

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

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

Chapter 7- The Profile of the Heretics **Jude 5-7**

85. The Profile of the Heretics Part 1

WOSM Tuesday 03/04/08

Welcome again my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to begin to go into the next part of our Journey by looking at what Jude said about “The Profile of the Heretics”- so let’s read verses 5-7 together:

5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

Now as we begin to go into these verses- I want to remind all of us that **Jude** is the only New Testament Book that is written specifically to warn the Church about apostasy; false teaching; and heresy. That is what this Book is about. Every word in **Jude** is geared to equip the believer in his effort against the long and protracted war against the Truth because Divine Truth has been under assault since the Garden of Eden- when satan twisted what God said in order to deceive Eve.

Ever since then- God’s Truth has had to be defended against those who want to take it and change it and ruin it and destroy it and twist and it and minimize it and hinder it and keep it from the people.

In every generation- when Truth is valued- it is taught and exalted and protected and lifted up and defended. In every generation throughout history when Truth is *not* valued- it is thrown to the ground and neglected and pushed to the side and the result of this neglect is that evil men come into the Church to take advantage of that vacuum and begin to teach false doctrine to deceive and take many souls to hell.

As you know, I have likened the War against the Truth with our current War against Terrorism. First of all- like the war against terrorism- the War against the Truth is a long and a protracted war. As we have studied before, we must reconcile in our own hearts that the war against terrorism will never be over. We are going to have to fight against people who hate us and who want to destroy us from now on- or else they will get the upper hand and destroy us. To relax our guard while evil is still fighting against us is suicide and to try to end the war because we are tired of fighting is naïve and foolish. The harsh reality about our war against terror is that as long as evil is alive and well, we must fight or we will be overrun.

So, it is with the war against the Truth- we will never be able to relax; we will never be able to act as though heresy and false teaching does not exist- because that too is naïve and foolish- and to do so is to guarantee that we will lose the war and be overrun with false doctrine- but we must ready ourselves with spiritual arms to fight against a real devil from now until Jesus returns.

As long as one terrorist remains- this nation will be at war in the natural. Men will fight and men will die and unless we constantly remind ourselves what is at stake- the cost of war in both human lives and money will overwhelm us and we will seek to find peace at any cost.

The very same thing is true about the long war against the Truth. As long as one heresy remains; as long as one apostasy remains; as long as on false teaching and one person twisting Scripture and one false prophet remains- as long as there is one evil person who seeks to deceive the sheep- those of us in leadership in the Church of Jesus must be vigilant; we must stand guard; we must not slumber; and we must warn every man and teach every man the Truth of God's Word.

Some in our nation say that the terrorists are really just misunderstood. They say that these people are really nice people and practitioners of the religion of peace- who really only seek to live in harmony and if only the United States wasn't so evil- these savages would be our friends.

In reality, these terrorists are evil men- who follow a religion of demons who desire to kill women and children and to destroy America precisely because America at least to some extent promotes Christianity and because we help Israel. Those who say that we should just hold our hand out and try to make friends with these people are naïve at best and self deluded at worst and even though their brain is out of gear- we certainly don't need to be listening to them.

But amazingly, I have found similar thoughts concerning the long protracted war against the Truth. There are many in the Church today who really think that it doesn't matter what a person believes as long as he is sincere. That things like Objective Propositional Truth and Sound Doctrine are no longer important and are not a priority in the House of God in the 21st century.

Once again, these people are naïve at best and self deluded at worst and even though their brain is out of gear, we certainly don't need to be listening to them either.

Christian friends, when you say, "Sound Doctrine"- you are saying the same thing as Bible Truth. Without Sound Doctrine- we don't know Truth. Without knowing Truth- *anything* that people say could become attractive- if it is spoken from people who have a good personality and are well thought of.

Some in our country say that the war against terror costs too much in treasure and lives. Well, that all depends on how much freedom is worth to you. If freedom is not worth very much- then I suppose that *any* payment is too much. But if freedom is *everything* in a civilized society- then no price is too high to defend it.

The same is true in the Spirit with the war against the Truth. Some say that it costs too much to defend the Truth. Some say that if you stand and defend what God has said- that people will label you as being hard or mean spirited or too rigid and too straight and that it is better if people think well of you than it is to be faithful to the Truth.

Is that so? Well, once again, I suppose it all boils down to how valuable you think Truth is. If Truth- God's inspired Truth- is *all* that the Church of Jesus has- if what God has said is all that we are authorized to preach and teach- then *no* price is too high to defend it. If you believe that the sole responsibility of pastors and teachers is to be faithful to God- to faithfully preach and teach that which God has declared- and not be popular- then being faithful means *everything* to you.

But if you- like so many today- feel that the Church of Jesus Christ is really just a sanctified social club- where people build personal relationships with each other at the expense of hearing and learning and knowing and proclaiming and being convicted by God's Truth- then I suppose that Truth really is way down the list to you and *any* cost to defend the Truth would be too much.

So, we can see then, that our willingness to defend something is directly proportional to how valuable we see it to be. If our natural freedom and liberty is valuable to us- then we will fight and we will defend it- whatever the cost may be and for as long as it takes. And if God's inspired Truth is valuable to us- we will fight and we will defend it- no matter what the cost and for as long as it takes.

So, the *real* question we need to ask ourselves is not should we be defending the Truth- because obviously we should. The *real* question that we need to be asking ourselves is this- is the truth of God's Word valuable enough to us to be willing to fight for it and defend it no matter what the cost and no matter how long it takes?

I made my own mind up a long time ago and that is why I am teaching you this on the radio. God's Truth is valuable; it is precious; it is the most important commodity that the Church possesses. If we lose the Truth- we have lost the Church.

The terrorist enemy against this nation is real. He isn't kidding; he isn't playing- he is very, very serious. The enemy in the war against terror wants every man woman and child forcefully converted to Islam and they want this nation to become an Islamic Republic and be ruled by Sharia Law- and until that happens- they will be at war with us. To do anything except defend ourselves against this kind of fanatical enemy is simply irresponsible.

The enemy in the war against the Truth is also real- and he isn't kidding either. He is also very, very serious. The enemy who fights

against us in the war against the Truth wants every man, woman, and child to be deceived and to go to hell- so again, to do anything against people like this except to defend ourselves is irresponsible.

So here in verses 5-7- Jude is giving us a profile or listing the characteristics of those “**certain persons**” – the “**ungodly persons**”; the people who “**crept in unnoticed**” and who were “**marked out for this condemnation**” as we read in verse 4- the heretics- who snuck into the Church unawares while the leaders of the Church were asleep to deceive the people of the Church along three doctrinal lines: The Grace of God; the Character and Nature of God the Father; and the Person of Jesus Christ. These are the modern day Judaizers; the modern day Antinomians; the modern day Gnostics; the modern day Modalists; the modern day Arians; the modern day Pelagians; and the modern day Socinians.

So in verse 5, Jude makes a very interesting statement. He says:

Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all...

Now this statement by the half brother of Jesus Christ to the Church shows what those in leadership in the Christian Church in the first century expected the average church member to know to be true. Jude was not giving these believers any *new* knowledge in his Epistle- but was reminding them of existing Old Testament Truth that all those in the Church were expected to understand and to be familiar with.

In this verse- Jude was showing them and us the importance that New Testament believers have in knowing and reading and studying the Old Testament. You see, dear friends, there is a tendency today for many of those who follow Christ to take the position that the Old Testament has all been fulfilled in Christ and thus it is not needed. To be sure- everything in the Old Testament *is* fulfilled in Jesus Christ; every Old Testament Book shows us an attribute or characteristic of Jesus Christ; every Old Testament person shows us a part of Christ’s nature and every Old Testament natural occurrence brings forth a spiritual Truth- all of that is true- but what is not true is that because Christ fulfilled the Law that we

no longer have any need to read and study and understand the Old Testament.

In my own Church, we are on a Bible Study program that allows each person to read the entire Old Testament every single year and allows them to read the entire New Testament over 20 times in a 3 year span. This aggressive Bible Study Plan is needed if the Word of God is going to get off the pages of the Bible and into our hearts and our minds and our lives. If any of you would like a copy of that Bible Study Plan- send me a letter, an e-mail or write or call me and I will be happy to send you one.

Reading the Old Testament, beloved, should not be haphazard. We should know the Old Testament and that is why Jude says here- that his readers knew about what he was talking about. If you believe that God inspired the New Testament- then you have to believe that He also inspired the Old. We need both the Old and the New Testament in us if we are to comprehend the depth and the height and the breadth of God's Goodness and Glory.

When Jude wrote this letter, he expected those that read it to already have a working knowledge of these three Old Testament examples that he gives us in these verses. Even many hundreds of years after this Book was written- those who were in charge of training young men for the ministry- knew that reading and understanding the Old Testament was mandatory to fully comprehending Grace- so they *required* that there students learn to read, write, and speak fluent Hebrew and Aramaic, which was the language of the Old Testament.

Our ignorance today of Old Testament Truth is appalling. We seem to want to skip over much of the Old Testament in order to get to the New and that is a tragic mistake.

We not only need to read and study and understand the Old Testament- but we also need to regularly preach and teach from it in our Churches. Only by a steady diet of the Full Counsel of God- from both Testaments can we even begin to fully appreciate and apply all that Christ has done to our own lives.

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.