

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

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

Chapter 6- The History of Heresy **Jude 4**

63. The History of Heresy Part 33

WOSM Friday 02/01/08

Welcome again my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue our examination of The History of Heresy by looking at the fourth verse of Jude- so let's read verse 4 together:

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are continuing to study about who these "certain persons" that Jude talks about here in verse 4 really were, by studying the seven major groups of heresy and today we are continuing to examine the heresy of Pelagianism which attacked the Christian Church late in the fourth century over the Doctrines of Original Sin and the Total and Complete Depravity of Man and the Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man.

Last time we saw how that the Bible teaches that all men are born in sin and are shaped in iniquity from the moment of conception. We saw that the Bible is clear that all men have inherited the fallen nature of Adam and all men are guilty of Adam's sin by virtue of Adam having transgressed in the Garden.

Pelagius rejected the Doctrine of Original Sin and taught that men were born as "a clean sheet of paper" and were not affected by the Fall at all. So it fell to Augustine to defend the Scriptures about Original Sin and he did.

The debate between Augustine and Pelagius in the fifth century over Original Sin began a war that has lasted unto this day. The

debate rages today as strong as ever over just how “fallen” Man really is and what the implication of the Fall of man has placed upon the human race.

The Secular Humanists, who are the heirs of Pelagius, do not believe that Man is fallen at all. They don’t believe that Man is lost and they don’t believe that Man needs a Savior. They teach that Man simply needs more money or more education or more opportunity- but the Humanist don’t believe that Man is lost or depraved or ruined or separated from God- no, the heirs to the Pelagian heresy believe that Man is just fine.

This is why the goal of the Humanist is to exalt Man. To exalt Man is the highest order of Humanists and their most noble effort and the very notion of Original Sin or of Man’s Lostness or of the need of Repentance or of Salvation or of a God that is Righteous and Holy is an insult to the Humanist.

So, the Pelagian worships *himself*. His most valuable commodity is *himself* and he is the highest order of being that can exist. This is why the Humanist tries to build up the god of “self”. Self-esteem; self- fulfillment; Self- help; and Self- worth are all humanistic terms that the heretic Pelagius invented and that have filtered down through the centuries and which are now trying to enter into the modern Church under the guise of the Health, Wealth, and Prosperity Doctrine.

It is from this false Pelagian and Humanistic assumption of Man that we are taught foolish and silly notions about Man’s behavior that do not work and which are in conflict with what Scripture teaches. For example- Humanists cannot bring themselves to say that a person is “evil” because that is a moral declaration and the Pelagian thinks no one is evil. The Pelagian thinks that some men might need more money or more education or a change in their external environment- but the Pelagian would never say that anyone is truly “evil” because they believe that all men are “good”.

It is from this false and unbiblical concept of Man that has begun to dominate our American culture as to why we hear about rapists not going to jail because they are too short; or child molesters being released from prison because they have an emotional problem; or mass murderers being let go because their mother wouldn’t let

them have a puppy when they were young. Truly Pelagianism and the results of Pelagianism are alive and well and living among us today.

Pelagians do not say that men are “evil”- they say that men are “sick”. And because Pelagianism has convinced modern America that the Bible is wrong about Man and wrong about Original Sin and wrong about human responsibility- we now teach that people who get high on drugs or alcohol; or people who refuse to exercise self- control over their sexual needs; or people who will not cease from public displays of wickedness are not really sinful- they are just “sick”- and it isn’t their fault. And I want to say as clearly as I can to you- that is a lie.

Pelagianism and Secular Humanism is an evil and destructive lie because it feeds the fallen nature of fallen man to the degree that men no longer understand that they are lost and have the need of a Savior. Let me give you one very clear and real life example of how the Pelagian heresy of 1600 years ago that teaches that original Sin is a myth is destructive.

Many of you are old enough to remember life in this country before 1964 when President Lyndon Johnson instituted his “Great Society Programs” that brought in Federal Programs like Welfare, Medicare and Medicaid. Before 1964- all medical professionals; all ministers; and most all of American society knew that people who lived the life of a drunk were people who were lost and needed to be saved. These professions were all in agreement that those who got high on drugs were people who had a *behavioral* problem and that there was no medical cure for these things. They knew that God could help these people- but they knew that they couldn’t treat them *medically*. But contrary to popular opinion- Alcohol and Drug use is *not* a medical problem- it is a problem of the soul of fallen man and it is a *spiritual* problem.

Prior to 1964, the medical profession and the law enforcement officers and the general public pushed these people towards the Church so that they would be saved and supernaturally delivered from their sin by the shed Blood of the Lamb of God and so that Jesus could give them the power to be free and to live free. And we have the wonderful and God honoring collective testimony of hundreds of thousands of people who have been totally set free by repenting of

their sins and by trusting Christ for Salvation- just like the Bible teaches.

So the goal- prior to 1964- was not just to get them off alcohol; the goal was not to simply stop them from sticking needles in their arms; the goal was not just to teach them how to read and write and how to get a job and balance their checkbook- the Church did all of these things- (and by the way- the Church did then and still does all these things today cheaper and better and more efficiently than all the Federally funded programs that exist.) But the real goal then was to preach the everlasting Gospel to these people so they could realize that they were lost and so they could repent and so that Jesus would do what only Jesus can do and that is save them to the uttermost and completely deliver them forever by the supernatural miracle of the new birth.

But after 1964- almost overnight- these social and behavioral and sinful problems all of a sudden became “medical” problems which would no longer be dealt with by the Church- but which would be “treated” with clinics and halfway houses and centers and through therapy and through 12 step programs and through telling these people that it isn’t their fault; that they are really not bad people at all but are victims of bad parenting and that they are sick with a “disease” and that they have to learn how to “co-exist” with their sin and what they need is for people to understand that they have a sickness.

But what changed? Why did the medical profession suddenly stop telling drug users and alcohol users to go to Church and get saved? Why did the American Psychiatric Association stop telling these people that they needed to be saved? Why did American society start calling sin a “disease”? Was there some new medical breakthrough? Surely some fantastic new research had come forth that proved that 1,964 years of effective Gospel ministry was wrong. Surely there was some technological science that proved that people cannot help what they do, and they are not responsible for what they do, right? I mean surely it had to be something large and huge and big and overwhelming and irrefutable for this nation to stop proven methods of dealing with sin in society and start down the road that we are on today.

Yes, it was something huge alright. It is called money. The only thing that the Great Society programs of 1964 did that changed this nation from looking at sin in a Biblical way and start looking at sin from the Pelagian and Humanistic perspective is that in 1964, the Federal Government of the United States starting paying money to people to treat these problems.

But there was a price to pay to get the money. If Doctors wanted to get paid- they had to stop calling these activities “sinful” and they had to start calling these sins “diseases”. Was there any medical research done at all to verify that sinful behavior was in fact a “disease”? No there was not. The medical profession simply changed the way they looked at the problem. So, in 1964, with absolutely no research or no proof at all- the medical profession in this country almost overnight threw away a Biblical view of sin that had been in use for over 5,000 years and adopted a Pelagian and a Humanistic view of sin so that they could be paid for treating it.

So now after implementing a Pelagian and Humanistic view of sin in these areas for over 40 years- what have we accomplished? Today we have more drug users than we have ever had; we have more people who abuse alcohol; and we have more programs than we can shake a stick at. Today we have rehab centers and jails and even morgues filled with millions of people who have bought into the lie that sin is a “disease” and is not wrong and it isn’t their fault.

I tell you that what we have done to people in the name of mercy and love is a sin and it isn’t love at all and it certainly isn’t mercy- it is a lie and we are helping thousands of people go to hell because we have told them that they are not sinful and we have told them that it isn’t their fault and we have told them that they are not responsible and we have told them that they don’t need to be saved and we have told them that they don’t need to repent and we have told them that they are okay- but the Bible doesn’t say that. The Bible clearly teaches that we are all sinners and that sin is an offense to God and the Bible says that all sin is evil in God’s Eyes and the Bible says that it is their fault and the Bible says that unless they repent- they will go to hell and the smoke of their burning will ascend forever.

True love would preach the Gospel to these people. True love would tell them the truth. True love would give them space to repent and work with them and weep with them and pray with them and

encourage them- but true love would never let them think that it is okay or that it doesn't matter or that it isn't their fault.

I have spent years of my life working with the worst people in our community. I have stayed up all night walking the floor with people who have overdosed on drugs . I have spent hours at three in the morning trying to reason with a drunk. I have held people in my arms who were dying with AIDS and by God's Grace, I was privileged to lead some of these people to Christ. But I never lied to them. I never disguised or diminished their sin. I never told them it was okay. It is true that not all drug users will be saved by these efforts just like it is true that not all bankers or lawyers or doctors or even pastors will be saved by the foolishness of preaching. But that is the method that God has chosen. We who are saved are commanded to work with everyone and preach the Gospel to every creature and so we preach. We must understand that everybody is not going to be saved. All men are not going to be saved- but if *any* will be saved- it will only be because we did not hesitate to warn them of the wrath of God that is relentlessly bearing down on them. If *any* will be saved at all- it will be because we are faithful to preach the Gospel rightly and fully and fearlessly to ever creature and that we who preach don't become ashamed of this Gospel.

To tell anyone that sin is a "disease" is to doom them to hell. To try in any way to deflect the sting of conviction against sin in them is to contribute to the lost staying lost. Any effort by anyone for any reason to mute the Words of God against sin is not noble – it is wicked.

Because we are sinful creatures; because we are born under the curse of original sin; because we have a fallen nature- we are separated from God. Our actions for the most part are offensive to God and they are an affront to his holiness and righteousness and they are not acceptable in His sight. We are so utterly lost that we cannot save ourselves and any effort to try to save ourselves is not good- but is an insult to the crucified Christ and the Cross of Calvary.

I tell you that Pelagianism doesn't work. It doesn't work because it is a lie from hell. Secular Humanism is cruel joke perpetrated upon the world by evil men like Pelagius who hated God and who didn't believe the Bible. Jude says that people who espouse Humanism and people like Pelagius are evil men who were ordained

for condemnation and Jude tell us that we need to wake up and smell the coffee and we need to repent and get on the firing line and we need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I'm out of time for today- 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.