

# 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**

#### 76. The History of Heresy Part 46

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WOSM Wednesday 02/20/08

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 there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus**

Now we are continuing to study about who these "certain men" that Jude talks about here in verse 4 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, the Total and Complete Depravity of all Humans, the Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man.

On the last broadcast, we saw how that the Scripture is clear about the Fall of Man and Original Sin. We see that because the Fall of Man radically ruined all mankind, we are entombed in sin and unable to save ourselves. This has the effect of leaving Man desperately wicked and desperately in need of Salvation.

The Pelagian Controversy of the fourth century underscores the importance that one Doctrine plays on the others. Pelagius began his heresy by attacking only one Doctrine of the Bible- the Doctrine of Original Sin- but as he did so- that attack eventually forced him to also attack what the Bible taught about the Sovereignty of God and eventually Pelagius as forced to even reject what Gods' Word taught about Justification because all of these Doctrines are attached.

This goes to a truth that we all need to know- you cannot alter or change one Biblical Doctrine without affecting all of the others. You cannot change one verse of Scripture without doing damage to the others. You see, although the Bible has over 40 writers- the Bible has but one Author. God, the Holy Spirit authored every word and every Book of the Bible and that is what makes the Bible the most unique and important Book in the world. The Bible is the inspired divine revelation of God to Man- authored by God; about God; for God's own Glory.

So, everything that we need to know about God and life and godliness is in the Bible. That is why it is so wrong to formulate any Church Doctrine on anything else except through what Scripture actually teaches. Human ingenuity and human ideas and human thoughts are all wonderful in their place- they help us build bridges and fly a man to the moon- but because we are sinful creatures- we cannot speak words that are pure and inspired unless we quote from the Bible. All our other words and all our other statements are tainted with pride and covetousness and envy and jealousy and anger and malice and strife and greed and fear because all human thoughts; all human words; all human inventions and all human designs are based on selfishness and the glory of self. Everything in the Bible is based upon God and the glory of God. So, all Church Doctrine must come from that pure heavenly source and not the impure carnal source.

So, when we are trying to consider the Fall of Man and the implication that the Fall of Man had upon us all- we must work real hard to resist the temptation to lean to our own natural understanding and our own human logic and we must turn to what God has said and we must believe and trust that what God has said about Man and his fallen state is true and complete and accurate.

As I have showed you on previous broadcasts, we tend to compare ourselves with other humans in our assessment of our own spiritual condition.

We take someone that we know is holy- like the Apostle John and we say to ourselves, "*Well, I'm certainly not that good.*", and then we take someone that we know to be evil, like Adolf Hitler, and we say, "*But I'm not that bad, either.*" Then we make the mistake of taking comfort in the fact that because we are not as bad as Adolf

Hitler, we are okay and the fact that we fall short of being like John seems to just fade away.

Some may say, *“Well, I know that I’m no saint, but I try to do good things.”* And we miss that the reason that people make that statement is not because they value what saints do- but because they know in their heart that they are in fact not a saint.

My Christian brothers and sisters, we must understand that God is not going to judge us in that fashion. God is not going to use that criteria when we stand before Him. Listen to these chilling words of John as he wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost in **The Revelation 20:15:**

**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

Now it is fine that you may be against abortion; and it is wonderful that you have signed the petition to be against same sex marriage. It is commendable that you are trying to get your Congressman to secure the border and that you support our troops in the War against Terror. I applaud you for joining all the right marches and being on the right side of all of these issues and of wanting responsible judges and of wanting to recapture our culture.

But may I say to you that as you do all these things and as you are on the right side of all of these issues will you please make sure that your name is in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Because even though you are conservative and patriotic and a member of all the right organizations- you must know that they cannot wash your sins away and they cannot purge your black heart and they cannot save your soul and they cannot change your dead life and they cannot regenerate your depraved nature and they cannot open your eyes to God.

And if you do all of this and yet remain in your sins, you will spend all of eternity in the Lake of Fire with the homosexuals and with the abortion doctors and with the secular Humanists and with the very ones that you opposed- so while I agree with almost all the social agendas that are put forth today by the modern militant church- I say to all of us that we must care for our souls more than we care for television programming. We must watch our hearts more

than we watch the news and we must make sure that we are in the Faith or else we also shall perish.

Our understanding of the horror of sin is directly linked to our view of the Righteousness and Holiness of God; and our comprehension of the magnificence of Salvation and the splendor of Grace is directly formed by our view of the Total and Complete Depravity of Man.

If you and I do not fully and completely grasp the enormous impact of the brilliance and the spectacular majesty of God's infinite Righteousness and Holiness- you will miss; you will ignore; you will marginalize and rationalize- yea, you will not accept the correct and the proper weight and shame that sin should bring into your mind and heart.

We tolerate sin today, more than any generation before us precisely because we have lost a Biblical definition of the Sovereignty of God and the result is that we do not fear God. We will not overcome sin; we will not put forth effort to mortify the deeds of our bodies; we will not push up the mountain in order to crucify our flesh; we will not value the importance of denying ourselves and picking up our crosses and following Him daily until and unless our hearts become ablaze with the absolute glory and brilliance of God's Person and Character.

It is true that we tolerate sin because we do not hate sin and we do not hate sin as God hates sin because we do not see God as the Bible declares Him to be. We have committed the horrible sin of making God to be nothing higher than Man and nothing more valuable than Man and nothing more important than Man and we have sinned in so doing and we must repent and we must bow down low and we must exalt God into His rightful place as Master and Lord and Sovereign and King and Father and Creator and we must look up to Him and in order for us to look up to God, we must lower ourselves to our rightful place and position and that is at His Feet.

We have lost our concept of Original Sin and we have taken on a pitiful replacement to the Biblical teaching of Human Depravity- where the goal of God is to exalt Man and that is a terrible lie.

I cannot say this with any more passion and trembling than I am right now, but beloved, we must return to the Biblical view that says that God's sole purpose for doing everything and anything in the earth is for His own Glory- period.

- ✓ We are Predestined for His Glory- **Ephesians 1:6**
- ✓ We are Created for His Glory- **Isaiah 43:7**
- ✓ We are Elected for His Glory- **Jeremiah 13:11**
- ✓ He Saved His People from Egypt for His Own Glory- **Psalms 106:8**
- ✓ He Rescued from the Exile for His Glory- **Isaiah 48:9-11**
- ✓ He sent Christ into the World so that the Gentiles would praise God for the Glory of His Mercy- **Romans 15:9**
- ✓ He commands His people that whatever you drink or eat or whatever you do- do all to the Glory of God- **1Corinthians 10:31**
- ✓ He will send Jesus the second time so that the redeemed will marvel at His Glory- **2 Thessalonians 1:9**

Pelagius was successful in the fourth and fifth centuries to hide the Glory of God from the eyes and ears of many people by lifting up Man's importance higher than the Bible does. You see, dear friends, any doctrine that exalts man is not of God. The entire Bible is all about exalting God. The Christian breathes and his heart beats to glorify God. We seek no glory for ourselves, and we should never allow any teaching to cause us to think that man is worthy of exaltation.

Many of the modern doctrines of the Church seek to build up man at God's expense- those teachings are false, and they do not glorify God- they only feed the pride and arrogance and corruption of fallen Man. Pelagius did the Church much harm to blend Christianity with Humanism and call it good. It isn't good; it is rotten to its core and must be rejected by the believer.

Now it is also true that until we get a Biblical understanding of Human Depravity- we cannot comprehend how precious and how glorious Salvation really is. Today we do not value our Salvation- this devaluing of Sovereign Grace is the direct result of an unbiblical view of Human Depravity.

You see, if you don't really think that you're that bad- then while Salvation may be nice- it certainly isn't very valuable. If you view yourself to already be good- then being holy is just a little step up, right? I mean if Man is really not sinful and if Man is really not depraved; if Man is really not corrupt in his heart- and Man is really just as good as he can be- then Salvation isn't really that big of a deal, is it?

But we must take caution, because if we perceive ourselves to be good and noble and honorable and just in God's Eyes, then we find ourselves to be in direct opposition to the Word of God that says that there is none righteous, no, not one and we also find ourselves in direct opposition to the God that wrote that there is none righteous, no, not one.

The confusion over man's inherent goodness is the legacy that Pelagius left the Church, 1600 years ago. And even though 16 centuries have passed- we are still fighting that very same battle today- and what is so troubling is that many of the things that Pelagius taught are actually more popular and believed by more people today than they were when he brought them forth in the fourth century!

My brothers and sisters, we must recapture these great Biblical truths and hold them and teach them and love them and uphold them for they are Scriptural, and they will guard our hearts.

Beloved, foolish and shallow and simple and carnal and surface teachings will not prepare your heart to meet God. Clever Slogans will not defeat Pelagianism. Symbols cannot overpower heresy. Christian comedians and rap music will not equip you to overcome the evil one. We are in a war- a long war and it is a war over the Truth; it is a war for the mastery of our souls. Like the War on terror- this war is a long protracted War, and it will only end when Jesus parts the clouds of Glory to return as King of kings and Lord of lords.

And this is why we must earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. May God help us all.

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