



10 March 2024

CONTEND!

We Have Been Deceived!
We Must Repent!

Jude 1-4

Ezekiel 13:1-16
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
2 Corinthians 10:1-6

Disciples of Christ

- Goal #2: FILLED with AWE (Psalm 33:8)

A Serious Letter

The Author(s) (Jude 1)

- GOD (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Isaiah 66:2; 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.

It Is Our Turn in History (Jude 3)

- Ancient words handed down to US.
- Being valiant for **the faith** in an age of relativism. (Jeremiah 9:3; 7:28; Isaiah 59:14-15; Hosea 4:1)

Ungodly Men in the Congregations (Jude 4)

- Certain men had “crept in” –
 - Greek: παρεἰσδύ(ν)ω pareisduno {par-ice-doo'-no}
 - Definition: “to enter in secretly”; “to slip in stealthily”; “to steal in undercover”
- These were men *claiming* to be Christians, but were, in fact, **ungodly** in their thinking, teaching, and living.
 - These men had a “form of godliness.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
 - They are like the Pharisees and Sadducees. (Matthew 23:25-28)
 - They use flowery and flattering words rather than preaching **ONLY** the written Word of God. (Romans 16:18; Jer 23:17;)
 - They profess to know God but their actions and lives tell a different story. (Titus 1:16)
 - They use Scripture but twist and pervert it. (Mat 4:6; 2 Cor 2:17; 4:2; Col 2:4)

- These men were **DECEITFUL**.
- Consider **our** many warnings:
 - Jesus warned, “BEWARE of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly they are **ravenous wolves**.” (Matt 7:15)
 - Jesus’ parable of the wheat and tares. (Matthew 13:24-30)
 - Jesus’ repeated warnings that many false teachers would deceive many. (Matthew 24:5, 11, 24; 7:15)
 - Jesus warned of the “leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” (Matthew 16:5-12)
 - Paul’s warning in 2 Cor. 11:13-15 – Satan an “angel of light” and his ministers masquerading as “ministers of righteousness.”
 - Paul’s warning to the **elders** of the church in Ephesus that “ravenous” wolves would rise up from **within** them and lead many away. (Acts 20:29-30)
 - Paul warned us, “A little leaven leavens the whole bunch!” (Galatians 5:9; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7)
 - Paul’s warning that in the latter times (our times) that many will go away from the faith and follow doctrines of demons. Doctrines of demons are taught by men – false teachers. 1 Timothy 4:1.
 - John’s warning that **many false teachers** have already gone out into the world! 1 John 4:1.
 - Peter’s warning that **many would follow false teachers**. (2 Peter 2:1-3)

YET, Unnoticed! (Jude 4)

- Despite all these warnings these men were able to get into the churches **unnoticed!** As Christ taught in the parable of wheat and tares. (Matt 13)
- UNNOTICED because there was NO WATCHING (Ezekiel 3:16-21) and there was NO TESTING (1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:21; Eph. 5:10; Rev. 2:2)
- UNNOTICED because no OVERSIGHT! (Heb 13:17; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Acts 20:28)
- UNNOTICED because the church **elders** and **members** failed to heed the warnings of Christ and the apostles and did not obey their commands!
- If you are NOT WATCHING and you are NOT TESTING **you ARE deceived!**
- Today’s (not the Bible’s) test: If a person says he is a Christian then he is accepted as a brother in Christ!
- **False DOCTRINE is DEADLY.**
- Again, we are warned to beware of the **leaven** of false doctrine. (Matthew 16:11-12; Galatians. 5:9)

They Corrupted Grace

- GRACE: God giving ungodly (Romans 5:6) people what they do not deserve.
- We are SAVED by GRACE. (Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9)
- GRACE **transforms** us into NEW CREATURES! (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 2:10)

- These **ungodly** men turned the GRACE of GOD into licentiousness (absence of moral restraint, indecency, wantonness) – Those who believe this way follow the evil lusts and desires of their flesh. (Gal. 5:19-20; Eph. 2:2-3)
- These people say, “We are saved by GRACE and we are no longer under the LAW, so we can live as we want. The Law was for the people of the Old Testament, not us!” (A misinterpretation of Romans 6:14)
- **These false teachers turn OBEDIENCE into LEGALISM. When the Bible teaches OBEDIENCE equals love for God and His Law.**
- **BUT** the GRACE we receive at REGENERATION “teaches us to **deny** ungodliness and worldly lusts” and teaches us “to live soberly, righteous, and godly lives in this present age.” (Titus 2:11-12; 1 Thess 4:7; Heb 12:14).
- GRACE **transforms** our minds (we begin to think like God; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16); our emotions (we love what God loves and hate what God hates; Psalms 97:10; 119:97, 104, 163); and our wills. (Philippians 2:13)
- Those who LOVE the LORD love His Law and walk in His commandments. (1 John 2:3-4; 3:24; 5:2-3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; Psalm 11:1-3; 119:1-3)

They DENY that Jesus is God (Jude 4)

- The Greek construction demands that Jude is speaking of ONE PERSON and the SAME PERSON in the phrase “the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Timothy 1:1; 2:3; 4:10; Titus 1:3-4; 2:10, 13; 3:4; Jude 25)
- They denied that Jesus was God. They denied the LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ.
- When one does not bow to the LORDSHIP of Christ they believe that Jesus is not God.
- They called Jesus Christ Lord but lived as they wanted to live! (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Titus 1:16)
- 20th Century teaching: You can have Christ as your Saviour and later in life make Him Lord of your life. – THIS IS BLASPHEMY!
- You cannot have Christ as your Saviour if you have not totally surrendered to Him as Lord - Ruler, Master, Owner. **There is no other teaching in God’s Word.**
- Today it is used to communicate that I can interpret the Word of God as I please and that I can determine for myself what is truth and what is sin! “I am free in Christ!” **THIS IS NOT THE FREEDOM CHRIST CAME TO GIVE US!** (John 8:32, 36)
- “Freedom in Christ” is to live as we **ought** (“obligation”; “duty”) not as we **want**. **THIS IS CONVERSION!** We **were** in bondage (enslaved) to sin, self, the world, and Satan. Christ set us FREE to live according to the will of God. (John 8:31-36; Matt 7:21-23; 12:50; Luke 11:28; 1 Pet 4:1-2; Rom 12:1-2; 1 John 2:17)
- “Freedom in Christ” is to present the members of our body (which belong to God) as instruments of righteousness. (Romans 6:11-13; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

- “Freedom in Christ” is to live “worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work increasing in the knowledge of God.” (Col. 1:10)
- “Freedom in Christ” is not pleasing the lusts of the our flesh but walking in the SPIRIT. (Romans 8:5, 8; 13; Galatians 5:16-21; 6:8)
- “Freedom in Christ” is being a **slave** of God , having the fruit of righteousness and holiness and the end, everlasting life. (Rom 6:19, 22; 1 Cor 7:22)

They Are Marked for Condemnation

- AND SO ARE THOSE WHOM THEY HAVE DECEIVED!!!!

Why Does an Almighty God Allow False Teachers

- ★ GOD IS THE CREATOR! (Genesis 1:1) EVERYTHING is His. (Psalm 24:1; 50:12; Deuteronomy 10:14; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Job 41:11)
- ★ GOD IS SOVEREIGN! Everything, good and evil, are under His control. (Lamentations 3:37-38; Isaiah 45:7; Amos 3:6)
- ★ GOD DOES WHATEVER HE PLEASES! (Psalm 115:3; 135:6; Daniel 4:35)
- (Job 12:16) “The deceived and the deceiver are His.” (Ezekiel 14:9)
- (1 Kings 22:22-23) God uses deceiving spirits to fulfill His purpose!! MEDITATE, BE FILLED WITH AWE, and TREMBLE.

GOD Is a Testing God

- ✓ GOD TESTS OUR FAITH! (Exodus 15:25-26; 16:4; Deut 8:1-3, 16; **13:3**, Gen 22:1; 2 Chronicles 32:31; Psalm 81:7; 66:10; 17:3; Proverbs 17:3; Judges 2:21-22; 3:1-4; Psalm 105:19; Eccl 3:18; Jer 11:20; **1 Peter 1:7**; 1 Cor 10:13)
- God tested Adam and He tested the second Adam. (Matthew 4:1-11)
- God tested Abraham. (Genesis 22)
- God tested His people in the wilderness. (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- (Deuteronomy 13:1-5) - **a test of LOVE!** Do we love God in keeping His commandments and serving Him, clinging to Him.
- (1 Corinthians 11:19) - Notice the “must”! - In order that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

How Are We to Contend Earnestly?

- BE DISCIPLES - SERIOUS STUDENTS of GOD’S WRITTEN WORD. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Read, study, memorize, meditate on the Word which is profitable for DOCTRINE. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- We must be students of DOCTRINE (**the faith**). (1 Timothy 4:13, 16)
- Know Satan’s tactics (2 Corinthians 2:11; Genesis 3:1-5; Matt 4:1-10)
- Test Everything by the written Word. (Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11; 1 Thess 5:21)
- Test Everyone. (1 John 4:1; Revelation 2:2)