

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

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

Chapter 2- The Doctrine of Sanctification **Jude 1**

7. Beloved in God the Father- Part 3

WOSM Tuesday 11/13/07; WPAS Tuesday 04/29/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse journey through the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about being the "Beloved in God the Father" - so let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 1** again together:

Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over what Jude meant here in verse 1 when he said that those who are called and preserved in Jesus Christ are also those who are "the beloved". So, I want to continue to look at the Doctrine of Sanctification today so that we may see how Sanctification affects us today.

Now the Bible teaches repeatedly and very clearly that what is wrong with fallen Man is sin. The Bible says that Man is lost and blind and dead and separated from God- not because he has low self- esteem- and not because he doesn't know the six laws of prosperity or the nine secrets of success- but Man is separated from God because Man is sinful, and God is holy.

The unconverted world says that men who do "bad" things are "bad" people and that men who do "good" things are "good" people. So, the unsaved world teaches that we must "do good" things and therefore we will be "good". So, the world teaches that through education and developing opportunity and through money- we all- everyone- has the ability and the potential to make himself to be "good".

The world teaches that we all have deep within us a power; a source a virtue that is locked up which has the ability and the power to cause us to be "good". So, the secret to being "good" according to the lost

world- is to uncover that inner power and that inner strength and that inner source and to feed it and develop it and then release it and then we can heal ourselves from all the “bad” and become “good people”.

And this is the foundational teaching of the religion of Humanism or the man-made “gospel of self” and this is where we get all the unbiblical terms that you hear every day such as “self- esteem”; “self- help”; “self- fulfillment”; “self- motivation”; and “self- actualization”. Notice that all of these terms have to do with exalting and magnifying the “self” of Man- and not God- and all of these terms teach that we have what we need already *inside* of us and so our goal is to reach down deep inside to “release” and manifest that *internal* goodness that is already there.

And the summary of this false teaching is that it reaches the false conclusion that what is *wrong* with Man is what lies *outside* of him- externally in his environment; in his lack of opportunity and his lack of money and that this is the reason for crime and poverty and low expectations and injustice and unfair treatment. This false teaching goes on to say that what is *right* with Man is what lies *inside* him- this inner power and strength that- like a sleeping giant- is only waiting for us to buy the books and the tapes so that you can rise and be free.

Let me say to you that this “gospel of self” is sweeping America today and the most popular teachers that you see today on what some call “Christian” television is preaching this false gospel. This “gospel of self” is what Paul called, “another gospel” and is not the Gospel of God. But even though this other gospel is not of God- it is becoming the most popular teaching in the modern Church today- as millions of lukewarm and undiscerning people nod their head in agreement to teachings that are patently pagan, fully evil, and ungodly and completely unbiblical.

The Bible teaches just the opposite of the “gospel of self”. The Bible teaches that what is *wrong* with Man is what is *inside* him- a wicked heart; a fallen nature; a mind that conceives mischief and evil; and an internal natural and normal inclination to rebel against God and to do what is right in his own eyes and enjoy self- fulfillment.

And the Bible goes on to teach that what is right with Man lies *outside* of himself- in Heaven; in the Bible; in the Person of Jesus Christ and that only by repenting of his evil and his fallen ways and by trusting in the finished Work of Christ alone can fallen Man be saved.

The “gospel of self” says that what is wrong with Man is low self-esteem- but the Gospel of God says that what is wrong with man is sin. The “gospel of self” teaches that by thinking well of yourself and by building up your own vision of yourself- you can become “good”. But the Gospel of God teaches that no man is good and that every man is sinful and that only by dying to self and crucifying the flesh and mortifying the deeds of the body can we please God and attain the fullness of joy.

The “gospel of self” teaches that God is there to please Man and to give Man what he wants. The Gospel of God teaches that Man was created by God to honor and serve and obey and follow and love and worship God. The “gospel of self” teaches that trials are bad, and we need to rebuke the trial or cry out against it or bind it. The Gospel of God teaches that trials are a necessary part of our sanctification, and we are to yield and surrender to the flames as God the Good Vinedresser prunes us and changes us and molds us and forms us into the Image of Jesus Christ.

The “gospel of self” says that seeing is believing. The Gospel of God says that we believe so that we may see. The “gospel of self” teaches that unless we get more money and own the things our hearts lust after- we cannot really please God. The Gospel of God teaches that godliness with contentment is great gain. The “gospel of self” says that we can ask what we will so that we may consume it on our own lusts. The Gospel of God says that God will change our desires to make them holy so that when we pray- we will pray in the Will of God.

The “gospel of self” says that more material possessions are a sign that God is pleased with us- so the goal is to get more and more stuff. The Gospel of God says that covetousness is sinful, and that materialism is covetousness that always dishonors God. The “gospel of self” teaches that God wants us to be happy. The Gospel of God teaches that God wants us to be holy. The “gospel of self” teaches that we are free to be all that we can be. The Gospel of God teaches that unless obey God as His bond-slaves- we are rebelling against Him.

The “gospel of self” teaches that true joy lies in self- fulfillment. The Gospel of God teaches that true joy lies in self- denial. The “gospel of self” teaches that to be fulfilled is to be lifted up and made much over- while the Gospel of God says that for any man to reach the fullness of joy- he must be humbled down at the Feet of Jesus. The “gospel of self” teaches that we can walk and enjoy the broad road while

the Gospel of God says that straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life eternal and that the pathway of the believer is so rare and so hidden that few even find it.

The “gospel of self” pleases Man; it sounds so good to Man; it just makes sense to Man and is so uplifting and sounds so empowering. But the Gospel of God pleases only God- to the detriment of Man and is patently offensive and insulting to unconverted flesh and is brutal on human glory and is harsh to human empowerment.

The Word of God says that men sin precisely because in their fallen nature- they are already sinners. Therefore, lost men don’t need therapy; they don’t need to build up themselves- that is the opposite of what we need. To build up a lost man’s opinion about himself is like pouring gas on fire- he will never come to Christ like that. As long as any lost person thinks that they can change themselves; as long as a lost person has any hope at all that they can do something by a through their own power they can improve their own condition before God- they will never come to Jesus.

So to preach self- esteem to a lost man is to *guarantee* him to stay lost. To teach lost souls that all they have to do to be good is to improve their own condition is to *guarantee* that they will never come to Christ for Salvation.

What lost people need is to be torn down. They need to have the staff of their pride broken by the preaching of the true Gospel of God. They need to be stripped of their fallen nature of rebellion and arrogance and be reduced by the Power of God to a broken, weeping, helpless, pitiful man who cannot lift up his eyes, but who beats his chest in agony, crying out- “*Have mercy on me a sinner!*” Hear me clearly on this, beloved- you will never get that result from the “gospel of self”.

After Job lost his seven sons and three daughters and all that he owned, and after he was struck with boils from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet- his sinful wife came to him and told him to just curse God and die. And what this woman was saying was what many in the modern Church believe today. They believe that unless you are rich and increased with goods and unless you are healthy and unless you get everything that your lusts crave for- then God is not with you, and you need to be ungrateful and to be discontented and gripe and complain and bellyache and charge God with being unfaithful.

Job's wife could have gotten her own show on the Hay, Wood and Stubble Television Network as she taught her "Man centered" theology. Mrs. Job believed that because evil had come to Job that obviously God had forsaken him. She was telling Job that because bad things had happen to him- that all was lost. She was saying that because Job had tasted of sorrow and because Job had been pruned and that because Job was in a trial that the devil had won, and that God had lost. Mrs. Job's doctrine would be very popular today.

But thanks be to God that Job knew that his wife was wrong. Job had a "God centered" theology and while he may not have understood everything that was happening to him- he trusted God and he correctly knew who was in charge of his Sanctification- God was. So, after hearing the news of his children being killed; after receiving the news that he had lost all of his fortune; after receiving the news that he had lost all of his possessions; after being struck with boils all over his body; and after his ungodly wife had tried to get him to blame God look at what Job did and said in **Job 1:20-22:**

20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD ."

22 Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

Now the Apostle Peter also believed correctly about Sanctification. Peter taught under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost that God will actually *confirm* our faith *because* of our sufferings in this life when he said this in **1Peter 5:10-11**

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

11 To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Those whom God used to pen down the Old Testament also had a God centered theology about Sanctification. Listen to what David wrote in **Psalms 34:19:**

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

David understood what so few understand today that God not only has guaranteed that the righteous will go through many afflictions- but God has also guaranteed that He will deliver the righteous out of every one of them!

An incorrect understanding about *why* trials come and *why* suffering happens and *why* troubles come to those who serve God results in much agony that are unnecessary. Trials are God's loving Plan to test His people. Troubles *prove* our faithfulness. Temptations manifest our love for God. Persecutions establish our loyalty and Suffering as a Christian brings honor to God.

Modern theology that is Man based and Man centered cannot see any purpose or any good in people hurting so they denounce Biblical Truths and follow the ways of those who know not the Gospel of God. But God's sheep will hear God's Voice about this matter and will rejoice when they are confronted with their tests and will endure sanctification to the Glory of God.

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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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.