church in Communist China; and the gates of Hades will not prevail against the Church in a pagan; and an ungodly and a secularist America.

So, in this time of great upheaval- now more than ever- we need to turn to God's Word for Truth; for Guidance; and for Direction.

But what compounds this problem is that- along with living in a time of great warfare- we are also living in the time of the great falling away that Paul prophesied in **2Thessalonians** and so many of our so-called spiritual leaders are acting and speaking irresponsibly about Divinely inspired Truth and of the great need for God's people to be taught and to learn and to love and to obey Sound Doctrine- which is the only vehicle that will help us in this hour.

These false teachers are conducting spiritual malpractice and should be ashamed of themselves. They are teaching and preaching things that will not prepare people to escape the damnation of hell; things that will not prepare people to go through the sorrows and tragedies of this life. What these deceivers teach will not equip people to stand when all around them are falling; it will not allow the hearers to stand before God holy and pure and clean but are instead- these modern pite pipers are speaking great swelling words designed to make

people feel comfortable in their sins and designed to make the teachers more wealthy and more popular with the masses of people who follow them.

But let's read what the Bible says about this in **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12:**

1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,

2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way.

8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

9 *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

The Bible said here in verse 7 that the “**mystery of lawlessness**” that the Bible says will be revealed in the last days, is “**already at work**” in the earth”. So, mystery is already out there deceiving and being deceived. Yet Paul tells us in verse 3 to not be deceived in any way.

A few years ago- *Time Magazine* did a cover story on the great divide between the so-called “new” Church and the “historic” Church over the issue of financial prosperity. Even this ungodly secular magazine, that makes no claim at all to be Christian, saw a great conflict in what the Bible clearly teaches about financial prosperity and what the Church has historically taught about financial prosperity and what many of the modern leaders are saying today.

And in that article, they quoted a very popular woman preacher- Joyce Meyers- who made the statement, “*Why would anyone want Christianity if they thought that you had to suffer after you were saved?*”¹

Now evidently, this woman is so blinded by her own financial gain that she has forgotten about the fact that the history of the Christian Church is bathed in the blood of martyrs, who had all their earthly possessions stolen from them; and who were burned at the stake and beaten and tortured and killed precisely because they were Christians.

Foxe’s Book of the Martyrs written over 300 years ago tells us how these Bible believing Christians sang praises to God as they died, thanking God for the honor and privilege of dying for Jesus. To these saints- the great riches that the Bible talks about and that so many today equate with financial prosperity was not money at all- but the great “riches” that we read about in **Ephesians 1:7; 2:7; 3:8; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 1:27; and 2:2** was instead the marvelous richness of God’s Amazing Grace and Mercy that saved their sinful souls.

So, what are we to assume? Is the difference between many of the leaders of the Church today with most all of the leaders of the historic Church a real and serious issue? Or is it simply a matter of interpretation about minor issues of doctrine that nobody really cares about?

Are we to assume that since we are saved and since we are filled with God’s Spirit that we now have the right and the ability and the power to interpret the Scriptures any way that we choose; any way that will suite our fancy; and in any way that will suite our own particular situation with absolutely no regard for the past? Is that what liberty in the Spirit is all about?

¹ Joyce Meyer, *Time Magazine, God and Money* (October 2006) page 54

Or is it true that because we are saved; and because we are filled; and because we belong to Jesus- we now have the *responsibility* to study the Scriptures so that we may accurately and correctly interpret what God said? I believe the latter.

Is it our right as believers to have a holy God bless and sanction whatever we do and give us whatever we ask regardless of whether or not we are following Him and regardless of what God's Will is? Is that what Jesus promised? Are we to assume that as long as we think we need something that God is then obligated to give it to us regardless of what His Will for our lives is? And if that is true, then precisely how are we to discern when we have a real and a genuine need and when we are simply lusting after something?

I mean if you were the devil and you wanted to promote covetousness and if you wanted to make materialism look holy and if you wanted to promote lust and greed and arrogance and pride in the hearts and minds of people and if it was your job to distract people from the real and permanent issues of eternity and to captivate their minds on the here and now- wouldn't you speak these same arrogant words that these false teachers are saying?

Christian brothers and sisters- we must realize that it is our duty; yea, it is our honor and privilege as followers of the Lord Christ- to study and to read and to research and to dig down deep into God's holy and divinely inspired Word and beseech the Holy Spirit to illuminate our minds so that we may rightly learn what Jesus said; and rightly learn what Jesus did and to rightly learn what the Spirit of Jesus inspired Peter and Paul and John and James and the writer of Hebrews and Jude to write so that we may be good sons and daughter of God and so that we may be found faithful to what it says- not what we *want* it to say and that we take heed to ourselves that we are so very careful that we do not add anything to sacred Scripture and that we take great heed that we do not take away anything away that it says so that we may be good and faithful stewards of the mystery that God has entrusted into our hands.

Contrary to those who are already writing the obituary of the Christian Church- a quick scan of history might cause them to wait. I want to remind all of us that the Roman Government thought that once they killed Paul and Peter that the young struggling Church would collapse within a year- yet today, we can read about the Roman

Empire's collapse instead. The 18th Century French Revolutionist, Voltaire said that within ten years of his death, the Bible would cease to be printed, but today in Paris, Voltaire's house is used to distribute Bibles all around the world.

The atheistic Communists of Russia thought that they could abolish the Word of God, yet today the Bible is taught as part of the normal curriculum in the Russian public schools. Even in our own city of Gulfport, a small house where hundreds of babies were aborted for over ten years is now used to send Bibles out to 110 nations of the world.

So in spite of those who say that we need to revolutionize Christianity, I would say that Jesus Christ is building His Own Church, thank you very much and He doesn't need us to change anything- all we need to do is return to our first love and all that we need to do is proclaim the Gospel to every creature loud and clear and all that we need to do is live what we say that we believe and all that we need to do is to be faithful to what the Bible teaches and to reject the great swelling words of the heretics and let us all earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. 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.