

A CONTENDER FOR THE FAITH

Jude 1:4

³ 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.

INTRO:

Illustration: One pastor said that he had a member that had a negative outlook on everything he saw. One Sunday morning the two stood on the church porch and the pastor commented on it being a beautiful day. The member then said, "It'll probably rain before the day is over with."

This member also told the pastor that his favorite book in the Bible was the book of Jude. The pastor said for many years he did not read or preach from Jude because he was afraid it would make him like that church member.

**I want to look at some key words in our text.

1. Diligence – It means to give an **earnest effort**. Jude said he "gave all diligence to write" about "common salvation."

**In other words, Jude said, "I gave it all I had to tell you about common salvation!" Oh how we need preachers and Christians to once again give it all they got for the glory of God!

A. Diligence is Required in Living for the Lord

II Peter 1:10 ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

B. Diligence is Required in Looking for the Lord

Hebrews 11:6 ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

C. Diligence is Required in Laboring for the Lord

I Corinthians 15:58 ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

D. Diligence is Required in Lasting for the Lord

Galatians 6:9 ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**We need to make sure our doings are "well doings" and that we put an earnest effort into it!

2. Needful – It means it is **essential, important, vital, pressing and urgent!**

**Jude said it was urgent, important, and essential that he write and exhort (preach) to them about contending for the faith!

**I believe it is more needful, urgent, essential, important, vital and pressing not only to preach the gospel in these wicked days but also to contend for the faith like we never have before in these wicked last days we are living in!

3. Contend – Contend means to wrestle, fight, strive, and defend, and Jude said do it earnestly!

**We are living in days where sometimes you will have to defend your faith, strive for your faith, and also wrestle and fight principalities, powers, and even some people in order to keep your faith and keep your faith in God!

**Jude said you better get ready to defend and fight for your faith! I think that is a needed message for today!

**The night I got saved, I had to fight and contend for the faith and so did you if you really got saved!

**After salvation it's a daily thing to contend for the faith and that is why it is needful that I tell you to be a Contender for the Faith!

I. The Reality For Being A Contender For The Faith

****Four times in V-3, Jude referred to “you” or “ye” which makes it clear that it is our responsibility to contend for the faith.**

****What Does It Take To Be A Contender?**

A. It Takes Confession

I John 4:2-3² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: ³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

1. Without Confession You Will Be Denounced

Matthew 7:22-23²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

2. Without Confession You Will Be Doomed

John 3:36³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

B. It Takes Courage

Deuteronomy 31:6⁶ Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it* is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

1. Notice, He Will Not Fail You

2. Notice, He Will Not Forsake You

C. It Takes Commitment

****In other words give yourself to the faith so you can contend for the faith.**

1. Commit To A Pure Faith

****Pure Faith is trusting the Lord without the blemishes of doubt.**

2. Commit To A Powerful Faith

****It's a powerful faith that produces a “common salvation” that can wash away all sin and overcome the world!**

3. Commit To A Personal Faith

V-3 “exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith” A personal Father requires a personal faith!

4. Commit To A Patient Faith

Thessalonians 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; **Our faith has to be patient to wait upon the Lord and to trust Him to do as He pleases when He pleases to do His will.****

****If you and I are going to be contenders for the faith, then the reality is there has to be a Confession, a Courage, and a Commitment in order to Contend for the Faith!**

II. The Reasons For Being A Contender For The Faith

****Why must we contend for the faith?**

Jude 1:4 “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.”

A. The Faith Needs To Be Protected

1. These are days of a Raid.

V-4 a For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men,

****Unsaved and Ungodly people are doing their best to overthrow our faith and to control the Church, the Clergy, and the Christian. The raid is on the Christian faith and we must be contenders for the faith so that we protect the faith!**

2. These are days of a Reinterpretation.

V-4b turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness

****This is where we get the word Lewd, Lustful, or Pornographic.**

****They have turned the grace of God into . . .**

a. Something that is Indecent

b. Something that is Immoral

****We are seeing this in this day. Ungodly people have turned the grace of God into a church that accepts adultery or the homosexual lifestyle.**

Illustration: The first week of August 2015, a Baptist church in Greenville, SC announced it would accept and conduct homosexual weddings.

****Who will Contend for the Faith? Who will defend and fight for the faith?**

3. These are days of a Rejection.

V-4 c and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

****They reject the Word of God, the Wooing of God, and the Worship of God!**

Illustration: As soon as you say, “According to the King James Bible . . .” some will automatically dismiss and reject everything you say after that! However, everyone will face God and be judged by the Word of God “according to the King James Bible.” I posted that statement on social media and immediately a few people began to challenge the statement because it said “King James Bible.” I told them that they just proved my point!

****However, our faith needs contenders that will protect our faith!**

B. The Faith Needs To Be Proclaimed

****It used to be common to proclaim the faith, but it is no longer common!**

1. Our faith in the Savior must be Proclaimed!

2. Our faith in the Scripture must be Proclaimed!

3. Our faith in the Salvation must be Proclaimed!

III. The Resolve For Being A Contender For The Faith

****Resolve means the decision or the determination.**

****It is much needed for people like you to decide to contend for the faith and be determined to contend for the faith! I want to help you make that right decision by pointing out the consequences of those who did not contend for the faith.**

A. Consider the Fate of the Unbelieving Children

Jude 1:5 ⁵ I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

- 1. Unbelief leads to Damnation.**
- 2. Unbelief leads to Devastation.**
- 3. Unbelief leads to Destruction.**

****Jude said I want to remind you what happened to the unbelieving children not for the purpose of condemning you but for the purpose of persuading you to make the decision to contend for the faith!**

B. Consider the Fate of the Unruly Cherubs

Jude 1:6 ⁶ And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

**** This verse agrees with II Peter 2:4 ⁴ For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;**

****Notice Jude said these Unruly Cherubs left their own habitation (they left God), and Peter said they sinned.**

****These angels were cast down to hell into the chains of darkness and are waiting for the judgment.**

****Jude said, “I’m trying to persuade you to make the right decision to contend for the faith by reminding you what happened to these angels!”**

****I believe there have been some real good people who at one time like angels contending for the faith in church, but somewhere along the way they kept not their first estate and left their own habitation and followed after the devil, and now they are either in hell or bound for hell.**

C. Consider the Fate of the Ungodly Cities

Jude 1:7 ⁷ Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

****Jude said, “Let me remind you of the ungodly cities that went after **1) Sinful Fornication** **2) Strange Flesh** and **3) Satanic Feelings** (sounds like where we are today), and it led to a **Suffering Fire** for eternity!”**

****Jude was plain in his writings and in his exhorting because he said it was needed so that they would decide to contend for the faith and not suffer the consequences of the fire!**

****Let me encourage you today to get in all the way and put your faith in God and then contend (fight & defend) for the faith!**

CLOSE

1. I know in these last days it looks like the church and the Christian is losing, and we are here on earth. However, those who contended for the faith are the only real winners when this thing is all over!

2. I’ve showed you the **Reality and the **Reasons**, now you must **Resolve** (decide) to contend for the faith. What will you do today?**