

Earnestly Contend for the Faith – Part 2

Text: Jude 3-4

Review: I John 2:18-19 (they have already crept in), I Tim 3:15 (our duty as a church). Every generation must engage in this battle

- I. How we must contend
 - a. Contend for “the faith”
 - i. The true gospel vs. Prosperity, social gospels
 - ii. The inerrancy and authority of the Bible (verbal plenary inspiration, preservation, literal interpretation)
 - iii. The Virgin Birth of Christ, The Deity of Christ, the bodily Resurrection of Christ
 - iv. The Pre-tribulational Rapture of the Church, The Literal Second Coming of Christ, and literal millennial kingdom!
 - b. With conviction- contend earnestly for the faith: This was the great need that Jude interrupted his intended letter to address. The ancient Greek word translated “contend” comes from the athletic world – from the wrestling mat. It is an intensified form of the word meaning “to agonize.” Therefore “contend” speaks of hard and diligent work. The word "earnestly" is added to convey the intensive force of the preposition
 - i. It’s not always easy- Some don’t like to think we are in a battle- “Why can’t we have peace? Why battle?” The war has already been declared by God himself against darkness! We need to get our heads out of the sand and recognize we are in a battle!
 - ii. Some say “Be Christ-like!” Christ’s ministry began with cleansing the temple with a whip! He did not say, “Lovely serpents, wonderful vipers”- Matthew 23:33
 - iii. You will go against the majority- No matter if we are going up against the multitudes! “If God be for us, who can be against us”

- iv. There's something worse than an empty church- an offended God!- W.B. Henson
- v. V. 9 Interesting example of Michael contending- Angelic strength wasn't enough, but God's strength was! "The Lord rebuke thee!"
- c. With compassion- the right position and the right disposition.
 - i. Contend without being contentious
 - ii. Testify without losing our testimony
 - iii. Compassion makes a difference- Jude 22
- d. Continually- in each generation. Satan is a roaring lion looking for any opening. The day we forget to lock the door is the day he creeps in!
 - i. The verb translated contend earnestly is in the present infinitive, showing that the Christian struggle is continuous.
- e. Defense- I Tim 3:15
- f. Offense- I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it!
 - i. Light vs. darkness Genesis 1:2-4- The Spirit of God and the Word of God!
 - ii. "certain men"- Romans 16:17- Illustr people who hate the doctrine of separation: should we allow one drop of poison in our drinks? One poisonous snake into the nursery?
 - iii. I Timothy 1:18-20

Conclusion:

- We contend for the faith when we stand for the truth found in God's Word.
- When we strengthen and hold up the hands of preachers and leaders
- When we teach a Sunday school class
- Give out the gospel
- Resist error
- This faith is also the key to our victory! I John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

- God will get the victory! During dark ages, the Reformation sparked. It was said in Scotland that when Patrick Hamilton was burned that everybody his smoke blew upon became a Christian and left the Roman Catholic Church