

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

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

Chapter 16- Winning Souls in an Age of Apostasy **Jude 22-23**

198 Winning Souls in an Age of Apostasy Part 10

WOSM Friday 08/08/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today we are going to continue to examine what Jude taught about "How to Win Souls in an Age of Apostasy". So, let's read **Jude 22& 23** again together:

22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting;
23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

Now over the last several broadcasts, we have been dealing with the issue of fear. Is fear from God? Is fear something that is useful and productive in the believer's life? And we learned that if by "fear", you mean timidity and cowardice- then no, it would *not* be useful or helpful- in fact it would be a hindrance. But if by "fear", you mean a reverential and holy respect- then yes, this kind of fear is very useful and very productive for the believer. In fact, a lack of *this* reverential and holy respect is very, very displeasing to the Lord and a great hindrance to the believer.

And on the last broadcast, we were going over this fear in the context of our comprehension of why sin is wrong. And today we want to use this very same reverential fear that Jude talks about here so we can develop a correct view of Salvation.

You see, dear friends, Salvation is good- not just because Salvation benefits us- but Salvation is good because Salvation glorifies God and therefore sin is bad- not because sin negatively affects us- but Sin is bad because Sin offends God.

When you understand this, when you can grasp that none of

this is about us- it is all about God- then you realize that the worst thing that we can ever possibly do is to sin.

Many modern preachers are saying that the worst thing that can happen to us is that we are not happy or that we don't have fun or that we don't have enough money or that we suffer illness or that we don't get that new car or that we can't send our children to that fancy school or that we can't buy that new TV.

Some of these false teachers say that sin is nothing more than people not realizing their full potential in this life. Beloved, that is absolutely false. Sin is a horrible offense to the holiness and the righteousness of God. Sin insults God, Sin is the manifestation of Man rejecting God; Sin is rebellion towards God; Sin is Man imposing Man's ideas upon God. Sin is shaking our fist into the Face of Almighty God. Sin is our refusal to bow before God. Sin is our arrogance in seeking to lift ourselves and *our* ways and *our* ideas and *our* desires and make them equal with God. Sin is wicked. Sin is evil. Sin is as black as night. Sin is as cold as Antarctica and will send you into the Lake of fire. Sin is not cute; it isn't funny; and it isn't little. Sin is big- real big- and even though the modern Church does not dwell on the importance of sin too much anymore- rest assured that God does.

And we must come to terms with the fact that God is very serious about sin. If you ever want to know just how serious that God is about sin- all you have to do is look to the Cross of Calvary and see the very Son of God hanging on that Cross- suspended with three spikes; His beaten, bloody Body writhing in pain and agony as He screams out from parched and swollen lips, "**My God, My God Why have You Forsaken Me**"? That is how serious sin is to God.

Christian brothers and sisters, Sin is such a horrendous offense to the very Nature and Character of God that it required nothing less than the brutal torture and death of His own Son to pay for it. So, the next time you want to minimize those little "white lies" think about Jesus and let that sobering thought enter your mind.

Sin is so evil and so pervasive in the human heart; it is so natural for humans to sin that God said this about sin in **Genesis 6:5**:

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Think of this. God uses words like “**great**” and “**every**” and “**only**” and “**continually**” in this verse. God is telling us here that since the Fall of Adam in the Garden- that Sin so affected Adam that all of his children became what theologians call- depraved. The Bible says that the sons and daughters of Adam were so radically affected by the Fall, that it did damage to their very *nature*- not just their actions.

This verse tells us that the Fall of Man in the Garden was so great that it didn't just affect Adam- but the Bible clearly teaches that the very same guilt of Adam's Sin was then imputed or credited to every single living human being at the very moment of conception.

That means that David was right when he said in **Psalms 51:5**:

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

And that means that Paul was right when he said in **Romans 5:12**:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned —

And he was right when he said in **1Corinthians 15:22**:

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

This is what is called, The Doctrine of Original Sin and this Biblical Doctrine teaches that not only do all men have the very same sin nature of Adam- but this Doctrine also teaches that all human beings are personally guilty of the sin of Adam from the very moment of conception.

Now the reason that all this matters to us is that many of us were taught that Man is born basically good, and that while we are basically good people, we have a few areas that need some work; some areas of our lives that need improving; some areas that need fixing.

Those of you who have been following my teaching in Jude may remember that when I was dealing with verse 4, I covered the seven major roots of heresy and that one heretic, named Pelagius was the first man after satan in the Garden to formalize the thinking that Man is born basically good into a written teaching and bring this false doctrine into the Church in the fourth century.

And 1700 years later, the overwhelming majority of every human on earth believes that Man is born basically good but just has a few areas of his life that need to be improved or strengthened or corrected. Some of the most recognizable names in our American History believed that and talked about it often including Thomas Jefferson and Ronald Reagan.

But with all due respect to these and many more who believe that Man is born basically good, Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Reagan were wrong about Man. The Bible is clear- Man is not born good; Man is born bad. The Bible teaches that Man is not good at all- that we are basically evil, and it is not true that we have just a few areas of our lives that need to be improved. No, the Bible says that Man is lost; that Man is separated from God and that he is an alien and a stranger and is without God and is without hope. The Bible says that by nature, we are the children of wrath.

The Bible doesn't teach that we need to *improve* our lives- No, the Bible says that we need to be born again; we need to be redeemed; we need to be re-created!

The Bible says that every human born after Adam is conceived in iniquity and born in sin. The Bible says that every imagination of our hearts is only evil continually. Pretty bleak picture isn't it?

So, to teach that Men are good is to teach contrary to God's Word. To teach that all we need to do is become educated or become wealthy or become sophisticated or become cultured and that our education and our wealth and our sophistication and our culture can lift us up out of sin is patently false.

Brothers and sisters you cannot educate your way out of sin; you cannot remove sin from your life because you increase your wealth or your holdings or your status in this life or because you become technologically advanced. Those things do not have the power to remove sin.

And we who attend Church must also know that we cannot worship our way out of sin. We cannot deliver ourselves out of sin and no one can lay hands on us and remove sin from our lives. We cannot sing our way out of sin; and we cannot praise our way out of sin.

The Bible says that we have to repent our way out of sin. And the only way that we are going to repent is if we understand that we have transgressed against the Lord and the only way that anyone knows

whether he has transgressed against the Lord is to know what the Bible says about sin. So Biblical knowledge leads us to the knowledge of sin; and a Biblical knowledge of sin leads us to repentance and repentance leads us to Salvation.

The more we know the Bible, the more we comprehend how holy God is and the more that we see God in His holiness- the more we will see just how hideous our sin really is. And the more that our sin becomes visible to us - the more we understand just how offended our righteous God is over our sin. And the more that we realize how offended God is over our sin- the more that fear rises in us- that reverential godly fear. And the more that godly fear is a part of our lives- the more capable we will be to overcome the world and the less we will sin.

So, if all of that is true, then the opposite is also true. The less we know about the Bible- the less fear will be in us and the more we will sin.

Some would ask, *“But I don’t have to worry about that now that I am saved, right?”* Beloved, the only people who need to be concerned about sin are the people who still sin. If you have stopped sinning and are now perfect and sinless, then you don’t have to worry about sin- but that would mean that you are either dead or not born and so if you are human and if you are alive – then you still sin whether you are saved or not and so since we still sin and since sin is still just as offensive to God now as it was 6,000 years ago- I repeat- the biggest concern that we should have as a believer is how can I cease from sin?

So, I said all of that to say this. Since it is true that we are sinners by nature and since we still have a proclivity to sin- even after we are saved- and even though we have a new nature- that new nature is entombed in a sinful body and that sinful body lives in a sinful world and since it is true that we are bombarded every day with things which feed our lusts and we are confronted with temptations all around us- and since it is true that sinning against God is a far greater horror than to miss a blessing or to not be healed or to not acquire more of this world’s goods- that sinning against God is by far the greater terror- since all of that is true- here is the sum of the matter.

So, I say to you that a correct and Biblical view of God and His Majesty and His Omnipotence and His Glory places fear in our hearts- and that fear- that reverential and holy respect for God’s righteousness

and God's Wrath and God's Justice- that kind of fear does indeed restrain men from sinning and so it is very useful in our war against the world and the flesh and the devil.

So, I encourage you today, my brothers and sisters in Christ to look at God as the Bible reveals Him to be so that you may rightly fear God and so the good and holy fear that you receive from looking at God correctly may restrain your flesh from sinning and so that you and I may earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered unto the saints.

Well, I have 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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