

Jude – Contend for the Faith Jude 1-4

Introduction:

The entire purpose of this book is to encourage the brethren “to contend earnestly for the faith.” It is important to do this because of the apostasy that was going on all around them.

I. We have a common salvation (Jude 3).

- A. The salvation that they had was called “common” because it was open to everyone.
 - 1. Salvation was open to the Jews first.
 - a. **Rom. 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
 - b. **Rom. 2:9-11** - tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; {10} but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. {11} For there is no partiality with God.
 - c. **Rom. 10:12** - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.
 - d. **I Cor. 12:13** - For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
 - 2. In terms of salvation, there is no difference between anyone.
 - a. This common salvation is open to everyone.
 - b. **Gal. 3:26-28** - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. {27} For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. {28} There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - 3. Notice why this salvation is open to each of us.
 - a. When Jesus ascended back to heaven, He told His apostles that they would be witnesses of Him “in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (**Acts 1:8**).
 - 1) Jesus understood that they would spread this great message to the entire world.
 - 2) However, it would start in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.
 - b. The Jews did have their opportunity to believe in this message; but for the most part, they rejected it.
 - 1) Throughout the book of Acts, we read of the persecution that was brought on the church by the Jews.

- 2) When Paul and Barnabas were in Antioch, they tell us why they went to the Gentiles.
 - a) Acts 13:46-47 - Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. {47} For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’”
 - b) It was because of they rejected the word of God!
 - c. Paul later tells us again why Gentiles have this “common salvation.”
 - 1) Example of the branches being grafted into a tree.
 - 2) Rom. 11:16-21 - For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. {17} And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, {18} do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. {19} You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” {20} Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. {21} For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.
 - d. It is important for us to know why the Gentiles had this salvation also so that we do not act like the Jews and reject it.
- B. The same hope of eternal life that was given to those in the first century is also given to us today.

II. It is that salvation that we contend earnestly for (Jude 3).

- A. Notice what it means to “contend...for the faith.”
 1. It means much more than just to defend it, or talk about our faith.
 2. In fact, we get our English word “agony” from the Greek word for “contend.”
 3. To “contend earnestly for the faith” is a vigorous duty that we have.
- B. The reason that we are to contend earnestly for the faith is simple.
 1. There was at the time of Jude an attack on the truth of the church.
 2. Many wanted to destroy the church and its faith, as he points out in verses 4-19.
 3. Because they wanted to destroy it, we must contend for it.

III. Notice how we can “contend earnestly for the faith.”

A. We must know the truth.

1. God has given us His truths, and we can know the truth.
 - a. **Jn. 17:17** - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
 - b. **II Tim. 3:16-17** - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2. Part of knowing the truth is to obey the truth.
 - a. **Mt. 7:21** - Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
 - b. **Lk. 11:27-28** - And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!” {28} But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”
 - c. **Mt. 7:24-27** - Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: {25} and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. {26} Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: {27} and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

B. We must understand that some are lost.

1. This is easy for us to say, but it is much more difficult to do something about it.
2. If we truly understand that others are lost, we will do what we can to bring them back.

C. We cannot be passive in defending the truth.

1. Many times throughout the scriptures, Christians are referred to as soldiers.
 - a. **I Tim. 1:18** - This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,
 - b. **I Tim. 6:12** - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 - c. Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God.
 - 1) **Eph. 6:10-18**
 - 2) We do not put on this armor so that we can run from the enemy.
 - d. **II Cor. 10:4** - For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

2. We are to teach out of love.
 - a. However, sometimes love means that we tell them what they need to hear, not what they want to hear.
 - b. Part of preaching the truth includes rebuking those who are not living according to it.
 - 1) **II Tim. 4:2** - Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
 - 2) **I Tim. 5:20** (command to elders) - Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.
 - c. Remember that the context of Jude 3 is false teachers.
 - 1) When it comes to false teachers, we need to see them for what they are.
 - 2) When it comes to something as important as salvation, we cannot stand idly by and watch false teachers distort the truth.

Conclusion: