

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

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

Chapter 17- Hating the Garment Spotted by the Flesh **Jude 23** 201 Hating the Polluted Garment- Part 3

WOSM Wednesday 08/13/08; WAOY Friday 02/23/07

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about “Hating the Polluted Garment.” So, let’s read Jude 23 again together:

save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

Now over the last several broadcasts, we have been exploring hate and what we are to hate as Christians and what we are *not* to hate. For example, The Apostle John said that it is wrong and murderous to hate your brother. Let’s read **1John 3:15**:

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

So, we see here that John said that to hate your brother is to be equated with being a murderer and then he went on to say that no one should think that a murderer has eternal life or in other words- no one should ever think that a murderer is saved. So what John was saying is that if we hate a brother- we are not saved.

So, hate in this case would be a terrible sin. But the same Holy Spirit Who inspired John to say that also inspired King Solomon to say this in **Proverbs 6:16-19**:

16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

19 A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

So, we can clearly see that God hates certain things and God loves other things. So, we can see that God doesn't love everything. Every action of Man is not pleasing to the Lord- even actions that are done sincerely.

Now sincerity is a wonderful thing. And I highly recommend being sincere. But simply because you are sincere- does not mean that you are right, and it doesn't mean that just because you are sincere that you are pleasing to God or that God loves what you are doing or saying.

For example, Hitler was very sincere about developing a master race of people who would rule the world. But although he was sincere- he was evil. And God was not with him- but was against him. Hitler's hatred against the Jews was not from God. The people who have been deceived concerning the demon inspired religion of Islam are very sincere about killing the Christians and the Jews. They are sincere- but they are evil, and God is not with them. Their hatred of Jews and Christians is not from God and is therefore sin.

Yet when Elijah cut off the heads of 450 prophets of Baal under the First Covenant- his actions were blessed by God. Elijah's ferocity against Baal and the followers of Baal- his hatred- was godly and true and righteous therefore his hatred was absolutely from God.

But when Jesus told the people to turn the other cheek- His hatred of sin and wickedness was no less fierce than was Elijah's- but Christ brought about a *higher* way of conquering the evil that He hated- and that *higher* way was to *love* your enemies and pray for them- show them mercy and do good to them- so that they might be saved- and your enemy then will become your brother.

So according to the Bible, we can see that God wants us to love certain things and by the same Bible- God wants us to hate other things. And the answer to whether or not hate is right or wrong is that if you hate that which God hates- then you are correct but if you hate what God does *not* hate- then you are sinning. And by default- that also means that we must also love that which God loves and we must *not* love that which God does not love.

So how do we do that? How do we know what to hate and what to love? How can we make sure that we are loving what God loves and

hating what God hates? There is only one way to know what God loves and hates and that is by reading and studying and correctly interpreting the inspired Revelation that God has given to us in the pages of Holy Scripture.

What you can't do is go by your own human logic or your own human experience to determine what to hate and what to love. No, your heart and my heart are not a reliable measurement about the things of God. We simply cannot trust our hearts because the prophet Jeremiah said in **Jeremiah 17:9**:

The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

I hear people say all the time, "*Just follow your heart.*" But brothers and sisters, our hearts betray us all the time and Jeremiah said that we can't even know our *own* hearts- so the *last* thing that you want to follow is your own heart. Some would say, "*Yes, we need to be led by Gods' Spirit.*" Amen. But I would add a caution here. What we understand being led by Gods' Spirit to mean is that we have this inner witness; this conscience; this inner voice that speaks to us and which leads us. And that is true- all who are saved have been sealed with the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit now abides within me, and he leads and guides me into all Truth. That is true.

But while that is true- it is also true that our ability to correctly *comprehend* and properly *discern* what the Holy Spirit is speaking is only as good as what we have been feeding on. In other words- the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit was never meant to take the place of an ongoing, serious, in depth; line upon line; precept upon precept study of the Holy Scriptures- but was meant to be a *compliment* to that study. The mistake that many make today is that they are trusting in an inner voice or witness to the exclusion of Bible Study- and that will guarantee that you get off base.

The Voice of the Holy Spirit is perfectly right and always true- but our ability to *understand* what the Spirit is saying is not always reliable all the time and more abuses and more excesses have been carried out over the last 2,000 years by people who *thought* that God led them to do something or who *thought* that God told them something than you can shake a stick at- and 100% of these problems could have been avoided

by if they had *really* known the Word of God.

Now listen, I'm not against being led by God's Spirit- but what I am against and what I have been preaching against for over 30 years is people who are *not* submitted to God and who do *not* pick up their Cross and who do *not* follow Jesus and who do *not* live a life of self- denial and who do *not* study the Bible and who do *not* hate evil telling me that God speaks to them and they are being led by God's Spirit. And that is simply not true.

Now the word, "garment" has special significance in the Bible. A garment is likened to a covering and to clothing. It is something that covers our nakedness and our shame. It is also something that is draped over us.

Back in **Genesis**, Shem and Japheth took a garment and opened it up and went with it backward into the tent of Noah to cover their father's nakedness. In **Genesis 39:12**, Potiphar's sinful wife took hold of Joseph's garment and tried to get him to lay with her. He refused and was cast into prison for refusing to sin. Read with me about another garment in **Isaiah 61:1-3**:

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;
2 To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,
3 To grant those who mourn *in* Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD , that He may be glorified.

Now in order for you to understand what Isaiah was talking about here- you are going to have listen to what I am going to say- and this is so very important. If you can get this- your life will be radically altered about how you view Salvation from now on. When I saw this it revolutionized my entire life. So, buckle up- this is deep.

The garment or the mantle that Isaiah is prophesying about here was spread over us when Jesus saved our souls. When God Sovereignly regenerated our nature and opened our eyes and unstopped our deaf ears- our blind eyes were then able to see, and our deaf ears were now

able to hear and at that point- not before- we were able to believe. We then heard the Gospel and we saw that we were lost and we understood that we were evil and God supernaturally placed inside us both the desire and the power to repent and then God gave us the gift of faith by which we could trust Christ and at that very moment- the greatest miracle that the world has ever known took place and God washed a black heart with red Blood and it became whiter than snow and praise be to God, by God's Grace we were forgiven for all of our sins past, present and future!

Now unfortunately, most people stop right there in describing Salvation, but thank God that He didn't stop right there. Listen to me real close. Forgiveness pardoned our transgressions- oh yes, thank God- the precious Blood of Jesus Christ washed away all our sins- but while forgiveness pardoned our transgressions- forgiveness by itself did not make us fit for Heaven. Something else had to be done to us and for us to enable us to be worthy to go to Heaven. You see, we have two problems- not just one. We are sinners and we are also unrighteous. Not only did we need to be forgiven, beloved- we also needed to become righteous.

You see, God's requirement for Heaven is that everyone who goes to Heaven must be *perfectly* righteous and they also must be *continually* righteous. This serves two purposes:

1. It makes Salvation impossible for humans to achieve through their own power and efforts
2. It serves to bring all glory for Salvation to God and to God alone

Forgiveness wondrously and completely washed our sins away, but forgiveness did not and could not make us righteous.

The Blood of Jesus washing away our filth is the *first* part of Justification- but there is a second part that we need to know and understand. After we are cleansed from sin- God Almighty makes us righteous! But just *how* does God make us sinners to be righteous?

This area- the area of *just* how we become righteous in God's sight is what makes Christianity different from every other religion and philosophy on earth. And only Biblical Christianity holds to this point. Every perversion of the Gospel throughout history seeks to alter this one significant area of Justification.

Every religious system on earth except Biblical Christianity teaches that man has to develop his own *personal* intrinsic righteousness through his *own* labor or by keeping commandments or by following rules or by participating in sacraments. But the Bible says that the Righteousness that allows us to go to Heaven is not our own righteousness- it is not personal neither is it intrinsic- but is what is called an “alien” righteousness; a “foreign” righteousness.

The Righteousness that allows us to go to Heaven is the very same perfect and continuous righteousness that Jesus Christ literally earned as He lived a sinless life here on this earth. Jesus absolutely kept every single Law of God in thought, word; and deed and developed His Own Personal perfect and continuous Righteousness and it is that very same Righteousness of Jesus Christ that God “imputes” or credits to us- the very instant that we are washed in the Blood of Jesus.

This is the second part of Justification, and it is the imputation of this holy and pure Righteousness of our Lord that we didn’t earn and that we do not deserve that allows us to go to Heaven.

The key here is that we obtain that Righteousness through the vehicle of Faith *alone*- with no other works or merit involved and God literally drapes the Righteousness of Jesus Christ over us like a garment.

And this was the “Material Cause” of the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago- that Protestants believe that we are made righteous by faith alone while Catholics believe that we are made righteous by what we do for ourselves in partaking of the Sacraments. And the Latin phrase that described this Material Cause was “Sola Fide” which means: By faith alone.

And this is what Isaiah saw when he prophesied that God would give us the mantle of praise for the spirit of fainting. God took our sin away and imputed the very righteousness of the sinless Lamb of God to us- by faith alone.

So, Jude is telling us that we must be careful that our mantle or our garment that is sinless and spotless does not become dirty and polluted and that because we love the perfect white garment of sinless Righteousness that God gives us through Christ- we also hate the garment that is polluted by the flesh.

Well, I have 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.