

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

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

Chapter 17- Hating the Garment Spotted by the Flesh **Jude 23**

202 Hating the Spotted Garment Part 4

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Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about “Hating the Polluted Garment”. So, let’s read Jude 23 again together:

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 gone over the issue of hate and today I want to focus on just why Jude wrote this. As I have said many times, the **Epistle of Jude** is the only Book in the entire Bible that deals exclusively with heresy and heretics. This is the only Book in the Bible that deals exclusively with the long, protracted War against Truth that the devil has been waging for 6,000 years.

So, Jude went to great lengths to warn the Church about the issues of false doctrine and the personal and spiritual characteristics of the false teachers so that all believers would hear a clear sound of the trumpet that would call us to battle.

Now here in the last part of verse 23, Jude tells all of us that we should hate,

... even the garment polluted by the flesh.

This action that Jude instructs us to take has to do with the purity of the Gospel. So, I want to go over this in detail so that we may have a full understanding of what this means to us today.

So, I want to begin with some very clear and direct assumptions that everyone should have about God and the Bible and the Gospel and

Salvation and Sin and Righteousness.

The first assumption is that there is only one God. There are not two or three or nineteen. All other so-called “deities” beside this one true, living God or all other objects that Man has deified are all false. **Deuteronomy 6:4** declares:

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

Now because this is true- because there is only one God- all other “gods” or all the other “deities” of all the other religions of the world are evil and wicked counterfeits to the one true living God. And this also means that any attempt at making something else to be God or any attempt at worshipping anything else, but God is idolatry.

So, for example, when President George Bush says that Allah is an “equal” god to the Lord God- or that Islam is a “sister faith” with Christianity- we must reject what he says and know that what he is saying is not true.

But that also means that every religion and philosophy on earth beside Biblical Christianity is a *false* religion that does not honor or bring glory to God- but is in *opposition* to the God of the Bible.

So, the assumption that we must make is that because God is God- He is exclusive and the very fact that He is God rules out that anyone else or anything else can be God.

So, God stands alone- the sole Lord and Owner of all Creation. And because He is so different from His Creation- He stands alone- all by Himself and that “aleness”- that “otherness”- that “exclusiveness” is what makes God to be what we call, “holy”. The word, “holy” means, “set apart”. No one or no thing is as holy as God is because no one or no thing can every be as “set apart” as God is set apart from all that He has made.

So, because God is “set apart”; because God is holy- because no one or no thing can every be compared to or be equal with God- He rightly deserves to be worshipped; adored; feared; loved; honored; and obeyed by all that He has made.

So, since that is true- any attempt at not worshipping this one true God, Who alone created all things is literally robbing God of the glory and adoration that He is entitled to receive- and is therefore- sin.

And God is right to be angry at sin and God is right to punish sin

because sin displeases Him, and sin brings Him no glory. Therefore- anything that does not bring glory to God is sin. Paul put it this way in **Romans 14:23**, when he said,

... whatever is not from faith is sin.

And this is what John meant when he said in **1John 5:17**:

All unrighteousness is sin: ...

Now because God is God- He is correct to exercise His Lordship or ownership over all His Creation. And God exercises His Lordship over His Creation by *limiting* the freedom of what His Creation can do and by *limiting* the boundaries by which His Creation may function and operate. And these boundaries and these limitations are not arbitrary- but are specifically designed to bring God the Glory that He is entitled to receive from that which He made.

Waterfalls operate precisely the way they operate in order to bring Glory to God; stars operate within the limitations and boundaries that they operate in precisely so that they may bring glory to God. Trees and animals and birds and fish are limited in what they can and cannot do by the Lord Who Created them so that in operating within those boundaries they bring Glory to God. This is what the various writers were saying when they wrote:

Psalms 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains...

and

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

and

Psalms 97:6

The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples have seen His glory.

So that means that a sunset was not made to simply to be pretty or even to take our breath away- although it certainly does do that. But these verses tells us that a sunset is operating precisely the way that it does in obedience to the precise limitations and specific boundaries place upon it by the God Who created it and by operating within those boundaries and limitations- the sunset is not just being pretty- the sunset is bringing glory to God- and to God alone.

So, we are right to marvel at a sunset- not to honor the sunset but to honor God even though it is true that as the sunset operates within the boundaries in which God has established for the sunset to operate in- it does bring a certain degree of honor to the sunset. But we must take heed to ourselves that we do not stop there. We are to marvel at a sunset so that we may glorify the God Who *created* the sunset. You see, to simply marvel at the sunset and not marvel at the God Who made the sunset would rob God of the Glory that He is rightly entitled to receive and is therefore sin. And for anyone to go so far as to actually *worship* the sunset or the tree or the star or the thunder or the river or the mountain or the earth or the sky or the bird or anything that God has made including Man; for any one to worship anything that God has made would be idolatry because it would be to give adoration and attention to the thing that is made and steal that adoration from the God Who made the thing.

So, sin is sin because sin robs or steals or confiscates Glory and Praise and Worship and Wonder and Love and Obedience and Honor that rightly belongs to God and gives it to some one or some thing else. So, we define sin as any attempt by anyone for any reason to take the Glory that only God is entitled to receive and gives it to anything else for any reason.

So, let's review; God set up boundaries and limitations over all His Creation for the sole purpose that by His Creation operating and functioning within those limitations and boundaries God will receive all Glory from them. And the issuing of those limitations by God is how God exercises His Lordship over His Creation. When the Creation operates within those limitations and boundaries- the Creation is bringing Glory to God. By operating outside those limitations and boundaries or by even trying to- robs God of the Glory that He is entitled to receive and is therefore sin.

Now I would guess that almost every single person who just heard

all that would agree with it. But here's the rub- what is true for the waterfall is also true for Man. What is true for part of God's Creation is also true for all of God's Creation. And we must realize that Man is a part of the Creation of God and therefore the sole duty of man is to bring Glory to God by loving God and by obeying God and by living and functioning and operating within the limitations and boundaries that God has established.

And therefore- any attempt by any man to operate outside those limitations robs God of the Glory that God is entitled to receive from Man and is therefore sin. And it also means that the way that God exercises His Lordship over our lives is by setting limitations and boundaries as to what we may or may not do; how we may or may not live; and how we may or may not think; and what we should and should not believe.

And so there would not be any mistake about what those limitations and boundaries are- God inspired more than 40 men over a 1500 year time frame to pen down those specific limitations and those exact boundaries and compile them into the one single rule of Faith and Practice; the one single measurement of Divine Truth; the one source of all that we need for life and godliness and that is what we call the Holy Bible.

And so, learning what those limitations are- is worshipping the God Who gave them. Studying those boundaries- is to worship the God Who gave them. Valuing them to the point where we are willing to struggle against the lusts of our flesh by the Power of the Holy Spirit to joyfully and humbly submit to the Authority of Scripture in our daily lives- all to God's Glory- is worship. And by placing a high value on that which God has said and by holding what God has said in the highest esteem- that is actually worshipping the God who spoke the Words. That is what worship is.

But if we are to bring glory to God; if we are to cease robbing God of the Glory that He alone is entitled to receive; if we are to not steal God's Glory- the only way for us to do that is by going to the next level and actually DO what those words say and by actually obeying and by submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ by humbling ourselves to those limitations and by graciously bowing to those boundaries and actually applying them to our lives. And only then are we able to live in the way that God Created us to live and by living in the way that God

created us to live- only then can we truly give Glory to God and to God alone.

So, any attempt to live *outside* the established boundaries and any attempt at trying to push beyond the limitations that God has set up by exercising His Lordship over us- is sin. And no sin can ever bring Glory to God.

So what Jude is telling us is that by submitting to the limitations and by bowing to the boundaries that God has established for us in His Word- we are then able to be pure and clean and free to bring Glory to God

But since we are sinners by nature- we have no normal desire to bring Glory to God- we want all glory for ourselves. We have no desire to live under the limitations that God has established. Our nature is such that we want to rob God of His Glory. So, in order for us to bring Glory to God- our nature must be radically changed. And the only way for our nature to be changed is to be forgiven and saved through the shed Blood and the Lamb of God and having the sinless righteousness of Jesus Christ spread over us as a man would put on a garment.

So, I ask you, *“Is your garment pure and clean today? Do you bring Glory to God, or do you rob God of His Glory? Are you living under the limitations that God has established, or do you do what is right in your own eyes?”* Come to Jesus today and beg Him for forgiveness and confess your sin and trust Christ for Salvation and He will take your filthy spotted garment and give you a new garment that is created in righteousness and true holiness.

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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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.