



3 March 2024

CALL to ARMS

Are you ready to fight the good fight of 2024?

Jude 1-4

2 Corinthians 10: 1-6; Mark 7:1-13

Disciples of Christ

- Goal #1: SEE GOD (Psalm 119:18)

A Serious Letter

- Warning against an **ENEMY WITHIN!**
 - **WOLVES IN SHEEP CLOTHING.** (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29)

The Author(s) (Jude 1)

- GOD (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - Do we **TREMBLE** at His Word? (Isaiah 66:2, 5 - Hebrews 4:13)
- Jude, brother of James, half-brother of Jesus - Bond servant of Christ

The Readers (Jude 1)

- CALLED, SANCTIFIED, PRESERVED
- **THOSE BEING SANCTIFIED.** (Hebrews 10:14)

Has Our Greetings Changed? (Jude 2)

- Mercy, Peace, Love be multiplied to you!

Jude's Intent vs the Will of God

- Eternal purpose and providence of God.
- God always is working out His plan. (Proverbs 19:21; 16:9; Isaiah 46:10)

Our Common Salvation

- The Golden Chain of Grace (Romans 8:28-30)
- The grace of Elohiym, our Creator who **before** time chose us (Eph 1:4; Acts 13:48; Titus 1:2; Rom 8:29); predestined us (Eph 1:5, 11); graced us (2 Tim 1:9; Rom 8:29-30); and wrote His special people's names in the Book of Life of the Lamb (1 Peter 1:20; Rev 13:8; Luke 10:20)

- The grace of Adonai, our Lord, Ruler, Owner, Master, who **sovereignly willed** to have mercy and compassion on us and willed not to harden us! (Romans 9:15-18)
- The grace of Immanuel, God with us, who made Himself **no reputation** and became a **slave** obedient on to death to live and die for those whom the Father gave Him. (Philippians 2:5-9; Titus 2:14; John 6:37, 39; 17:2, 6, 8-9, 11, 24)
- The grace of Yahweh Makkeh, (the LORD who strikes) who sacrificed His own Son on our behalf. (Isa 53:10; Ezek 7:9; Zech 13:7)
- The grace of God, the Judge of all the Earth (Gen 18:25), who justified us based on nothing in ourselves but solely on what Christ, His Son, did on our behalf. (Romans 3:24-26:1; 8:1; 9:11, 16; 11:6; Eph 2:4-8; 2 Tim 1:9; Titus 3:3-5)
- The grace of God, the Holy Spirit who gave us the promised gift of eternal life. (Titus 1:2, 3:5; John 3:3-8)

Something MORE NECESSARY

- “necessary” – ἀνάγκη anagke {an-ang-kay} means “necessity imposed either by circumstances and/or by law of duty regarding to one’s advantage”.
- **Circumstances:** God’s Word was/is being corrupted from within the Church! **We will show this is true today and that many are being deceived into believing a false gospel in our next sermon.** (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24)
- **Duty:** As a child of God, our Father’s honor is our number one priority (Matt 6:9; Lev 10:3). We live so that He is honored and glorified. (Matt 5:16; Rom 15:6) As **stewards** of God’s Word we are under **obligation** to earnestly contend for it.
- “to exhort” – this is an exhortation from God. Ignore this exhortation and we ignore GOD!
- “to earnestly contend” is ἐπαγωνίζομαι {ep-ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee} means “to strive”; “to fight”; “to labor fervently” “to endeavor with strenuous zeal”; “to agonize”; “to make every effort”.
The Holy Spirit uses the prefix *epi* to “**supersize**” the verb!
- Jude was/is calling **all** saints to STAND (and even die if necessary) for “**the faith**”. (Jeremiah 9:3; 7:28; Isaiah 59:14-15; Hosea 4:1)
- This “**the faith**” was “**once for all**” delivered. **The same “the faith” that was handed down to the saints of the first century is the exact same faith handed down to US!** This “**the faith**” is what we **must** earnestly contend!
➤ **Man has no RIGHT to change it but he does!**
- (Mark 7:1-13) **People today will follow traditions and teachings of men that have been handed down rather than the commandments of God.**
- “**the faith**” – There is only **ONE** faith! (Ephesians 4:5; Galatians 1:6-9)
- “**the faith**” - This is OBJECTIVE FAITH not SUBJECTIVE FAITH.
➤ DOCTRINE comes from God. (John 7:16-17) See 2 John 9

- DOCTRINE comes from what is **written** and not from the opinions and teachings of men. (Ephesians 4:14)
- DOCTRINE is either TRUE or FALSE. (1 Timothy 1:3; 4:6-16)
- This is DOCTRINE. We are living in vv. 3-4 of 2 Timothy 4:1-4.
- Teachers/preachers are to **LABOR** in “word and doctrine”. (1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:15)
- There is stricter judgment on those who teach/preach. (James 3:1)
- Any doctrine must lead to godliness/holiness/obedience. (1 Timothy 6:3)

Ancient Words - “**the faith**” (Jude 3)

- There is ONLY ONE FAITH. (Ephesians 4:4-6)
- There is ONLY ONE TRUE GOSPEL (Gen-Rev). (Galatians 1:6-9)
- Are we being changed by God’s ancient words or are we changing the **ancient** words to say what we want them to say?
- Are we choosing God’s ancient ways or are we determined to live according to 21st Century words because they are more comfortable? (Jeremiah 6:16-17)
 - ✗ Today, a great majority of the church believes truth to be what they think truth is.
 - ✗ Today, a great majority of the church believes sin to be what they believe sin to be.
 - ✗ Today, a great majority of the church ignores the **words written** and therefore live their lives according to their opinions.
 - ✗ Today, a great majority of the church does not believe 1 Peter 4:12-17 or 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 or Matthew 7:21-23.
 - ✗ Today, a great majority of the church is ignorant of the times we are living in and what must be done. (1 Chron 12:32; Matt 16:3; Luke 12:56-57)
- These **ancient** words (“**the faith**”) have been handed down to **us** and we must now “earnestly contend” for **them**. (Jude 3)
- GOD’s Word is TRUTH – not what we think truth is! (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160)
- (Luke 4:4) “Man does not live on bread alone but on every word of God.” – a direct quote of the One we call LORD.
 - Either we live our lives by the righteousness defined by God’s Word **OR** we establish our own righteousness. (Romans 10:1-3; 1 John 3:10)

Obstacles to Obeying the Exhortation to Contend

- ① We do not believe that there is a battle to contend with. Not to “earnestly contend” is to not obey this exhortation. Not to obey this exhortation is not to obey GOD!
 - We do not take God’s warnings seriously. There is **no** sense of urgency.
- ② We do not believe that it is **OUR** responsibility. We believe that there is a battle but others will have to fight because we are too busy living our lives.
- ③ We are **ignorant** of **the** faith. **My faith is based on what I believe not what**

- the faith says!** We establish our own righteousness! (Romans 10:3)
- We do not study and meditate on God's Word. (Psalm 1:1-3)
 - We are comfortable in our ignorance!
- ④ We have no **genuine desire** to "please" our Commanding Officer – GOD. (2 Tim 2:3-4; Colossians 1:10; 1 Thess 4:1; Heb 11:5; 1 John 3:22)
 - ⑤ We do not wear the **whole armor** of God believing that I can handle any temptation or deception that comes my way. (Eph 6:10-18)
 - ⑥ We are comfortable in **our relativism**. We do not believe that we must be of one mouth, one mind, one understanding, and one purpose. (1 Corinthians 1:10; Romans 15:5-6)
 - ⑦ We are ignorant of the enemy's tactics. (2 Corinthians 2:11; 4:2; 11:3, 13-15; Matthew 7:15; 13:33; 16:6, 11-12; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 5:9; 1 Peter 5:8; Acts 20:30; Romans 16:18; Galatians 1:7; Ephesian 4:14; Colossians 2:4, 8; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:1-4; **3:13**; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 2:18; 4:1; Revelation 2:2, 20) **This is the theme of our next sermon in Jude.**

It is Our ("the saints") Turn NOW

- Examples from history
 - Martin Luther - stood up against the powerful Catholic Church.
 - Martyrs - joyfully gave their lives standing for the TRUTH - like Jan Hus - 1372-1415 - 42-43 years old.
 - Queen Mary in 1555 -1557 - burned hundreds of Protestants at the stake.
 - William Tyndale (ca. 1494-1536 - age 43) - gave us our English Bible - strangled and burned at the stake.
- 2024 may be/is our turn! Will we "earnestly contend for **the** faith"? Even to the point of imprisonment or death?

Contending for the Faith

- ① We must remember that this letter **is** written to all saints and all saints have the **duty, obligation, and responsibility** to "earnestly contend". In order to obey this exhortation we must **know doctrine** and know it thoroughly. Therefore, Bible study is not an option.
- ② We are to demolish, destroy, cast down, over throw **any** theory, **any** human reasoning, **any** argument, **any** thought, **any** speculation, **any** opinion that does not line itself up **exactly** with Word of God. (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)
- ③ We must not only stand for TRUTH but we must be "**valiant** for the TRUTH."
 - ★ One only STANDS for what is PRECIOUS to them.
 - ★ One only STANDS for what they DEEPLY believe.
 - ★ One only STANDS for what they REALLY love.
- ④ Others will suffer if we do not **earnestly contend** for **the** faith.
- ⑤ We must earnestly contend because the souls of our children and their children are at stake! (Consider Psalm 78:4-8)