

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

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude** Chapter 9- Going the Way of Cain **Jude 11** 100 Going the Way of Cain Part 2

WOSM Tuesday 03/25/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing in our Journey through the Epistle of Jude and today I want to see what Jude meant when he pronounced an everlasting and eternal condemnation upon the heretics who bring in false doctrine and ungodly teaching into the House of God. So, let's read verse 11 of Jude again together:

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over just what Jude meant here in verse 11. We can see, beloved, that Jude was comparing the heretics to three Old Testament men who sinned horribly before God. Those men are:

1. Cain
2. Balaam
3. Korah

God the Holy Spirit inspired Jude to say that the heretics don't just bear some vague *physical* resemblance to these three men, no, notice that Jude is very specific about the attributes of the heretics. He says that the heretics are like these three Old Testament characters in three specific ways:

1. They go
2. They rush headlong

3. They perish

Jude tells us that the heretics who preach false doctrine and who deceive simple minded and shallow sheep, “go in the way of Cain”; they rush headlong after error of Balaam for pay; and they perish in the rebellion of Korah.

Now on the last broadcast- we were looking at the first man that Jude compared the heretics to- Cain. And we saw that “going in the way of Cain” or operating in the same way as Cain is approaching God with a Man- centered theology that glorifies Man as opposed to a God-centered theology that glorifies God. And we saw last time how that these two theological systems are in direct completion with each other for our affections. So, accepting and walking after a Man- centered Theology is the same thing as “going the way of Cain.

For example, in a Man- centered Theology, Salvation is viewed to be “good” because it benefits Man and allows Man to go to Heaven so that Man can walk on streets of God and be reunited with his loved ones. And that’s that. That is pretty much the extent of what people think about Salvation under a Man- centered theological system- what benefits Man.

And that is true- to a point. Salvation *is* good for Man and those who are saved *will* walk on streets of gold- but Salvation is about much more than just that. So in a God- centered Theology, Salvation is viewed to be “good” because Salvation brings the ultimate Glory to God as God Sovereignly and through Grace and Mercy takes a black heart and washes it with red Blood and makes it whiter than snow. You see, dear friends- Salvation is all about you and me having the honor and the privilege of knowing God and loving God so that God can be worshipped in the manner in which He is entitled to be worshipped and so that our joy may be full.

You see, the very fact that saved people love God and enjoy God and delight themselves in the Lord whereas at one time these very same people hated God and cared nothing for God brings to God great Glory. It causes Grace to be magnificent in our eyes. It shows us God’s great Mercy and Kindness toward undeserving people. So therefore- only saved people can magnify the glory of God’s Grace in Salvation. Lost people magnify the glory of God’s Justice against their sins in eternal damnation.

Now to be sure, we will *greatly* benefit by going to Heaven and we *will* walk on streets of Gold and we *will* be reunited with our loved ones- but that is not the highest goal of Salvation. Salvation is not about Man; Salvation is all about God. And the highest goal of Salvation is that saved people have the honor and the privilege to worship and glorify and magnify the Grace of God in forgiving and rescuing unworthy sinners.

Let me give you another example of what “going in the way of Cain” is all about. In a Man centered Theology- or operating like Cain did- people want things and they crave after things and they desire certain things that may or may not be God’s Will. But what is or what is not God’s Will is of little or no concern to those who “go in the way of Cain”. They have been taught that they *deserve* these things or that they are *entitled* to them by virtue of being saved- when in reality possessing more this world’s goods is not their “right” and it isn’t even spiritual or godly. Most of the time- this is nothing more than carnal people coveting after more of this world’s goods and being deceived about it by calling it “holy”. And people do this with little or no concern about whether this is sinful or not because they have been deceived by false teaching that Salvation is all about them being blessed and accumulating glory for themselves.

In a God- centered Theology, however- people fully realize that they are unworthy sinners who have been graciously washed and saved by the precious Blood of Jesus Christ and they understand that they do *not* deserve the wonderful blessings of God. But they realize that in order to accomplish God’s Will on the earth- they have a need for certain things. And because God’s Will is of the utmost priority to these people- they pray and they seek for God to bless them- not so they can consume the blessing on themselves or to prove how spiritual they are- but so that through those blessings they may further the Cause of Jesus Christ on this earth. And these people operate like this because to *these* people- being blessed- accomplishes God’s Will and that brings Glory to God.

Those who “go in the way of Cain” and follow a Man- centered Theology are *never* content with what God has already provided for them. And this discontentment with what God has already provided produces a feeling of being unfulfilled and of being unsatisfied. And so, these people always want more. And what is even worse- they feel that

they *deserve* more and thus they feel deprived if they don't get more- so they will be very quick to murmur and very quick to complain and very quick to pout when they don't get more. This is why Cain became angry with God when God didn't accept his offering. And Jude is saying here that the heretics teach that this dissatisfaction and this being discontented with what God has already provided is not only acceptable- but it is actually being spiritual and operating in faith. And of course the net result of the false teachers teaching us to "go in the way of Cain" is that that the horrible sins of covetousness and greed and materialism are elevated and promoted in our eyes as being godly virtues and something that we should aspire to and something that we can attain to if only we exercise enough faith.

You see, brothers and sisters, a Man- centered Theology, or "going the way of Cain" is all about "self". And it is all about building up and promoting the "self" of Man. But a God- centered theology is all about God and the glory of God and the exaltation of Jesus Christ and the humiliation or the decreasing of the "self" of Man.

Pagan religions and man- made philosophies all throughout the centuries taught that building up the "self" of Man was the key to being godly. Secular humanism – which is the modern equivalent of the ancient heresy of Pelagianism that we studied- teaches that because men are born basically "good"- to build up the "self" of man is the highest goal. So from godless secular humanism we get terms like "self- esteem"; "self- fulfillment"; and "self- help"- concepts that are purely pagan and which have nothing to do with Scripture or Christianity and which are designed to do the very opposite of what the Bible teaches.

Biblical Christianity teaches that Man is born as a sinful and fallen creature- and so the building up of "self" is the very thing that a Christian would *never* want- because it is *impossible* to glorify God by building up "self". God is only glorified by the decreasing of "self".

Let me show you how this all works. Under a Man- centered theological system or to someone who "goes in the way of Cain"- things like Serving God; getting saved; doing God's Will are all fine and dandy as long as these things function on their *terms* and as long as there is something in it for them. Remember Cain was perfectly willing to offer God an offering- as long as he was free to offer whatever he *wanted* to and as long as he could offer it in the *way* that he wanted to.

But as soon as the chips are down or when serving God begins to make demands on their life and actually cost them something- those who “go in the way of Cain” lose interest in the things of God very quickly.

So you see, to the Cainites; to those who “go in the way of Cain” and operate under a Man- centered theology- serving God is all about what God can do for them. They are perfectly willing to put God “first” and even go through some degree of hardship- just so long as they are “second” and God comes through in a big and dramatic way by the end of the week. But for any of these people to actually deny themselves or for the Lord to ever dare to tell them, “No!”, or for them to actually give up something seems to them to be barbaric and unchristian.

But listen to these red letter Words from the Mouth of our Lord about what it really means to serve God in **Luke 9:23-26:**

23 And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

24 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

25 "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

26 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*

Those who “go the way of Cain” want God to perform in a way that they think He should. When you really see a demonstration of how those who “go in the way of Cain” act and treat and talk to God- it will frighten you. They treat God like He was a dog. They say to God, “*Come, Lord; Speak, Lord- bless, Lord; go, Lord; do this, Lord; do it now, Lord; give me more, God.*” Who do these people think they are and just Who are they ordering around?

Beloved, Cain was just fine until God required of him. Cain was just as happy as he could be until God told him something he didn’t like. Cain was in love with God just as long as God stayed in His place and did what Cain wanted him to. But we have to know that this is not serving God, dear friends- this is blasphemy. This is evil; this is wickedness personified. Cain was not trying to please God- he was

simply *using* God to get whatever he wanted from God- and when God didn't do what Cain wanted Him to do- He murdered the one who *was* submitted to God and who *did* please the Lord.

Those who "go in the way of Cain" are just fine with Church as long as they are blessed- but forget about them blessing the Lord- it is all about them. They give and do and they will worship as long as it is on *their* terms; as long as it is on *their* timetable and as long as they get the results that they expect to get.

My brothers and sisters, as I have told you before, God will graciously save you just like you are. He has to, because you don't have the ability to initially come to God any way but as a lost sinner without one plea. God will open His Big Arms and welcome you into His everlasting Kingdom. And what a glorious day that is!

But *after* you are saved; *after* you are washed; *after* you are cleansed; *after* you are sealed; *after* you are filled- you no longer can approach God "just like you are". Now you belong to Him; now you have lost your own identity; now you have lost your own will. Now it is not your will, but God's- right? Now it is not about you- it is about Him, right? Now it is not about what you want- but it is about what He wants, right? Now you're not in charge- He is in charge, right? .

Now Jesus is the Master and you are the slave, right? Now Jesus sits in the throne and you fall down at His Feet, right? Now Jesus leads and you follow, right? Now Jesus gives the blessings and the troubles and the good things and the bad things and you say, "*The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away- blessed be the Name of the Lord*", right?

Now that you belong to Jesus- it is no longer about you- *nothing* is about you. *Everything* is now about God. Now that you belong to Jesus, He is not just first- no, Jesus is first and He is second and He is third and He is fiftieth, and you are not even in the picture anymore. And now that you belong to Him- it is about you fulfilling His dream- not about Him fulfilling yours. Now that you belong to Jesus, He says, "Jump", and you say, "How high" and "Not my will but Yours be done"

Now that you belong to Jesus, you come to Him in the way that He says to come; now you worship in the way that He says to worship; and now you offer sacrifice in the way that He says to offer sacrifice.

Cain did not do this. He went another way. And Jude says that the heretics "go in the way of Cain". Many today go in the way of Cain.

Please do not go in the way of Cain but go God's way and 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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