

## Jude's Strong Warning – then His Exhortation.

**Verse 1-4 Opening Greeting and Challenge to Hold Firm to the Faith. To be steadfast in the faith.**

We may ask why did these believers, these ones 'sanctified by God the Father'. need to hold firm, Jude describes these early Christians as called out ones, Ones who are called out of the world, ones who are called out of all the evil and sin of the world. Called above, called to higher and better things, to heaven, things unseen and eternal; called from sin to Christ, from vanity to seriousness, from uncleanness to holiness. These are serious Christians.

**Why were they being exhorted to be steadfast?** Well False teachers were creeping into the church, Jude is warning the true divinely loved believers and warning us of these (**clouds without water,**) self-seeking people, people who seek mainly their happiness and will avoid suffering.

Clouds without water are so disappointing. Where I live, we see clouds building and rejoice that it looks like rain. But alas nothing happens no rain falls, no plants grow, the grass stays brown. These false teachers have great swelling words of human invention, and craftiness in deceitful schemes. Excellent presentation skills but are mainly focused upon earthly things. "*who entertain earthly opinions*" False teachers who practically never teach Godliness and Holiness, their very lives can't provide a practical pattern of Godliness and Holiness. They don't teach Character building messages, but rather bank building messages. They are usually very rich but usually don't have very good character themselves. Their main goal is happiness.

**In Contrast We read of Godly men and women of old,** and we say, truly they knew God and served Him. We marvel at the example of their lives. How this inspires us to greater Godliness. Here is a Godly man, William Grimshaw. Listen to His commitment. A typical Sunday in 1761 was like this. leaving home at four o'clock in the morning, he walked to a village several miles for an early morning service beginning at five o'clock, then returning home on foot for the morning and afternoon services with his large congregation. After the second of these, he set out to visit a sick believer three miles away. Hurrying back, he realised he hadn't time to cross the river by the bridge. But knowing the shortcut he made for a place where stones would assist him to cross but the river was running high, and the stones were covered. He had to wade across and so he arrived at his last service of the day, dripping wet. Finally, he reached home. He had walked 15 miles that day he had preached four times. Grimshaw had one motto. For me to live is Christ, to die is gain. When he was urged to rest said, let me leave it undone, no, I shall have enough rest by and by. I cannot do enough for Christ who has done for so much for me. He would say, I love my God and Saviour but how shall I love him enough? It overflowed to others. He would give all he had to the poor, Molly his housekeeper despaired. Often, he had no change of clothes left. When he came home dripping wet. He had given it everything away.

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Paul the Apostle faced tremendous persecution and hardship all for the sake of the Gospel. He says follow me as I follow Christ. He was seized by a large crowd (Acts 21:27). BEATEN and put in prison *Acts 16:37 But Paul said to them, Having beaten us publicly, men who are Romans and uncondemned, they threw us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! But coming themselves, let them bring us out.*

On the 6 July 1415. John Huss was given one final chance to recant or to be burned at the stake. What was His crime? He defended the supremacy of the Bible against what the Catholic church taught. He translated the bible into the language of the people from Italian. He refused to recant and was burned on the stake. Listen to His final words. *"Lord Jesus, it is for thee that I patiently endure this cruel death. I pray thee to have mercy on my enemies."*

But if you read of modern so-called men of God we see the kind of life they lived brought shame to the Christian faith. One thing for sure they are not willing to sacrifice. They Will always avoid suffering if possible. Some in USA wont even fly on a commercial flight they got to have their own private Jet. Or right here in Kenya one man wont even walk on the streets his congregation must carry him, so he doesn't get contaminated. He said they can stop carrying him when they buy him a new car. **Error is closely connected to greed.** They suppose Godliness is a means of Gain. Money scandals, surround them. I saw a certain program Gold Mafia of Africa. A man who calls Himself a Prophet, who performs so called great miracles, who prophecies even the football scores. But His life and, all his principles entwined with corruption, love of money, deceit. **A true believer should be able to determine truth from error, but they are so blinded they see no wrong in what they practice.** By their actions they are enemies of the cross. What does the bible say of such people. Surely never follow them. *1 Timothy 6:5. useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.* Philippians 3:19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. However, pleasing these ways may be to men the end of all false teaching is destruction.

**False Teachers twist the truth.** (2Peter 3:16). . . . *which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction* **Twisting the truth** they have not learned the things they teach from Christ Jesus, but they are learned from men. The KJV uses the word *wrest* the word of God, distort it from its true sense and meaning, and make it speak that which it never designed; dealing with it as innocent persons are sometimes used, put upon a rack, and tortured, and so forced to speak what is contrary to their knowledge and consciences; and so

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*were the words of the Apostle Paul wrested by ill designing men, as about the doctrines of grace and works, so concerning the coming of Christ. John Gill.*

Jude is warning of these false teachers even although these believers Jude is addressing are serious and true believers. They are reverent towards God, and reverent towards His Holy Word. **Jude still gives a warning.** Remember that the Lord also warned us, “against the leaven of the pharisees”. He is saying be very careful of these false teachers. Like leaven it will rise the whole batch changing the texture, and size and even the taste. There is much describing these false teachers and the terrible judgement that awaits them, darkness and gloom. Jude shows how we recognize them?

**Not only be careful of False teachers but CONTEND for the truth.**

**Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you **that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

*“Strive, with all your might, ‘for the faith,’ meaning in this context, the body of truth. ‘Which was once delivered,’ given by God. It is not up to us to add to it or to take away from it, to think we can improve upon it. There is a complete and perfect all-sufficient revelation of truth by God.” Dr Peter Masters*

**We “strenuously combat for the faith; for the purity of God’s Word,** For sound biblical teaching. “Not with the sword, but with sound doctrine and the example of a holy life.” One of the old writers says, we fully and faithfully defend the Gospel, by fully and faithfully preaching, earnestly, zealously, and constantly. Then by praying always for the Gospels continuance and success. By dying for it if necessary, but also by laying down your own life and plans and wants for the sake of the Gospel.

**Jude shows some ways to recognize false teachers by Illustrations of Sin and Judgment derived from history of bible characters.**

**Jude 1:11** Woe unto them! for they have gone in **the way of Cain** and ran greedily after the **error of Balaam** for reward, and perished in the **gainsaying of Core.**

**They have gone in the way of Cain** - They are haters of their brethren, Jealousy of their brother. Cain wanted to serve God His way not the way appointed by God. He wanted to earn a relationship with God by his works. *1John 3:12 not as Cain who was of the evil one, and killed his brother. And for what did he kill him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's things were righteous.* Like Cain they are full of pride, these men envied the gifts on Christ's faithful

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ministers, and the success that attended their labour, and the honour that was put upon them by Christ, and that was given them by the churches, which shows, that they lack love for others especially fellow servants of God. What happens to such as these on the final day? *For they have gone in the way of Cain; followed his manners, and fallen under his punishment. Matthew Poole.* The way of Cain is a warning to us.

**The error of Balaam** they abandoned themselves for a reward. They “ran greedily” on an object, or an opportunity for gain. All restraint being relaxed, they don't care if it is morally right or not, as long as gain is possible, they go ahead. We see that Balaam's love for gain was stronger than His love for God! False teachers entice others to “run greedily” with their wrong and false teaching. Making gain so important, making it the highest goal. False Teachers are greatly addicted to Gain.

**Gainsaying of Korah.** rebellious Korah “Core” knew perfectly well the law came from God. Gainsayers undermine by false reasonings the foundations of Christianity. People who crept into the church, but were never truly converted at all, they know all the right things to say, and even others in the church may think well of them, but to their downfall they value their opinions more than Gods Word. **They question the infallibility of God's Word.** When someone gives an ear to their complaints, they share their doubts and their criticism of God's word.

Looking back on *Jude 1:4 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 Christ.*

Maybe these ungodly men or woman say, well this is 2023 is the bible relevant for today after all we have advanced so much from bible days.

Or maybe they say, God is forgiving He won't judge people for sin. Or you can't believe in Creation, or how can you believe in the virgin birth. Crafty people who keep their opinions about the faith to themselves until they see it safe to talk then they poison and influence others. **Jude calls these people UNGODLY.** Today we think ungodly is just when someone is involved in a questionable lifestyle riddled with sin. But they are ‘irreverent people’. People who do not honour and respect the truth, instead of an attitude being full of reverence, care, and caution, they treat the truth with lightness and disrespect.

‘Turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness’. An old word that simply means to ‘give licence to’. turning the grace of God into liberty to do as you like. They say Oh, we are forgiven by God, our sins are washed away, so we can keep, doing what we like, we don't need to change,

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we don't need to put off our old practices. God will forgive us. The next phrase exposes them **“and denying the only Master, God, even our Lord Jesus Christ.”** This doesn't only mean that foundational truths are denied. Rather it has the meaning **that they deny the Lord by their actions or conduct.** It is speaking of people not sensitive and yielded to Gods Spirit and Gods ways.

*Titus 1:16 They **profess** ‘pretend’ to know God, they have not ‘fully acknowledged.’ **but they deny him by their works.** They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.*

We will continue next week with how to live with so much wickedness and darkness in the world. The inspired Word of God has some helpful advice in the book of Jude.