

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 10**

93 The Profile of the Heretics Part 9

WOSM Friday 03/14/08

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 examine what Jude taught about “The Profile of the Heretics”. So, let’s read verse 10 of Jude together:

But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.

Now we can see two things by looking at this verse. First of all, we need to note that Truth is usually ignorantly slandered. Men condemn the ways and things of God because they do not understand them. In the Apostle Paul’s day, the teaching and preaching about the Cross was considered to be foolishness.

Now the word “foolishness” as used in the Bible does not mean silly or comedic, but rather it means that it appears to be so patently ridiculous that it is silly to even discuss it- much less believe it. And that is how the unsaved world viewed the preaching of the Cross then and that is precisely how they view it today.

The Cross is offensive because it calls men to come and die. The preaching of the Cross is highly insulting to people precisely because they are lost. No one wants to hear that they are lost- especially those who are trying so hard to earn their own salvation. To tell these self righteous people that their efforts are worthless is an insult to all that they do and think. No wonder the religious people hated Jesus so much. This is exactly what Jesus told Nicodemus late one night. Let’s read a familiar passage in **John 3:1-3**:

3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the

Jews;

2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Now the first thing that we can see here is that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night because he was ashamed that he was going to be seen talking to Jesus. And the second thing that we can see is that Nicodemus is trying to butter Jesus up by giving Him compliments. Nicodemus was not just a person who lived in Jerusalem- he was a high priest. He was a religious ruler of the people. His reputation was at stake here and I tell you that when you come to Jesus by night be prepared that what He tells you might damage your reputation.

You come to Jesus to ask Him questions and He is libel to save you and that will mean that your sinful friends won't want to be around you any more; that will mean that you can't go out clubbing anymore on Friday night; that would mean you can't go out dancing and drinking anymore; that will mean that you can't tell dirty jokes anymore; that will mean that you can't smoke a little weed any more; that will mean that you can't act or talk or do what you used to because to know Jesus and to love Jesus is to serve Jesus and to live for Him. So be careful that coming to Jesus by night doesn't mess your reputation up real good and proper.

Nicodemus wanted Jesus to join his church group. He wanted a prestigious member for his own religious organization. He wanted to be able to point out the celebrity in the congregation like those preachers do as they brag about having the sports stars and the Hollywood types in their church.

But don't you see that Jesus is not going to join your group? Don't you know that Jesus is not going to be a member of your club? Don't you understand that Jesus would not let anyone make Him a king before His time. He healed people and then told them not to tell anyone; He performed great and mighty miracles and then commanded them to be silent about it. That is because Jesus knew their hearts. He knew that most people were not looking for someone to save them from their sins- no, the average person doesn't mind his

sin- he just doesn't like the penalty of his sin. He doesn't mind committing adultery- he just wants deliverance from the pain and the suffering and the divorce and the broken lives that his adultery caused. The average person doesn't mind stealing- He just wants to be delivered from the jail time that was the result of his stealing.

Many times, when people say that they repent- they are not really repenting of their sin- they are repenting of the *penalty* of their sin- the broken life; the pain; the jail; the death; the sorrow; the loss of money; the divorce; the shattered dream- so in reality- most people when they cry and pray are really only crying because of how bad their sin made them feel- not how wicked their sin is to God. How do I know this is true? Because as soon as their situation is changed- as soon as they get out of jail; as soon as they get more money; as soon as they get their wife back; as soon as they get a job; as soon as they get the ankle bracelet off- you couldn't pay them to come to Church; they are too busy to pray; they have no time to study the Bible; they can't ever seem to find the time to lead others to Christ; they just can't seem to make any of the Sunday Services. The FBI couldn't find these people as soon as they are set free from the penalty of their sin. No, when people pray because the penalty of their sin is great- most people pray for relief of the penalty- not to repent of their sin.

The Gospel alone has the ability to cause all men to see that they only have one problem- their sin. The Gospel has the unique ability to strip away all excuses; throw back the covers; dig up what is buried; open up what is sealed; shout aloud what is secret; and reveal what is hidden. That is why our job as ministers is not to whitewash the Gospel; it is not to alter the Gospel; it is not to minimize the Gospel; not to marginalize the Gospel; not to try to make the Gospel more appealing to the lost; and it certainly isn't to hide the Gospel.

No, any attempt by anyone to try to dull the edge of the sword of the Gospel of God is the result of being ashamed of the Gospel and we cannot do that because the Gospel and the Gospel alone is the power of God unto Salvation. Any attempt at changing or altering or trying to soften its impact in the hearts of the hearers so as not to offend is to doom the listeners to hell. So, if we really love them- we will not hesitate to preach the Gospel rightly, fully, and fearlessly.

Some may well be offended at the Gospel- they always have been and always will be. Everybody is not going to be saved. God has not

chosen to deal with every heart on earth. But no one can be saved unless the Gospel is preached.

The same thing was true in Israel at the time Jesus walked there. The average Jew was not one bit concerned about his sin- no, all that was on his mind was that a pagan army had invaded and overrun them and was now occupying their land and all that the Jew prayed about was that God would send someone to vanquish the Roman army; conquer the pagans; march triumphantly into Jerusalem on a white horse; walk into the Temple and sit down on the throne of King David and from there rule the world.

The Jews had forgotten that the reason that God had allowed Rome to conquer them in the first place was because of their sin. They had forgotten that their birthright was useless without being saved and that they were being chastened by the very God Who had called them by making them serve the Gentiles.

All throughout the history of the Jews, God raised up ungodly and pagan Empires to plague His own people precisely because they would not repent and serve Him. The only reason that the nation of Assyria existed was to be a plague to Israel and as soon as the Jews repented- God Himself destroyed Assyria.

The same thing is true today. God has raised up Islam to plague this nation. Islamic fascists are not waging war with us because we are a holy people- no, God has raised them up to bring this nation to her knees-and all the armies of the world will not defeat the plague that God has raised up unless and until there is whole scale repentance.

Nicodemas wanted Jesus to join with them to politically remove the Roman army from Israel, but Jesus turned the conversation right back at the condition of Nicodemas' heart and told him right to his face:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

This began a dialogue that ended without Nicodemas becoming a Christian, in fact, he was probably highly insulted and very offended at what Jesus had told Him- just like so many are offended today when presented with the Gospel.

Jesus was, in effect, telling this ruler of the Jews that all of his energies at trying to be holy; all his effort that he had expended his entire life at trying to earn his own salvation had not made him any close to God than was a prostitute. Jesus said that all his efforts were worthless and that he like everybody else on earth had to be reborn by a Sovereign act of a gracious God, or he could never go to heaven.

When the true Gospel; the real Gospel; the Biblical Gospel is preached, and it is preached rightly and fully and fearlessly it always does two things- it will harden the hearts of those whom God is not dealing with, and it will soften the hearts of those that are chosen.

The Gospel is offensive; it is terribly insulting. It brings all men to the very same level- all rich men and all poor men; all educated men and all uneducated men; all sophisticated men and all unsophisticated men; all cultured people and all uncultured people are brought to the same level- they stand before a holy God guilty of evil hearts; wicked intentions; and unable in their own power to make themselves acceptable in God's sight.

They have at this point only two options- turn and remain in their sins or beat their chests and cry out, "*Have mercy on me, Oh God, for I am a sinner*".

This is a place of utter helplessness. This is a place of utter dependence upon God; this is a place of earnest and sincere confession of sin; of true repentance of godly sorrow; of heartfelt grief because the Gospel has miraculously and supernaturally revealed to that soul just how bad they really are; just how wicked their heart really is; and just how lost they really are.

This is the power that only the Biblical Gospel has. It is insulting; it is offensive it is hardening and at the same time it is softening. It is abrasive; it is brutal; it is real; it is stark; it is in your face; it is inescapable. That is why it is such a horrible evil to alter or change or to minimize the Gospel and the God-given effect it has on the human heart.

To those who are lost it is foolish; it is silly; it is ridiculous for anyone to assume that the holy God that made heaven and earth would forgive sin and then impute the very righteousness of Jesus Christ based upon nothing that the individual has or has not done- but based solely on God's good pleasure.

That just doesn't make any sense; that just doesn't compute.

Surely God demands that we do something to earn this glorious Salvation. Surely God requires that we work hard to deserve this Mercy. Surely God expects that we give up and do something- any thing so that we could feel that we did it. Man says, “Yes!”, but the Gospel says, “No!”.

Nicodemus couldn't grasp the simplicity of Grace. Most people today do not comprehend the simplicity of Grace. The great minds; the great thinkers have all missed it. The great philosophers were all around it, but never grasped it. Salvation is based upon God's Will- not Mans. It is based upon God's choosing- not Man's. It is based upon God's election- not Man's. It is based upon God's purpose- not Mans. It is based upon God's desire- not Man's., And it is based upon God's Power and not Man's.

Jude says in verse 4 that all heresies; all apostasy; all false teaching; all spiritual deception is centered around one f three aspects:

1. **The Person of Jesus Christ**- they either deny His Divinity or they deny His rightful place as the Darling of the Trinity or they deny His humanity.
2. **The Nature and Character of God**- they either say that God won't judge or that God won't save. They say that God won't do something that His Word clearly says that He will, or they say that God doesn't care or isn't involved.
3. **They turn the Grace of God into something that it isn't.** Some say that Grace means that you can do whatever you feel like doing and that God doesn't care. Others say that Grace is nothing at all and that we have to earn our own salvation by our own works.

And so, because heresy exists in the earth today; because false teaching abounds in our day; because only God's Word is true- we have a duty; we have an obligation; we have a responsibility to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I'm out of time for today- so 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.