

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Jude 1:3

Key Verse Jude 1:3

³Beloved, 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.

Introduction:

Most often we don't like to hear things that contradict what we know and understand.

This is because we become complacent and comfortable with what we have been use to all along, and so when anything new does comes our way to challenge us in this regard, we tend to get defensive, and try to blot out that which is not in line with our understanding.

We do this out of ignorance, because if we don't continually expose ourselves to the Lords teaching we will never know what is the real truth that the Lord wants us to know.

Remember in Acts 18:26 the situation with Apollos, who thought that he knew all the scriptures, but was instructed in a more excellent way by Priscilla and Aquila.

We should also listen to what is being preached, and whatever is said we need to compare it to "what does the bible say about that teaching". Only then will we begin to grow and understand in a "more excellent way" the things of the Lord.

This is not to say that we must read or listen to messages that we know to be untrue, as in the case of "preachers" who we know to be heretical. But when we know that there is a "preacher of the word" who we can benefit by the correct teaching he offers through the Lords word, then we should listen to what he has to say.

- Again we are to prove if those things are so.....
- There are still many things that I do not know, but I am willing to listen and to learn.
- There are times when I have to say, it sounds interesting, but I need to check it out.

We are to be discerners the Lord says of "His Word". We are to prove everything.

1. To prove is to try it over and over again, before we can come to the correct conclusion.
2. An open mind.....is a mind.....that is NOT.....seeking his own.

- As we contend for the faith this is exactly what we are to do.

Jude 1:1-5

¹Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

²Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

³Beloved, 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

- As we remember these scriptures to whom they were first written.

1. The Jews converted to Christians. (65 AD)
2. The church to keep strong in the faith. (heresy on the increase)
3. Defend the church against heresy.

These were the main the main themes of Jude, to “put us in remembrance”.

It is too easy for us to forget these facts, and so we need to be reminded.

- I often hear comments that “I know it already and don’t need to hear it again.
- But that goes against what our Lord said. “He told us to study”. (2 Tim 2:15)

I. THOSE THAT ARE SANCTIFIED.

II. THOSE THAT NEED MERCY

III. THOSE THAT NEED EXORTATION

IV. THOSE THAT DENY THE LORD

V. THOSE THAT NEED REMINDING

I. THOSE THAT ARE SANCTIFIED.

Verse 1. ¹Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

1. As we look at the writer of this book of Jude, we come to realise the significance of this scripture.
2. This was the brother of James. Who was also the half brother of Jesus.

3. This speaks to the heart, because they were very close to the Lord, and understood the significance of who the Lord is.
4. They were Jews themselves, and now witnessing to Jew converted to Christian believers.
5. It was important for them because they wanted the Jew converted to Christians to know from what they had been delivered, and that was the law.

Jude is known and called a servant of Jesus Christ.

- This meant he would follow the Lord, and do whatever a master required of his servant.
1. Here in verse 1 we are reminded that those who are sanctified are sanctified (set apart) by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ.
 2. To be sanctified is to be as the scripture says “made holy”.
 3. To be preserved in Christ is to be forever eternally secure.
 4. These are those the scripture is referring to as it says that are called:
 5. The same as Romans 8:28, refers to the called according to his purpose.
- The Lord tells us that he knew us before the foundations of the world were even in place.

2 Timothy 1:9 ⁹Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

1. It is hard for us to think that the Lord knew us before creation. This shows our finite limitations in understanding the greatness of God.
2. The holy calling was the same message to which John the Baptist had been the fore runner to. It was the message of “repent for the kingdom of God is at hand”.

Mark 1:15

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent** ye, and believe the gospel.

- Repentance was also the same message our Lord preached when he came.

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

1. How many of us today can obey that message today?
2. The reality is as the Lord told the Jews who raised their voices against him. (See John 10:24-29.)

John 10:24-29

²⁴Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

²⁵Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

²⁶But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

1. The facts are, many will hear the same gospel message but their heart will remain as a stone, and never come to repentance.
 2. But those that do, those whose heart is softened by the Word of the Lord, will hear His voice and come.
- Its all about the treasure.
 - Where your treasure lies there to will be your heart.

Matthew 6:21

For where your **treasure** is, there will your **heart** be also.

1. The Lord knows who the called are. And those are the ones who have believed in the Lord. The Lamb of God. Nothing more and nothing less.
2. Salvation is come to those who believed in the death burial and resurrection of our Lord God.

II. THOSE THAT NEED MERCY.

Verse 2. ²Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Mercy is that which you do not deserve.

1. The mercy given by the one giving mercy has taken into account all factors at hand and has weighed up on the scales whether that person can or should be shown mercy.
2. It is not up to the individual begging but, up to the person who has the power to give mercy.
3. Thus there is no good thing that a person can do, but the giver of mercy can exercise his mercy if he chooses to do so.

With that in mind Jude reminds those who have received mercy.

1. With mercy unto salvation given, there should be a result of peace and love.
2. It is God's gift of mercy through the shed blood of His Son.
3. It is to this that he says peace and love be multiplied.
4. In other words to those who have been shown this mercy of our Lord unto salvation, it should be multiplied in their lives to be fruit that everyone can see. But first they have to believe in Jesus as God.
5. It is God's mercy multiplied to Show the peace and love the Lord has given you.

6. Let it be for a witness unto the Lord.
7. To multiply peace and love, it is to be a witness for the Gospel.

III. THOSE THAT NEED EXORTATION

Verse 3. 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.**

There are a few reasons why Jude wrote this letter to the Jewish converted to Christianity.

1. We know that they are firstly believers because he refers to them as beloved. A name reserved for those who are brethren. Of the same mind.
2. To be diligent is to be thorough. In other words he wrote that they might be thoroughly persuaded and thoroughly nourished up in the right word of the Lord.
3. If you love someone you will encourage them. That is what exhortation means. It means to encourage a brother or sister to remain faithful and to diligently seek the Lord.

The exhortation:

- a) The exhortation was a strong encouragement to remain true to God's word. As Jews they were not to fall back into Jewish law.
 - b) They were told that they should be aware that there were others who were misusing their faith, and adding to it or requiring additional ceremonies to be added for their salvation.
 1. To contend for the faith "means to stand on every Word of God".
 2. It means to throw out all other thinking or additions that man has added to or placed upon people, other than the Word of God.
 - The "common salvation", meant that many had heard about how Jesus Christ had come to seek and save those who were lost, that would have otherwise perished in their sins unto eternal damnation.
 - The "common salvation was what was needed to unite them together in Christ.
1. It was not that they had not heard, but that they had added to their tradition and had become religious instead of righteous.
 2. So Jude said "because of that" I felt it very necessary to compel you to be wary of misappropriating the Lords salvation into something else.
 3. Therefore contend for what you have heard of the Apostles.

IV. THOSE THAT DENY THE LORD

Verse 4. 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.

- Timely warnings are issued all through scripture.
- 1. Those who will one day bow their knee before the righteous judge who is our Lord, will do so with all knowingness.
- 2. They will be without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20).
- 3. They would have done so willing, without the help of anyone else to blame.

Christians are warned that there are many who will come and try to persuade them to give up Christ. And that is found all over scripture both in the OT and NT.

Timothy also spoke of these very same men. Unbelievers who would come in amongst believers and try corrupt them into this worldly ways. (Also 2 Peter 2:1-10).

2 Timothy 3:6 ⁶For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

The warnings come to us from scripture.

- The church is to guard against heresy.
 - To contend for the faith, rings like a bell, in a boxing match, that there will be a contest to try and win over the believers.
 - Before of old ordained, means God knew that there would be these ungodly people for ever hindering the righteous believer.
1. Whilst our Lord would have all men come unto him. That is not the thought that many people have today.

They are the ones described here as being ungodly.

2. They have turned the grace of God into lasciviousness (immorality), and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. When these people come into our midst. They come in unaware by us.
 - a) We may even embrace them as a brother but instead they have the kiss of Judas on their lips.
 - b) They come to see what they can get out of Gods people.

Psalm 58

¹Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?

²Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.

³The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

⁴Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear;

⁵Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

- These are the lovers of men.

V. THOSE THAT NEED REMINDING

Verse 5. ⁵I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

The OT is a great reminded to us all. It contains 39 books of the scriptures and the NT as well with 27 books.

This is the source of Gods Will for all mankind. But sadly we don't take instruction by books anymore. Instead we want to be like the Jewish religious leaders. "Show me a sign", then I will think about it.

Unfortunately, for them that is not going to be repeated. The signs of miracles and wonders have all been sealed up in our Lords Word already.

1. That is why Jude tells us in verse 5, that "I will put you in remembrance"
 2. Remembrance of what you ask ?
 3. His reply is what the Lord did in the OT & NT.
- The Lord saved the people out of Egypt, yet they did not turn to him?
 - The result was Jude says that because of their unbelief he destroyed them.
 - Jude is quoting from many scriptures.

Exodus 14:21-31

²¹And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

²³And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

²⁵And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

²⁶And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

²⁷And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

²⁸And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. ²⁹But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

³¹And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

Numbers 14:20-24

²⁰And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word: ²¹But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. ²²Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

²³Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: ²⁴But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Deut 2:14-15

¹⁴And the space in which we came from Kadeshbarnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD swore unto them.

¹⁵For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.

1 Corinthians 10:5-10

⁵But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. ⁷Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

⁸Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. ⁹Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. ¹⁰Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

4. Those that need reminding is us folks.

5. We are the very people that need to be reminded of our Saviour.
6. How he showed His mercy on us who believe.
7. That we should know, and continue to believe in Him.

➤ That we might finish the race in Christ, and not on our own.

PRAY.....