

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**

87. The Profile of the Heretics Part 3

WOSM Thursday 03/06/08

Welcome again my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue to examine what Jude taught about “The “Profile of the Heretics”. So, let’s read verses 5-7 of Jude again 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 discussed on the last broadcast- Jude wants to put us in remembrance of the judgment of God against the heretics, although in verse 5- he says that we should already know it. Jude gives us a profile of what the heretics look like by using three Old Testament groups:

- ✓ Apostate Israelites
- ✓ Apostate angels
- ✓ Apostate Gentiles

Now in spite of his apparent victories, satan’s days are numbered. Praise God! The Lord Himself promises that His Truth will ultimately prevail. Christ’s everlasting Kingdom will one day be established on

the earth and this Kingdom will contain no errors and no heretics. In this kingdom, the devil and all his tactics will be forever vanquished.

In the meantime, however, satan is on the prowl- walking to and fro throughout the earth seeking whom he may devour- so Christians must be earnest and vigilant and steadfast in contending for the Faith. They must be proactive in pursuing Truth, and also in confronting and resisting everything that is false.

This requires much wisdom, discernment, fortitude, and endurance. As I have told you before- the battle against the Truth is a long and a protracted war. It started in the Garden of Eden and will continue until Jesus bursts the clouds of Glory to present to Himself a glorious Church not having either spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.

The battle for the Truth began because satan tried to twist and change the Truth. He is still doing that today. As long as satan is operating in the earth- the only effective strategy is for the Church of Jesus Christ to be strong, solid, holy, zealous of good works, and able to quickly repent.

Periodically, all humans get off base. That is part of our human nature. We use our own wisdom- and not God's; we use our own abilities- and not God's; we use our own strength- and not God's; we use our own human reasoning and natural minded logic instead of the Mind of Jesus Christ and Biblical Truth to develop our theology and our Doctrines and that is always a mistake.

Some people have told me that we don't need Doctrine today. They say that all we need is love and that it really doesn't matter what a person believes as long as he is sincere. Beloved, please hear me on this. That type of logic is naïve at best and dangerous at worst. Those kinds of statements are self deluding because the fact of the matter is that everybody already has a theology, and everybody already holds to a doctrine. The problem is not that we don't have a doctrine or a theology- the problem is that most of our doctrine and theology is not scriptural.

Everything that we do in this life that is of any importance is based upon Doctrine and Theology. Every Church on earth has a Doctrine. They may not know they have a doctrine; their doctrine may be wrong; it may be unscriptural; it may be simply whatever the pastor preaches and teaches- but regardless of whether it is right or wrong;

regardless of whether it is sound doctrine or foolish doctrine; regardless of whether it is Biblical or unbiblical- every Church has a Doctrine.

Every Church has a theology. That theology may be inconsistent, which most are. Their theology may be made up and invented. Their theology may be unscriptural- but the fact is that every single Church on earth has a theology.

So, since it is impossible to have a church and not have both theology and doctrine- then we only have two choices. We can either develop our theology and our doctrine on the Word of God or we can make it up as we go along. Either we can use God's inspired Word to formulate our theology and doctrine, or we can use human reasoning. We can wither use infallible, inerrant Scripture to create our theology and doctrine by or we can use carnal wisdom; societal norms and human ingenuity- but what ever we do- and whatever we use- we will have a theology and we will have a doctrine- and my purpose in teaching you this study is to plead with you to base your theology and your doctrine on Scripture and on Scripture alone.

We cannot live on earth without having doctrine and theology. Every organization, whether it is Christian or not, stands for something; every club and society has developed standard of operation that dictates what they can or cannot do.

For example, every movie that you watch; every television program that is shown has what are called producers. The job of the producer is to make sure that the message of the writers comes through in the show. They are, in effect, taking what the writers have written and through lights and camera angles and music and expressions and words- they are preaching the sermon of the writers through the movie or the television show.

Most parents think that as long as the movie does not contain too much violence or too much nudity or too much filthy language that it is safe for their children to watch. That is a very low standard to set about these things. If you believe as I do that most all Hollywood producers are trying to indoctrinate your children on purpose with an ungodly and unchristian doctrine and theology- then sometimes a movie or television show could have no nudity; no violence; and no filthy talk at all and yet still be poison to their soul. We have to look at the *message* that the producers are trying to preach. In other words, what makes a movie or show good or bad is the doctrine or the theology.

The same is true in politics. Every major political party has what is called a party platform. That platform is their written Doctrine and their written theology. This is what they believe and what they stand for and what they will work to accomplish if given power.

Unfortunately, most people vote for someone because of that person's personality or that person's personal characteristics- but that is the wrong reason to vote for someone. The right reason to vote for someone is not how handsome he is but is what he stands for? What is he going to do if given power? That is what is important.

So, what a Church stands for; what they believe; what they teach; what is their stand on the great issues of life and godliness? Those are the things that are important- not how big the building is or how many people go there or how great a speaker the pastor is or how pretty his wife is or how good the music is. None of those things are nearly as important as what do they believe and why do they believe it.

But our modern culture pays no attention at all to the substance of doctrine but instead pays all attention to the things that don't matter. And because so many churches today are following what is popular instead of following Jesus, they have fallen into the trap of pushing Doctrine and Theology down the line.

The results are staggering. Very few church members today can tolerate a serious in depth, intelligent, adult discussion about things like Justification or the Deity of Christ or Limited Atonement or the Sovereignty of God.

We pay attention to the personality of the pastor or the emotional fervor of his voice or the style of music or the comfortableness of the pews. And the devil knows this, and this is precisely why unscriptural cults are growing in America by double digits every year while mainline denominations are shrinking.

At the very time that Biblical Sound Doctrine taught with power and conviction could easily expose the inconsistencies of the cults- it is sound doctrine that is viewed today as being the enemy- and not the cults. The very cure for our problems is thrown down at precisely the time it is needed the most.

The same thing is true in every walk of life. At a time when discipline at home is at an all time low- children are more rebellious than ever before- well what-a-ya know? Maybe one thing causes the other- you reckon?

At a time when this nation cries out for strong confident and sure leadership- we cannot even seal up our borders to protect us from the legions of invading forces.

And the very thing that would strengthen the home and the nation and the Church is the very thing that is the last thing on everybody's list- Sound Doctrine.

My brothers and sisters Jude gave us a clear and concise profile of the spiritual terrorists who have crept into the Church to destroy it. Jude says that these "sleeper cells" of spiritual "terrorists" have infiltrated the Church while the leadership was asleep, and they have brought with them their "dirty bombs" filled with lies; false teachings; and heresy that they unleash in the Church.

They don't call their heresies what they are- no, they call their false doctrine "a new revelation" or "a new vision" or "a new take on Paul" or "a fresh look at Justification" or "a new approach to building up a church".

They preach the Gospel of feel good; the Theology of self; the Doctrine of ease and comfort and peace and safety. They cause sinners to become comfortable in their sin. They cause backsliders to feel better about their backsliding. They cause lost souls to rejoice in their own goodness while they fall headlong into hell.

These pillow prophets have become wealthy off the backs of the sheep. They are a part of an elite; self centered ministry that is unlike anything the world has every seen- but God has got their number and God never forgets.

One of the groups that Jude compares the heretics with in verse 5 are those Israelites who saw God move in their midst and saw God humiliate Egypt in front of the world and saw God deliver them out of 400 years of slavery and yet refused to bow; refused to bend; and refused to be broken. Look at what **Numbers 14:26-38** says:

26 The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

27 "How long *shall I bear* with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me.

28 "Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD , 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you;

29 your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me.

30 'Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

31 'Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey — I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected.

32 'But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness.

33 'Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they will suffer *for* your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.

34 'According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt a year, *even* forty years, and you will know My opposition.

35 'I, the LORD , have spoken, surely this I will do to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be destroyed, and there they will die.'"

36 As for the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report concerning the land,

37 even those men who brought out the very bad report of the land died by a plague before the LORD .

38 But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive out of those men who went to spy out the land.

For Jude's readers, Israel's judgment was a vivid reminder of what happens to those who after having heard what God demands and after witnessing what He can do- still refuse to repent and believe.

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.