

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

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

Chapter 14- A Further Description of the Heretics **Jude 16** 159 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 5

WOSM Monday 06/16/08

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 "A Final Description of the Heretics." So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 16** again together:

These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an advantage*.

Now in this verse- Jude says that the false teachers who creep into the Church to deceive the simple are:

1. Grumblers
2. Those who find fault
3. Those who follow their own lusts
4. Those who speak arrogantly
5. Those who flatter people for the sake of gaining an advantage

Now we have already gone over the first three descriptions of the heretics and today I want to look at the fourth description that God, the Holy Ghost gave to Jude.

4. Those Who Speak Arrogantly

Now we need to understand that words are very important to us. We use words to communicate our thoughts and ideas. And so, the *way* we use those words, and the meaning of those words is all important if we want to make our thoughts known.

God uses words also. Let's look at **John 1:1**:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Now from this, we can see that the Word of God established all things. Let's read **Hebrews 11:3**

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

But God's Words are different from our words. What God speaks is perfect and it is always right; it is always holy; and it is always true. We believe and teach that God's Word is unique because it is inspired. That means that God's Word is *theopneustos*- it is God Breathed. God's Word was literally *exhaled* from the Mouth of God. God's Word is inerrant- which mean that it *does not* contain any error and God's Word is also infallible- which means that it does not possess the ability to be in error.

God's Word is also reliable and trustworthy; and we teach that God's Word is also authoritative and that means that what men think and what men say is subject to God's Word. And everything that God says is also relevant and eternal. So, the Words that God speaks should be highly valued; they should be respected; studied; loved honored; trusted and obeyed by those who desire to love and serve Him.

So, it should come as no surprise to anyone that it is God's Word- the Words that God has spoken- that are always under attack by satan and those who follow him. And this didn't start recently- it started way back in the beginning. Let's read **Genesis 3:1-6**:

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

So, Satan began his evil work against God by challenging what God had said. He asked Eve, **“has God said?”** Satan was asking Eve, *“Did God really say that? Are you sure that God really said that?”*

And Eve made a feeble attempt at trying to defend what God had said- even adding some things that God never said- but the seed of doubt against what God had spoken was now planted in her heart and the Fall was soon to come.

Now this is a great lesson for us today in how satan operates. Satan does not have the power or the ability to *make* you sin. No, satan can only trick you by questioning what God has said and by twisting it around and by making it look different by making sin look attractive. And once sin looks attractive- it is only a matter of time before you engage in it.

If satan can make sin to be less than what it really is- a horrible insult to the holiness of God- we will gladly partake of it. So satan’s job is not to force you to act contrary to your will- it is to manipulate you into thinking that sin is not as bad as God says that it is and by fooling us into thinking that sin gives us some sort of comfort or benefit.

Now God had already spoken very clearly to Adam in **Genesis 2:16-17:**

16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Now the Word that God spoke to Adam here was crystal clear. There is nothing hidden in what God said to Adam. And Adam understood it very well. But when Eve tried to tell the serpent that God said that they would die if they ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree- what was satan’s response?

You surely will not die!

So satan lied to Eve. But it is much more than a simple lie- it is a direct attack against the inerrancy and authority and trustworthiness of the Word of God. Satan then twisted what God said so that the very thing that God prohibited became attractive.

For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

God said, *"Don't eat it or you will die."* The devil said, *"Naw... you won't die- go ahead and eat it- it will make you wise like God."* You see, the battle here was not over Eve's ability to resist the lies of satan- the real battle was- "what exactly did God say?" Satan took what God said and changed it into being just the opposite of what God intended it to be. And we have to know, dear friends, that satan still does that today. And this is the long, protracted war against the Truth. This is the very definition of deception and false teaching and heresy.

So now Eve was fooled; she was tricked; she was shrewdly manipulated into believing a lie. But Adam was not fooled. Adam *wanted* to sin- but Eve was deceived. And Eve was fooled about what God had said. And this is exactly what our struggle is all about today.

The biggest battle that we face today as sons and daughters of the Lord Christ is- "what did God say?" So as believers- when you get ready to do something- you ask- *"Is this pleasing to the Lord?"* And there is only one way to know the answer to that question- "What does Holy Scripture say about it?" What does God's Word say?

So, when we try to decide what is right and what is wrong, we have no other option other than to go back to Scripture to find out what God has said about that issue. Any other attempt at determining right and wrong will fail you. So, the knowledge and understanding of what God has said is paramount- if we are to conduct our lives in a way that will please God.

So, the more understanding that we have about the Word of God- the less opportunity that satan has to deceive us. And the less that we know about what God said- the more we are a sitting ducks for the whiles of the wicked one.

Now since this is true- you would think that all believers would pack out the Churches so that they can be taught and so that they can learn just what God has said. But surprisingly- that is not the case.

Today in the modern Church fewer people seek to know what God has said than at any time in Church History. And Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings are least attended services that any Church conducts. Truly Satan has twisted God's Word in the minds and hearts of many people today. But how could this possibly be?

One reason for this mystery is the difference between entertainment and edification. Entertainment pleases the flesh and makes no demands on the lives of those who engage in it; while edification strengthens the inner man at the expense of the flesh and always makes demands on the lives of those who engage in it.

People who are lukewarm or unsaved will always choose entertainment over edification- precisely because they do not love God and do not seek to serve God on His terms. But people who are genuinely saved understand the value of being edified at the expense of simply being entertained.

So, if a Church has a so-called "Christian" concert- you can pack the house out and even sell tickets to raise money. If you invite somebody famous to speak- a Hollywood type or a sports hero- or a comedian- you can pack the house out. But call a fast or an all night prayer meeting or a serious; line upon line; precept upon precept study of the Bible- and you will find that you could have enough room to put elephants in every pew.

And the real difference between these two things lies in the difference between the nature of Satan and the Nature of God. Let's read again **Genesis 3:1:**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

Now the word that was translated into English here as "crafty" is the Hebrew word, *aruwm*. And *aruwm* means: *to be shrewd or crafty*.¹ So we can see here that Satan was more shrewd and more crafty than any other beast that God made. But there is another definition of the word, *aruwm*, that is often overlooked; *sensible*. To be sensible means: *having to do with or appealing to the senses of man; to be sensual*.²

¹ Hebrew, *Brown Driver- Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* (Hendrickson Publishers, 1996)

² *Ibid.*

So, something that appeals to the natural senses means that the fleshly, carnal, human, sensibilities of man are encouraged or satisfied by what is sensible. So, to be sensual is the act of replacing or substituting *spiritual* things with those things that appeal to our natural senses. So, we must realize, beloved, that being sensual is the opposite of being spiritual. Satan is an expert at doing this. Let's read **James 3:15**

This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural [sensual], demonic.

And **Jude 19**

These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded [sensual], devoid of the Spirit.

The Bible says that the serpent challenged what God had said- but he didn't stop there. He then took the very clear Word of God and twisted it until it became unclear. He took "No" and made it to be "Yes." He took what was known and made it unknown. He took something simple and made it complicated and he took what was prohibited and made it to be desired.

Jude says that the heretics follow in this same path. The deceivers take something that God has said and they twist it to become something that God did not say. They take a prohibition and make it a desire; they take a "No" and make it to be a "Yes." They use the very same method that Satan used by substituting sensibility or sensual-ness with spirituality. They give people what they want; what will make them feel good; what will build up their own opinion about themselves instead of what they need. In other words- the false teachers speak great swelling words.

Satan's job is to first cast doubt upon what God has already said. This is why we are bombarded today with so-called "lost books of the Bible;" New takes and interpretations of established Doctrines; Fresh Revelations from so-called prophets; and a whole host of people who claim a special ability to hear the "Voice of God;" or to see Visions; or to have dreams, and engage in angelic visitations. None of these things are designed to make people understand what God has already said- no,

they are all designed by the devil to cause the canon of Scripture to become less authoritative; less relevant; and less important to the people 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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