

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

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

Chapter 12- The Characteristics of the Heretics **Jude 12-13**

145 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 23

WOSM Tuesday 05/27/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of Jude and today we want to continue to look at what Jude taught about “The Characteristics of the Heretics”. So, let’s open our Bibles and read verses 12&13 of Jude again together:

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Now in these two verses, Jude says that the heretics are like five natural phenomenoms:

- Hidden Reefs
- Clouds Without Water
- Autumn Trees Without Fruit
- Raging Waves of the Sea
- Wandering Stars

In our study, we have already covered the first three characteristics and today I want to continue to examine the fourth characteristic of the heretics that Jude shows us in verse 13. Jude says that the heretics are like:

wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam...

Now one of the fascinating things about Jude's description of the heretics in this verse is him likening them to an uncontrollable natural phenomenon like raging waves. Waves that rage are uncontrolled and unproductive and always cause disaster for anyone or anything that is caught in them. No good can come out of a ship that is caught in a raging wave- it will be come shipwrecked. And like the waves that rage- false teachers bring shipwreck to those who listen to them and follow their teachings. Let's read again **Isaiah 57:20&21:**

20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.

21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

The prophet Jeremiah said this about the false teachers in **Jeremiah 49:23:**

Concerning Damascus. "Hamath and Arpad are put to shame, For they have heard bad news; They are disheartened. There is anxiety by the sea, It cannot be calmed.

And Peter illustrated the turbulence of the heretics in **2Peter 2:12-14:**

12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you,

14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

Again, quoting the Puritan Thomas Manton in his commentary on Jude, Manton said that the heretics,

“... filled every place with their trouble and strife”

With all their empty talk and self serving activity- the heretics rage like waves and in the end- all that they do is cast up their own shame. Their disgraceful attitude and actions froth up to display all forms of heresy, deception, immorality, irreverence, and insubordination.

Jude says that the false teachers,

Cast[ing] up their own shame like foam

And that has tremendous significance to us today as I will try to illustrate. In order to show you exactly how this happens, let's read from the Book of the prophet **Micah 3:5-7:**

5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray; When they have *something* to bite with their teeth, They cry, "Peace," But against him who puts nothing in their mouths They declare holy war.

6 Therefore *it will be* night for you — without vision, And darkness for you — without divination. The sun will go down on the prophets, And the day will become dark over them.

7 The seers will be ashamed And the diviners will be embarrassed. Indeed, they will all cover *their* mouths Because there is no answer from God.

Now back in Bible times, “shame” was a serious issue. But the Biblical shame does not mean the same thing as shame does today. They used the word, “shame” differently and for a different reason than we use that same word today. Today, when we speak of shame, we basically mean “embarrassment”. But during the time when the Bible was being written, “shame” means something all together different.

The Old Testament word that was translated as “shame” here in **Micah 3** comes from the Hebrew word, *buwsh*, which means: *to be disconcerted, condemned; and to bring dishonor to family country, people, or to God.*

In **Genesis 2:25**, when the Bible says that the man and the woman were naked and were not ashamed- that doesn't simply mean that they were not embarrassed- no, the Biblical word, “shame” has nothing to do with how we feel about ourselves. Biblical shame is the fact that we are condemned by God- whether we feel anything or not.

Now there is a philosophy that is prevalent today that says that as long as I do not personally *feel* bad about something- and this logic says that since I don't personally feel bad or embarrassed about what I am doing- then that means that what I am doing is really not wrong.

But please hear me when I tell you that- that approach to right and wrong is not true and should not be utilized by the believer. Right and wrong are eternal, absolute truths that are not determined or changed by how we feel. Right and wrong are determined by what God has said and has revealed to us in Scripture.

The word, "shame" as used in a Biblical sense is not about how the person feels about himself- but "shame" as used in the Biblical sense is the state of being condemned and the state of bringing dishonor to God even if the person is not personally convicted about it.

That means that in the case of Adam and Eve- they were naked- yet they were not ashamed because at that time- they were not yet condemned by God; they were naked and yet were not in the wrong according to God's standards; they were naked and yet did not bring dishonor to God.

How could Adam and Eve be naked and not bring dishonor to God? Because their eyes were closed. They had not yet eaten of the forbidden fruit yet and their eyes were not opened. But after they ate of fruit- their eyes were opened, and they had shame and they were condemned, and they did bring dishonor to God so even after they sewed fig leaves together to make themselves aprons- it wasn't enough to cover their condemnation. So, God had to do for man what Man was unable to do for himself and God Sovereignly sacrificed an animal and God shed its blood and God provided a way for the sins and the damnation of Man to be paid for. God became the first tailor, and He killed animals and made His fallen creation coats of skin to cover their nakedness.

Today, people can uncover their nakedness and personally feel no shame at all. In fact, many today are bringing forth new and creative ways to be naked and yet personally feel no condemnation for it. The reason that they have no personal shame is not because it is okay or godly to walk around half naked- it isn't. The reason that people today can uncover their nakedness and feel no shame is because their hearts are hardened, and their consciences are seared with a hot iron, and they are no longer convicted about what they

should be convicted about. And this is not growth- it isn't spiritual advancement- no, it is a symptom of our backsliding.

Yet even though they walk around without receiving any *personal* shame- they still bear the Biblical shame because they are in fact bringing dishonor to God and they are in fact condemned by God for showing their nakedness.

So even though they don't know it; even though they bear no personal embarrassment about their sin at all; even though they are laughing and think they are having a good time- these people are existing in Biblical shame due to the fact that what they are doing is Scripturally condemned and Scripturally dishonoring to God. This is the difference in Biblical shame and our own personal shame.

God did not accept Adam's effort at sewing fig leaves together. This tells us that human effort at covering his sin is not enough for God. Blood must be shed, and the condemnation of sin must be paid for.

The point here is that the Bible says that when their eyes were opened, and Adam and Eve knew that they were naked- they reacted to their sin with embarrassment and personal shame, and they hid themselves. Because their hearts were not yet hardened- personal shame made them hide because their personal shame was the product of knowing that they were wrong and condemned and that they had dishonored God by rebelling and eating the fruit of the only tree that they were told not to eat.

All during the Old Testament, shame was brought on those who were wrong with God and in rebellion to His ways. For example- in **Psalms 31:17**, David said,

Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I call upon You; Let the wicked be put to shame, let them be silent in Sheol.

King David was drawing the distinction between those who were condemned by God and those who weren't condemned. And again, when he says here, **let the wicked be put to shame**, he was not talking about the wicked being embarrassed- he was talking about them being condemned. The Apostle John said this in **1John 2:28**:

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

Now this goes way beyond simply being embarrassed at the coming of the Lord. No, John didn't want us to be *condemned* at the coming of the Lord. And let's read what Paul told Timothy in **2Timothy 2:15**:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Now here Paul is telling Timothy to set aside dedicated, consecrated and uninterrupted times of intense deep, serious line upon line; and precept upon precept study of the Scriptures so that Timothy would become a skilled craftsman and so that his understanding of Sound Doctrine would be accurate so that he could rightly divide the Word of Truth. Now why did Paul want Timothy to do this? So that Timothy would not be condemned – not simply so that he would not be embarrassed.

So, when Jude is telling us in verse 13 that the heretics “foam out their own shame”- he is not telling us that these people are embarrassed about what they do- because most of them are not embarrassed at all. I wish that they were embarrassed. I wish they were convicted about the false hoods and the perversions and the lies and the things that they say that the Lord told them when they know full well that God didn't speak to them at all. I wish that they were embarrassed- but they are not but that is not what Jude us telling us here.

Jude says that deceivers “foam out their own shame” in the sense that what they preach; what they teach; what they speak about is condemned by God and it is dishonoring to God even though the heretics feel no personal embarrassment about it at all. These people have lied so long and deceived for so long- that they feel no personal shame at all- no embarrassment at all for what they are saying and what they are doing. But that hardness of their heart in no way alleviates the eternal shame and condemnation that Christ has for them as people who are trying to pervert the right way of the Lord.

And this is why we all need to earnestly contend 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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