

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Jude 1-3

Introduction:

- A. Every book of the Bible is inspired.
 - 1. The gospel of John.
 - 2. The epistle of Jude.

- B. We should never seek to categorize the Bible into important and less important.
 - 1. How to be saved. Important!!
 - 2. Doctrinal truths. Optional, Billy Graham.
 - 3. Never preach on controversial issues.
 - 4. No such concept as "Evangelistic immunity."

- C. What does the book of Jude teach?
 - 1. That the faith is threatened from time to time.
 - 2. That His preachers and churches are to contend for it.

I. THE WRITER OF THE LETTER.

VS. 1a

- A. "Jude the servant of Jesus Christ."
 - 1. All great men of God so reckon themselves.
 - 2. Not only of the church of Jesus Christ.

- E. "Brother of James."
 - 1. James was the pastor of Jerusalem.
 - 2. Why not "Brother of Jesus."?

Jude, in E.R.V. of Jude 1 Judas.

An English form of the name Judas, given in the A.V. to the writer of the Epistle of Jude (ver.1). He describes himself simply as "brother of James," by whom the author of the Epistle of James and leader of the church in Jerusalem seems to be meant. In this case Jude should be a brother of the Lord, and not an apostle; and these inferences seem born out by the presence of Judas in the lists of our Lord's brethren (Mat. 13:55; Mark 6:3), and by the apparent implication of verse 17 of his epistle, that its writer was not an apostle. Those who identify the may infer from the facts that the brethren of the Lord did not believe in him during his life on earth (John 7:5) and that after his resurrection they were his followers (Acts 1:14). An interesting story told of his grandchildren by the church writer, Hegesippus, and preserved by Eusebius (A.E. 3:20), confirms the possible inference from I Cor. 9:5 that he was married, and implies that he was dead before A.D. 80.

II . THE PEOPLE THAT RECEIVED THE LETTER. VS. 1b

- A. "to them that are sanctified by God the Father."
 - 1. sanctified = having been loved.

- B. "and preserved in Jesus Christ."
 - 1. preserved = to keep safe, to guard, to watch over,
The verb used in a friendly sense means to keep safe
from harm. (continuing)

- C. "and called."
 - 1. called = welcome, invited, chosen.
 - 2. Called to what?

III . THE BLESSINGS UPON THEM VS. 2

- A. "Mercy, unto you."
 - 1. Heavens remedy for all men's ills.

- B. "and peace."
 - 1. Without it there is little work done.

- C. "and love."
 - 1. The greatest earthly possession.

- D. "be multiplied."
 - 1. to make full, hence to increase.

IV . THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER VS. 3

- A. "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of
the common salvation."
 - 1. diligence = speed, haste, earnestness.
 - 2. common = pertaining equally to all.

- B. "it was needful for me to write unto you."
1. needful = compulsion, necessity, "The need arising from a strain or from pressure, or from the force of circumstances."
- C. "and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."
1. exhort = to urge, to encourage. It is the word used of speeches of leaders and of soldiers who urge each other on. It is the word used of words which sent fearful and timorous and hesitant soldiers and sailors courageously into battle.
2. contend earnestly = to contend as a combatant, to exercise great effort, an exertation for something. Used of athletic games.
3. faith = the body of truth.
4. once = once for all.
5. delivered = to deliver over, to hand down, to commit and entrust, to hand down authorized tradition.

V. A SALVATION FOR ALL

- A. All have sinned.
B. All may be saved.
C. All may be baptized.
D. All may be in the church.
E. All may learn God's truth.
F. All may contend for the faith.

WHY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH?

Jude 4

Introduction:

- A. Jude felt an undeniable burden to urge his readers to contend for the faith.
 - 1. needful = pressure from circumstances.
 - 2. Urgeings from within.

- B. We may make a tragic error by believing that a church is promised perpetuity without perspiration.
 - 1. contend = struggle , battle.
 - 2. "Fight the good fight of faith."

I . JESUS PREDICTED FALSE CHURCHES

- A. The parable of the tares.
 - 1. Matt. 13:24-30.
 - 2. This began in the days of Jesus.

II . FALSE TEACHERS WERE THRIVING WHEN JUDE WROTE .

- A. "For there are certain men crept in unawares."
 - 1. certain = any one, one, a certain one.
 - 2. crept = to get in by the side, to slip in, to come in by stealth. It is a sinister word that involves covering one's self to sneak in where once in, damage may be affected.

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- B. "Who were before of old ordained to this condemnation."
 - 1. ordained = to write down before hand, to write down previously, they are already doomed to punishment.
 - 2. condemnation = judgment.

- C. "ungodly men."
 - 1. ungodly = impious, impiety directed against what should be held sacred. Without fear and reverence.

- D. "turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness."
 - 1. turning = to turn into something else, to change.
 - 2. lasciviousness = excess, immoderation in anything, wantonness.

- E. "and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus."
 - 1. denying = to disown, to say no, to refuse, to decline.
 - a. II John 7.
 - 2. Luke 22:57 "And he denied him, saying, woman, I know not the man." (Peter)

I I I . THE FATE OF FALSE TEACHERS vs. 5

- A. False teachers who are saved.
 - 1. vs. 5.

- B. False teachers who are lost.
 - 1. Matt. 7:21-23.

