

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

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

Chapter 9- Going the Way of Cain **Jude 11**

101 Going the Way of Cain Part 3

WOSM Wednesday 03/26/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing in our Journey through the Epistle of Jude and today I want to see what Jude meant when he pronounced an everlasting and eternal condemnation upon the heretics who bring in false doctrine and ungodly teaching into the House of God. So, let's read verse 11 of Jude again together:

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Now the part of this verse that we will continue to look at today is when Jude said that the heretics have **“gone in the way of Cain”**. Now on the last broadcast- we saw that Cain was guilty of trying to worship God in his own way. The very fact that God rejected Cain's offering shows us that God had already made clear what form of offering was acceptable to Him. Every descendant of Adam already knew what God required of them.

God's rejection of Cain's offering was not a negative reflection of God- it is a negative reflection on Cain. God was not arbitrarily ignoring Cain's sacrifice, while accepting Abel's- no, Cain already knew what God required and Cain chose not to offer what God had required, while Abel did.

Cain was not a sincere but wayward soul who simply tried to offer God something, yet God wouldn't receive it- no, God is good, and God is merciful and kind- it was Cain who was evil. Cain in essence was saying that God was obligated to accept whatever offering that Cain deemed to be good.

This is an illustration of what I was discussing on the last broadcast. We have developed within the modern Church a very ungodly attitude toward the things of God. Many today believe that God is obligated to do what they deem to be best for themselves- regardless of what God's Will is. These people are always looking at Man and the benefits to Man rather than looking at what will glorify God and what is best for God. This shows an evil and unconverted heart that is not following after pleasing the Lord.

We saw last time that Cain was very satisfied with God as long as he could serve God on his own terms. He loved the Lord as long as God did what Cain wanted God to do; He actually wanted to give an offering to God as long as he could do it in the manner that he wanted; how he wanted; where he wanted and when he wanted.

And then we see that Cain was highly offended at God because God would not accept his offering and he was horribly disturbed that at the same time that God had rejected Cain's self serving offering- God had accepted Abel's. Cain really felt as though God was obligated to accept whatever Cain was good enough to offer- but God proved him wrong.

We have today in our modern culture and sadly, in the Church as well a prevailing attitude of "self" that is both unhealthy and ungodly. As a result of decades of minimizing or outright ignoring the teachings of the Bible about God and Man and Sin and Salvation, while at the same time inviting and promoting ungodly teachings of psychology and self, we have a view of ourselves that the Bible does not teach. Let's read **2 Timothy 3:1-13**:

1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these *men* also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

11 persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

13 But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

This unbiblical view of Man's importance is now taught by the most popular evangelists in the country and is accepted by an ever growing number of undiscerning people who are being led astray. The deification of Man as taught by the proponents of self esteem; self worth; and self fulfillment is in direct opposition to the Biblical Truth about Man's Radical Ruination and of God's Absolute Sovereignty. These teachings have cheapened Christianity and elevated man's importance at the expense of God.

My Christian brothers and sisters, we don't need more of self; we don't need to elevate self; we don't need to promote self; we don't need to fulfill self; we don't need to exalt self. We need to decrease self so that Christ may increase in our lives. The Bible clearly teaches that "self" is not our biggest friend- it is our biggest problem. Rather than feed the monster of "self"- we need to do what the Bible says about self- we need to crucify it; mortify it; deny it; and turn from it.

We need to understand that it is the "self" of Man that is motivated and controlled and encouraged and elevated by the carnal mind and nature and lusts of the flesh. So, since that is true- for us to feed "self" is to defeat your walk with God. To promote "self" rather than Christ is to be in idolatry. To magnify *our* dreams and ambitions over God's Will is to live in direct rebellion to God's Word. To exalt the perceived needs of carnal, lukewarm people is to deny the God that deserves and has earned our loyalty and our devotion and our allegiance.

Contrary to the modern “pied pipers” who promote and build up and glorify “self”- we need to literally starve the “self” of man into submission by refusing to feed it and we need to develop what the Puritans called a biblical and healthy attitude of “self loathing” so that God can be exalted in our lives.

Think about it for a minute. The goal of every Blood washed saint should be to glorify God. So, whatever it takes to do that should be just fine with the believer. But is it just fine? Since we are now saved, doesn't the Bible say that we belong to Jesus? Doesn't the Bible say that we are not our own, but have been bought and paid for by the shed Blood of the Lamb of God. And if that is true- doesn't that makes us a slave rather than a Master? Let's look at **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**:

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

And let us also read **Ephesians 1:10-14**:

10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

And let us also look at **Titus 2:11-15**:

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

How anyone can read these verses and then accept the modern message of a superficial feel good spirituality is beyond me. Beloved, we have a duty; we have an obligation; we have a responsibility; yea we have a command to actually live differently than the lost unsaved world. And the reason for that difference is not because we are better than others- because we are not better than others- we are all wretched sinners saved by Grace. We are the recipients of God's wondrous Mercy that we do not deserve and have not earned- so, no, we are not better than anyone else.

But we must remember that since we are saved- we are not living *to* ourselves anymore and we are not living *for* ourselves anymore. Now that we are saved; now that we are born again; now that we are regenerated; now that we are redeemed; now that we are sealed; now that we are filled; now that we are set apart and washed, we live unto God and for God and to God and our lives are now hidden in Christ and we no longer belong to ourselves, but we belong to Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

We must understand dear friends, that it is a lie to say that God is glorified at the same time that Man is glorified. God is only glorified when everything else and every one else is bowed down at His Feet in humble submission to Him and that includes our self; our dreams; our ambition; our pride; our possessions; our money; our marriages; our children; our time; our thoughts; our will; and our future.

Anything that is not submitted in subservience to God is in hostile opposition to God and operates outside of God and anything that operates outside of God will burn. Jesus is either Lord of all our He is not Lord at all. And we do not have the right or the authority to come before God in our own time; in our own way; on our own terms;

in our own manner and bring to God a sacrifice of our own choosing and then expect God to honor it and bless it and accept it. He didn't with Cain and He won't with you.

The Cain of the Bible was a wicked and evil man who was impressed with his own importance to the point of trying to create another way into Heaven. His offering that God rejected was not an honest mistake by a sincere person- but was a blatant and openly rebellious attempt at shoving his own self importance in God's Face and trying to make God accept it.

So "going the way of Cain" is any attempt by anyone to try to force God to accept something that He has clearly said that He will not accept. It is the premeditated attempt at trying to twist God's Arm into accepting something that God has already said He didn't approve. Jude is telling us that the wicked heretics who creep into the Church will revive the way of Cain in both their teachings and in their own personal lives and teach it as though it were good.

As I discussed with you earlier, the way of Cain is preached and taught and promoted all the time in the modern Church as though it was a good thing. But it isn't a good thing- it is evil; it is wicked; it is sinful, and the Bible denounces all such activity as being wrong.

Trying to force God to accept something that He has already rejected is not just an honest mistake- it reveals a heart that is not converted and not submitted to God. God said in **Genesis 4:7** that His rejection of Cain's sacrifice was due to sin being at Cain's door. And God also made it clear that His rejection of Cain's sacrifice was also a rejection of Cain himself and of the wickedness in Cain's heart.

Beloved, we must all be careful that we are not "going in the way of Cain" and make sure that we are earnestly contending 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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