

Dealing With Wrong Theology

Jude 3-4

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. NKJV

I had the occasion to go to the game the other night. If you do not know what game I am talking about then you must be a visitor to Stark County.

But I was quite disturbed at the actions of some of the adults. They were just plain mean. You see there were a number of younger children running and playing. Of course they were playing where they should not be and they were doing things that were dangerous. But what business is that of the adults?

Some of the more active children even drew non-participating children into their play. This seemed to really disturb the parents of the quiet children. So once again these mean and unruly parents interrupted the play of the children, forcing their own preconceived ideas on the children of how children should behave. How narrow minded and uncaring these parents were.

Now of course I have said these things to bring an illustration. How dare Jude write such mean things about these people who did not see things as he did. Why did he not just mind his own business? What gave him a right to try to interfere with others?

Well the fact of the matter was, as Jude saw it, was that they were wrong and were bringing damage into the church, the company of the saints. And he knew that someone must set the matter straight, and he would do it.

In our world today, were everyone is right and no one is wrong except those who think others are wrong, we hear the views I expressed when I spoke of the children at the game.

Let look at Jude's letter and see what he has for us.

- I. Jude's desire derailed
 - A. Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation
 1. He wanted to write a nice letter expounding the Savior and the grace of God in bringing them to salvation.
 - a. This would be very similar to what we find in Paul's letter to the Ephesians.
 2. Who doesn't want to bring a positive message?
 - a. Some ministries have done this to the exclusion of anything negative.

- b. Some will not take a stand on some of the more sinful elements in our society because they will not offend anyone.
 - 3. But someone has to tell the children to behave.
 - a. And the Bible is filled with negative messages.
 - b. As I remember of the 10 commandments 8 are strictly negative while the other 2 are only partially positive.
- B. I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
 - 1. Exhorting you
 - a. To call along side.
 - b. παρακαλεω parakaleo *par-ak-al-eh'-o*
 - 2. To contend earnestly
 - a. 75 αγωνιζομαι agonizomai *ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee*
 - b. from 73; TDNT-1:135,20; {See TDNT 19} v
 - c. AV-strive 3, fight 3, labour fervently 1; 7
 - (1) to enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games
 - (2) to contend with adversaries, fight
 - (3) metaph. to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers
 - (4) to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something
 - 3. For the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints
 - a. In Jude's mind the faith is not something that changes from season to season or generation to generation.
 - b. It is like the Savior who gave it, unchanging, steadfast, unmovable.

II. For certain men - Known by their fruits

A. Ungodly men

B. Have crept in unnoticed

- 1. They have planned it that way.
- 2. RJ Anderson said that those who went to Rochester Theological Seminary back in the 20s were told not to tell their prospective congregations what they believed, but to bring it to them little by little each

week as they pastored.

3.

C. Who turn the grace of our God into lewdness

1. They make the grace of God a licence to sin and live how they want.
2. This is prevalent in our day.
3. Everyone does what is right in their own eyes and they think that God will simply smile upon them.

D. And deny

1. The only Lord God
2. And our Lord Jesus Christ

III. How did this happen?

A. Have crept in unnoticed

B. Who long ago were marked out for this condemnation

Both Peter and Jude used the same Greek word, meaning "to smuggle" or "to worm their way in." Thus these false teachers did not belong in the church and were no better than intruders among the believers. Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – 1 & 2 Peter and Jude.

Galatians 1:6-9 (NKJV) 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Matthew 24:11 (NKJV) 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

1 John 4:1 (NKJV) 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

With their flagrant sexual sinning in the name of God's grace, these false teachers were denying Christ as their Master and Lord, replacing him with themselves and their appetites. While claiming to know God, their actions denied him. Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – 1 & 2 Peter and Jude.

Titus 1:16 (NKJV) 16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Listen to how they can pervert the truth-

“The common mistake of supposing that, for Jude, contending for the faith means denouncing opponents, arises from a misunderstanding of the significance of vv 5–19. Those verses are intended to awaken Jude’s readers to the dangerous reality of their situation which makes Jude’s appeal necessary, but it is only when he has done this that Jude goes on (in vv 20–23) to explain how they must continue the fight for the faith.” Bauckham, R. J. (1998). Vol. 50: 2 Peter, Jude. Word Biblical Commentary (32). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.