

Jude: Building Together on the Faith of the Apostles

Jerry Cisar—May 20, 2007

I. The purpose of the letter

A. Jude 3-4

B. Two enemies of the authentic Gospel:

1. **Legalism:** *the idea that we can obtain right standing with God through obedience to the law.*
2. **License:** *the idea that grace means that we are no longer subject to any rule of behavior.*

- **licentiousness:** *as living without any moral restraint (Friberg); without the strictness of morals (Thayer).*
- They denied the Lordship of Christ over our lives...
ESV: *deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ*

Many Gospels out there today sound very much like the real thing, but chip away at the real Gospel by making sin seem okay and God's call to right living an unwelcome intruder in our lives.

II. WHY they need to contend for the faith (vs. 5-19)

3 OT Stories...(5-7)

- vs. 5
- vs. 6
- vs. 7

Application to the false teachers ... (8-10)

- vs. 8 *In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.*

3 More OT References & Application (11-13)

Enoch's prophecy & application: Jude 14-16

Apostolic prophecy & application: Jude 17-19

III. HOW to contend for the faith (vs. 20-23)

- A. Build yourselves up in your most holy faith
 - B. Pray in the Holy Spirit
 - C. Keep yourselves in God's love (the Father)
 - 1. 1 John 4:16
 - 2. John 15:9-10
 - D. Wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.
- Psalm 37:7-13

IV. How to Contend and Deal with Others

- A. Be merciful to those who doubt
- B. Snatch others from the fire and save them
- C. To others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Many Gospels out there today sound very much like the real thing, but chip away at the real Gospel by making sin seem okay and God's call to right living seem an unwelcome intruder. We must battle against that tendency by battling for the real Gospel.

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- What is legalism and license? Do you think we must always be on our guard against both? Why?
- Do you ever evaluate whether you have forsaken God's standards of right living in the name of grace? Give an example.
- Which direction is culture around us most likely to push us toward: legalism or license? Explain.
- What is the significance of the of the language which tells us to be building ourselves up/together in the faith? What building are we building and upon what foundation?
- How are we to keep ourselves in the love of God?
- Why is the instruction "wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life" so important for those who are living by faith especially when there are those who lean toward license? How does this help battle fretful anxiety?
- What one thing can you identify that Christ would have you adjust in your life in response to this message?