

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**

164 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 10

WOSM Monday 06/23/08

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 on today's broadcast- we are continuing to examine the fifth description of the heretics- those who have:

5. Flattering People for the Sake of Gaining an Advantage.

Now we have already seen that this sin is done when the preacher or teacher changes or alters the glorious Gospel in order to keep the support of people who would be offended if the Gospel was preached in its fullness. This sin is also committed when godly and biblical correction is not given to someone who desperately needs it because the minister fears that if he gives the correction that is needed- the person will leave the Church and take his money and prestige with him. So unfortunately- many times- holy correction that is sorely needed is withheld-and the person simply goes on sinning without being warned. Please read with me just how terrible this is in **Ezekiel 3:18**. God says to the minister:

When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that

wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his ^ablood I will require at your hand.

The false teachers would never go to anyone to correct them because they themselves do not live in a holy way and they want support more than they want people to live for God. And this is one of the main differences between a true man of God and what Jesus called a hireling. Let's read **John 10:12&13:**

12 "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*.

13 "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.

Now the word, "hired hand" comes from the Greek word that means: *one who is bought or influenced with money or power or both*. So, any person who is in the ministry, who is motivated to say or not to say something because of money or power or both is not a true man of God- dear friends- but is, in fact, a hired hand. This person will be glad to change God's Word in order to attract a following; he will be happy to leave out important parts of the Divine Message in order to keep those who support him; he will be willing to even tell a lie in order that he may become rich and powerful.

But as bad as this is- we have to realize that both the people who support a man like that as well as the man himself are both wrong. Both of them are wrong. Now there are many people who personally would never want to hold a position of authority in the Church. They want the Pastor or the Deacons or the Elders to have that seat of responsibility. But because of their money; or because of their influence- they seek to control those people who do hold the office.

This is not only wrong- but it is a wicked and evil sin because they seek control over the man of God and that is the textbook definition of what witchcraft is all about. They don't want to personally stand before the people- but behind the scenes, they seek to pull the strings of the leader and to dictate to him what he can and cannot do or say.

Now when I talk about these things, dear friends, I am not talking about the preacher having a license to do and say anything that he wants to or that he is allowed to be rude or oppressive. That is always

wrong and is not of God. But I am talking about false teachers who refuse to help people confront their sins because he has men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Now the weak, effeminate hireling will succumb to this kind of manipulation; but a true man of God will not. A hireling speaks what he is *allowed* to speak and what he is *told* to speak by other people. But a true man of God speaks God's Word rightly, fully, and fearlessly.

Now on the surface- everyone *says* that they want the pastor or teacher to speak God's Word unhindered and unfiltered- until of course that pastor steps on *their* toes and then suddenly everything changes.

And there is an old saying and that illustrates this point and that saying is "*It all depends of whose ox is being gored.*" We all have a tendency to say "*Amen*" when someone *else's* sin is being revealed, but when *our* sin is uncovered- all of a sudden it's a whole new ball game. When the preacher is faithfully preaching against the sin of others- we are all in agreement. We send him letters thanking him for telling the Truth and shaking his hand and thanking him for being a man of God.

But when that very same preacher uses the very same Bible to preach against *our* sin- then that very same man suddenly becomes our enemy, and we get offended and take our ball and go home.

But brothers and sisters- we all have to come to the conclusion that the Bible is true, and the preacher's job is not to make friends or to crack jokes or to tell us what we want to hear. The preacher's job is to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ without regard to who it is touching or who it is disturbing.

Recently, someone called me and told me that a particular message that I had preached on the radio had deeply disturbed them. Now normally, I do not seek to disturb anyone. So, I became concerned that perhaps I had said something that wasn't true. So, I ask this person to tell me what day it was. I pulled the transcript and read it through. I then listen to the tape of that message to be sure that what I had said was what God's Word said.

The issue was about whether someone should be comforted about their Salvation when they do not love or serve Jesus Christ. Is it possible to love God and not obey Jesus? The Bible says that it isn't. Is it possible to be saved and not be changed? Again, the Bible says that it isn't. And for some reason this issue is very controversial to many people- but one in which we all have to settle in our hearts.

Again, my duty; my responsibility is not to preach what is popular. It is not to preach what the most commonly held position about issues is. My duty before God; my solemn responsibility; is to accurately, as best as I can- portray to the people that which God has revealed in his holy Book. And then it is all of our jobs to humble ourselves to the authority of God's Word and say, "Amen" to what God has said.

It is everyone's responsibility to verify that what is preached is Scriptural- and then if that blesses you- then Praise God! But if the Truth disturbs you- if what is clearly taught in Scripture bothers you- then you might want to go back and find out *why* God's inspired, divine Truth bothers you so much and perhaps you need to make that right with God.

Perhaps God's Word troubles you because you have never heard that issue taught properly before and it is new to you, and you are unfamiliar with it. And that may well be the answer. If so, then go back and study that subject and find out all that God said about it and then you will be familiar with it.

But there is another possibility that we must allow. It may well be that you are deeply disturbed about divine Truth because you are not really saved. It may well be that you have been deceived into *thinking* that you are born again but you are really lost, and it may well be that God has chosen you and that God loves you and that God doesn't want you to be lost; and so God loves you enough to convict your heart and trouble you and disturb you so that you will seek true Salvation. And so, God deals with fools like me to speak to your madness so that you will turn and be saved.

I am not trying to be controversial- brothers and sisters- I'm really not. I'm not seeking to be controversial or antagonistic. I am simply preaching verse by verse through the **Epistle of Jude**. I didn't write this Book, beloved. I had nothing to do with the Words that Jude was inspired by God to use, and I have nothing to do with what those words mean. I mean, when God put the **Epistle of Jude** in the Bible- He never even called or consulted with me about it- can you imagine that?

But I believe that the Words of Scripture do mean very specific things. And I do not believe that *anybody*- including me- has the right to redefine what words mean- especially inspired, inerrant, infallible

Words. We cannot and we better not just make up definitions and terms that suite our own fancy.

No one- not me; not the pope; not Billy Graham; or the pastor of the First Church of the semi delivered has the right or the authority to interpret these holy Scriptures privately or by using their own human reasoning or logic. And the reason that I say this is because that is what the Bible says about itself. Look with me at **2Peter 1:20&21**

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation,

21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Now please remember that you are free to disagree with me all day long and still be in right standing with God. But what you are not free to do, dear friends, is to disagree with Jude and Peter and Paul and John and still be in right sanding with God.

We have got to agree that **2Peter 1:20&21** actually means something. And if these verses do not mean what I just said that they mean, then please tell me what they *do* mean- because we have to agree that they mean *something*.

And this is why we must not ever believe in pastoral or papal infallibility. It is ridiculous and Unscriptural to assume that because a frail and flawed man stands behind the pulpit or sits in a chair and speaks- that what he says is infallible. Now it is good to honor ministry. It is correct to respect the man of God. But to assume that simply because of who a particular man is or to assume that by virtue of the office that he holds that God has somehow removed his ability to be wrong is simply nonsense and is not taught in Scripture anywhere.

Verse 16 of Jude tells us that some men in the Church will have men's person is admiration because of advantage. Jesus warned us about the hirelings who would not protect the sheep, but would only take care of themselves.

Beloved, we live in the time that Jude warned us about. We live in the day that Paul and Peter said was coming. Will you listen?

They laughed at Jude. They mocked his concern. They minimized his earnest plea. They told him that he was off base. In Pergamos, the leaders of the Church unanimously rejected Jude's warnings and as a

group that issued a proclamation rejecting the thought that Church people could even be deceived. This is the same church that 26 years later had one group teaching the Doctrine of Balaam and another group teaching the Doctrine of the Nicolaitans right in the Church. And Jesus said that it was precisely because the Church at Pergamos had these two false doctrines abiding in the Church that He was calling them to repentance.

Do you see the day in which we are living? Do you see the value of knowing and loving and living and defending the Truth? If so, then get into God's Word; study to show yourself approved unto God; Make sure that what you are being taught is from God; live the life that you know is true and do all things to the glory of God alone. And join with me and we all 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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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.