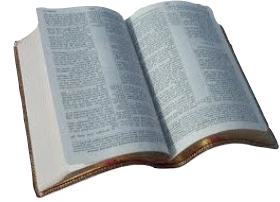


## Our Laodicean

# “Common Salvation”



### Did Jude Change His Mind?

*“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.”*

(Jude 1:3)

It will be a great day for the cause of Christ when we put our commentaries away and compare Scripture with Scripture, rather than comparing Scripture with commentaries. Every commentary I have checked concerning this verse says that Jude changed his mind about what to write about. That is simply not Scriptural.

**The Greek word translated common in Jude 1:3 is - koinos.** This word was used by the Jews concerning something that was *unhallowed, profane or unclean.*

- In **Mark 7:2** it is translated - *“defiled.”*
- In **Romans 14:14** it is translated - *“unclean”* three times.
- In **Hebrews 10:29** it has been translated - *“unholy thing.”*

### Two Types of Salvation

The Bible refers to a *“...great salvation,”* (Hebrews 2:3) and also refers to a *“...common salvation.”* (Jude 1:3) In Jude’s day the apostasy had turned God’s *“great salvation”* into a *“common salvation.”* It was a salvation that was *“defiled,” “unclean”* and an, *“unholy thing.”* Therefore Jude said, *“...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.”* (v.3).

Jude continued, *“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.”* (v.4)

### Several things are mentioned in these verses.

1. Jude, *“...gave all diligence”* to write and warn them about the fact that the plan of salvation had been made *“common.”* He did not give diligence, he gave *“all diligence.”* The Greek word translated diligence is *spoudē*. It has also been translated *“...with haste”* in other places.
2. It was *“needful”* for Jude to exhort them that they should *“...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”* The Greek word *needful* is *anagkē*. It has been translated *“distress”* three times. When a Doctor’s patient goes into distress that person is in danger of dying. Jude was very concerned about the common salvation that had replaced *“...the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*
3. The apostasy promoters had *“...crept in unawares.”* That is, they moved slowly and carefully, in order to avoid being noticed.
4. The apostasy promoters were ordained to *“...this condemnation”* (Translated “judgment” thirteen times) for their actions. They were not ordained to creep into the churches. They were ordained (translated *“set forth”* Galatians 3:1) for judgment.
5. They were *“ungodly men”* and verse fifteen tells us these *“ungodly”* men were *“...among them.”* Verse twelve says, *“...they feast with you.”*

6. They were, "turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness."

7. They were, "...denying the Lord."

The conclusion is obvious. Pastors had promoted a "common salvation" allowing people to pray a prayer and join the local church.

### Two Types of Apostasy Promoters

It is obvious that the promoters of apostasy that Jude was talking about were unsaved; however, Peter warned us about Believers who promote apostasy.

The phrase "among you" is found three times in First and Second Peter, all of which refer to Christians.

- **First Peter 5:1** - "The elders which are among you..."
- **First Peter 5:2** - "...the flock of God which is among you."
- **Second Peter 2:1** - "there shall be false teachers among you."

We know Peter refers to Christian false teachers because he said they were, "...denying the Lord that bought them." (Second Peter 2:1) The Greek word "bought" (*agorazō*) is translated "redeemed" three times in the New Testament. To deny the Lord is to refuse Him access. (See Revelation 3:20). Christian leaders today, under the banner of fundamentalism, are the ones who are bringing in, "...damnable heresies." (Second Peter 2:1)

In recent days, fundamentalism has become flooded with Christian leaders who are promoting apostasy by promoting their new "common salvation." Jesus plainly warned us in Luke 13:3 - "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." We have many in our ranks of fundamentalist who are promoting the "damnable heresy" that repentance is not necessary for salvation. A "damnable heresy" is a

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heresy that will damn a person to Hell for eternity.

### Apostasy Prevails When Salvation Is Made Common

Over 100 years ago, Gipsy Smith warned about our new present day, common salvation. In his message "Repent Ye," he said, "I am afraid that in our zeal to get people into the kingdom or the church we have lowered the standard. I am afraid that in our zeal to get people into what we call the church, we have been more anxious about heads than hearts. In order to capture, we have compromised and lost. We have been more concerned about filling our church registers than we have about the kingdom."

### Our Common Salvation

Some years ago I had a well known soul winning evangelist come to our church. Many, if not most, reading this article would know who I was talking about if I mentioned his name. We knocked on the door of a man in the area and the soul winning evangelist started his sales pitch.

He rhymed off his presentation like he had many times before and ended with, "...do you know any reason why you couldn't get saved right now?" The man answered "I have done this twice before." The soul winning evangelist, probably not even hearing the man's response, said, "...well good then, lets pray." The man prayed, we headed back to the church and the man we talked with headed on his path to Hell! That is what Jude would call a "common salvation." It is what Peter called a "damnable heresy."

### Incentive Salvation

Just like the business world, we offer an incentive to get people to say yes to our sales pitch. We offer the incentive of Heaven, to all who will pray a prayer.

We ask, "would you like to know for sure that you will go to Heaven when you die?" Well, who wouldn't? **Jesus never, ever, offered Heaven as an incentive for people to get saved and**

neither did His followers. Heaven is a tremendous by-product of salvation; however, salvation deals with our repenting of our sin against God. Man needs to understand that we need to fall on our faces and repent before God even if there were no such place as Heaven.

## Jesus Promised A Hard Life

In Matthew 8:19-20 we read, "And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest." Jesus didn't say, Great, just pray a little forgiveness prayer and help us make our group larger, and maybe we can build a big church here in Jerusalem. His response to the man was, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." We read no more about the man who said he would follow Him wherever He went.

### Me First Salvation?

In Luke 9:59 Christ asked another man if he would like to follow Him. His response was "Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father." In verse sixty-one we read, "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." Christ's answer to these "me first" seekers of a common salvation was that he was not "...fit for the kingdom of God." (Verse 62).

### Gipsy Smith Warned About

#### Our Present Day Common Salvation

Gipsy Smith won thousands to the Lord under the power of the Holy Spirit, however, he never used a slick, no repentance sales pitch that says just pray a prayer. Gipsy Smith said, "*Christ never made it easy; and the man who makes it easy to be a Christian preaches a mongrel gospel.*"

### A.W. Tozer Warned About

#### Our Present Day Common Salvation

A.W. Tozer said, "*The crowds-at-any-price mania has taken a firm grip on Christianity and is the motivating power back of a shockingly high percentage of all religious activity.*" Tozer continued, "*In our eagerness to make converts I am afraid we have lately been guilty of using the technique of modern salesmanship...*"

## No Common Salvation Preached In The Word of God

- **Jesus** - "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Matthew 4:17)
- **John The Baptist** - "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." (Matthew 3:1,2,7,8)

## Bible Preachers Did Not Focus On Attracting A Large Crowd

### John Preached -

- "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matthew 23:33)  
Did he not realize that he would never build a church in Jerusalem preaching that way?

### Jesus Preached -

- "Thou hypocrite." (Matthew 7:5)
- "...you hypocrites." (Mark 7:6)
- "Ye are of your father the devil." (John 8:44)
- "Woe unto you...hypocrites! (Matthew 23:27) Did He not realize that kind of preaching would drive people away?

### James Preached -

- "Ye adulterers and adulteresses." (James 4:4) James was preaching to Christians. Did he not realize that kind of preaching might cause some people who tithed to leave the church?

### Paul Preached -

- "And thinkest thou...that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?" (Romans 2:3) Did Paul not know anything about winning friends and influencing people?

## How Did Paul Preach To Christians?

### Paul's focus was on the truth not on pampering Christians.

- "I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal." (First Corinthians 3:1)  
Did Paul not realized that he might lose some members if he preached like that?

### When Christian women dressed immodestly he commanded...

- "...that women adorn themselves in modest apparel." (First Timothy 2:9) Did he not realized that most church problems are stirred up by women? Did he think he could build a church by getting the women upset?

**When dealing with immature Christians at Ephesus, he told them to...**

- “grow up” (Ephesians 4:15) Grow up? You mean Paul preached straight forward telling church members to “grow up?” Yes, he did!

**He spoke to the Colossian Christians concerning...**

- “...fornication”
- “...uncleanness”
- “...inordinate affection”
- “...evil concupiscence”
- “...and covetousness, which is idolatry.” (Colossians 3:5)

**Over a dozen times Paul warned Christians about their...**

- “...lusts.”

**Paul rebuked the church at Corinth because of their attitude toward...**

- “...fornicators”
- “...idolators
- “...adulterers”
- “...effeminate
- “...abusers of themselves with mankind.”

**Referring to the church congregation, Paul said they were becoming...**

- “...lovers of their own selves”
- “...covetous”
- “...boasters”
- “...proud”
- “...blasphemers”
- “...disobedient to parents”
- “...unthankful”
- “...unholy”
- “Without natural affection”
- “...trucebreakers”
- “...false accuser”
- “...incontinent”
- “...fierce”
- “...despisers of those that are good”
- “Traitors”
- “...heady”
- “...highminded”
- “...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”
- “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” (Second Timothy 3:2-5)

**To the Galatians Paul said...**

- “Are ye so foolish?” (Galatians 3:3)

The difference concerning Paul, and most so-called fundamental pastors of today is, Paul obviously was more concerned about preaching the truth than drawing crowds, keeping crowds or building a new auditorium.

Paul could honestly say, “I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you...” (Acts 20:20) He said, “I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.” (Acts 20:27) One reason apostasy has come in like a flood is because pastors are more focused on church building than they are on preaching the Word of God.

**How Christian Leaders Become Apostate**

1. They *receive* the truth.
2. They *reject* the truth.
3. They *ridicule* the truth.
4. They *replace* the truth.

Many so-called fundamentalists have followed this path in recent days.

**First Peter 4:17**

*“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”*

**Our Next Article**

**BALAAM**

**Israel's  
Fundamental  
Promoter  
of  
APOSTASY**

*Both Balaam & Judas said,  
“I have sinned.”*

*Neither one of them were forgiven.  
Balaam, like his counterpart,  
Judas, went to Hell  
when he died.*

