

Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Monday, August 17, 2015

Out of Season

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season...”

(Second Timothy 4:2)

The little Book of Jude gives us the practical steps in how to survive in the day of apostasy. In verse three we read,

“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.”

Seven Aspects of Verse Three

1. “Beloved...” - v.3...v.17...v.20
2. “I gave all *diligence* to write unto you...”
3. “of **the common salvation**...”
4. “it was needful for me to write unto you...”
5. “and exhort you...”
6. “that ye should earnestly contend for the faith...”
7. “which was once delivered unto the saints.”

This Is Important!

Jude did not change his mind! When Jude wrote about “the common salvation” he was referring to the “unhallowed, profane, unclean, plan of salvation that was being presented as truth. The Greek word translated common is *kino*. It has been translated in the verses below in that manner.

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

Two Types of Salvation

- **Hebrews 2:3**, “great salvation.”
- **Jude 1:3**, “common salvation.”

“Another Gospel”

Verse 6-9,

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into **the grace** of Christ unto **another gospel**: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel** of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other **gospel** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed**. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach **any other gospel** unto you than that ye have received, **let him be accursed**.”

Accursed?

Paul was not referring to those promoting another gospel going to Hell. The Greek word for accursed is *anathema*. It refers to a type of Old Testament discipline where those who were “accursed” were publicly exposed. Strong’s concordance says they were exposed by having their deeds “Hung upon the walls or columns of the temple, or put in some other conspicuous place.”

Peter Corrupted God’s Plan of Salvation

Galatians 2:11-21,

“But when Peter was come to Antioch, **(1) I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed**. For before that certain

Gentiles came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them, which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, **(2) I said unto Peter before them all**, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

Lessons For Us

1. Since Peter could go astray, should we think that any fundamentalist could not go astray today?
2. When Peter, a key fundamentalist of that day went astray, he was openly rebuked for it. He “was to be blamed,” and he was blamed “before them all.”
Notice, it says Peter was “to be” blamed. This was something that was not to be overlooked.
3. Two giants of the faith were standing at odds. **One of them was right and one of them was wrong.** Paul could have talked with Peter privately; however, he did not. He exposed him publicly, and God had this included in His Word for us to know how to handle a situation like this.
4. Peter was publicly rebuked because he was causing others to go astray. We read, “*And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.*”

“No Small Dissension”

In Acts chapter fifteen, we have a similar situation where someone was messing up God’s plan of salvation.

Acts 15:1,

“*And certain men...taught the brethren...Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.*”

How did Paul handle it?

Acts 15:2,

“*Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them,*” This is precisely what Jude was referring to when he said that we “should earnestly contend for the faith.”

Proverbs 28:4,

“*They that forsake the law praise (express approval) the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.*”

Jude’s Charges Against Those Promoting Apostasy

1. They Were Guilty of Turning.

To turn is to go in a different direction. It is impossible to turn from one direction without going in another. The word lasciviousness refers to unbridled desires. These promoters of apostasy have their own personal desires and turn away from being bridled or controlled by the Lord.

2. They Were Guilty of Denying.

We have previously seen that the Greek word “denying” is “*arneomai*” and refers to refusing the Lord’s command to have control. In our age of Laodicean fundamentalism, we find the Lord standing outside the door of many of His churches watching all the activity going on inside, to which He is not welcome to join.

Instructions For Living In The Day of Apostasy

Jude, in his warnings against apostasy, does not leave us in the dark as to how to handle ourselves in this age of compromise and blatant defection by the leaders of fundamentalism.

“Beloved” - V.1

“But Beloved” - V.17

“But Ye Beloved” - V.20

The word “*but*” is used to introduce something contrasting to what has already been mentioned. Jude gives us the disturbing facts, in verses 1-16, and then he introduces how to have the victory during troublesome days.

Verse 17, “Remember.”

To remember something is to bring something to mind that has been seen, known, or experienced in the past. In this case Jude says, “remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Peter also made reference to this.

Second Peter 3:1-3,

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds (1) by way of remembrance: That ye may (2) be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: (3) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,”

Remember It Was Prophesied

Second Timothy 4:3-4,

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

We should not be shaken up because this is happening.

“Ungodly Lusts”

The Greek word “lusts” here does not necessarily mean something that is immoral. This same Greek word is translated “desire” in the following texts.

Luke 22:15,

“And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.”

Philippians 1:23,

“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”

First Thessalonians 2:17,

“But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.”

The prefix “un” added to the word “godly” denotes the absence of the desire to be godly.

Paul warned the pastor to,

Second Timothy 2:16,

“Shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”

Titus warned in **Titus 2:12** that we are to deny “*ungodliness and worldly desires*.”

Jude made it plain that “*there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts*.” (desires).

Verse 19, “Having Not The Spirit”

Vines Dictionary says this phrase in the Greek is equivalent to “*having the means of*” the Spirit.” Another verse relative to this is First Thessalonians 5:19 where we read it is possible for us as Christians to “*Quench the Spirit*.”

The Building Program

Verse 20, “Building Up Yourselves”

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,”

Putting It Together

To build is to be involved in the process of constructing something by putting things together. The Christian who is seriously studying the Word of God will have no problem putting together the things that are going on around us in these last days.

“Praying In The Holy Ghost”

The Greek word “in” the Holy Ghost had been translated “with” 140 times. The Word of God says,

Romans 8:26,

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself (translated “himself” fifty-eight times) maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

Romans 8:14,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

The Christian who is “*led by the Spirit*,” will understand the issues of our day because our Lord promised that the Holy Spirit will guide us into “*all truth*” (John 16:13).

“According To Your Faith”

To survive in our age of apostasy we need to be building up our faith. The Bible says, “According to your faith be it unto you.”

Stay In Love

Jude 1:21,

“Keep yourselves in the love of God.”

Love determines what kind of relationship we have with God. A relationship is the way in which two or more people behave toward each other.

The preposition “of” indicates the substance establishing something. For example we say “the house was built of bricks.” We need to be sure our relationship with God is built on our love for God.

To “keep” ourselves in the love of God is a choice. The pastor at Ephesus was very busy for the Lord; however, he “left” his first love. He did not lose it, as it is often quoted, he “left” it.

Revelation 2:4,

“I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”

A Proper Focus

Jude 1:21,

“Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

In Matthew 14:30 when Peter took his eyes off Christ and focused on “the wind boisterous, he was afraid.” The result was he began “to sink.” If we focus on the apostasy of our day rather than on Christ we will end up sinking into a discouragement that could defeat us.

Jude tells us Christ is able to keep us from “falling” (v.24) into the apostasy we are surrounded with if we keep ourselves in the love of God and focus on Him rather than the winds of apostasy.

Hebrews 12:2,

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

Have Compassion

Jude 1:22,

“And of some have compassion, making a difference.”

The Greek word translated “compassion” here is “eleeo.” It has been translated “have mercy on” fourteen times. As we focus on “the mercy of our Lord” we need to show this mercy to others.

We need to have compassion and mercy “on some, making a difference.” The phrase making a difference is “diakrino.” It has been translated “judge three times, and “discern” twice.

Open To The Truth?

There is hope for “some” Christians who are being influenced by our present day apostasy. They might say they are “open to the truth;” however, to be open to the truth is to also be open to error. We need to discern who are closed to everything but the truth. Many, if not most Christians today are content to follow the apostate leaders of our day and are not interested in the truth.

“And Others”

Jude 1:23,

“And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”

The scene changes here to a rescue mission. Comparing Scripture with Scripture we find in that “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark” (Hebrews 11:7).

To move with fear is to realize the seriousness of the situation. Noah realized the importance of what God required and perhaps realized the fact that he would have to do what he did by faith. He would have to trust God for the finances to get the material to build and he would have to forget the fact that his actions would cost him his reputation.



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