

Contending for THE FAITH

Jude 17-23

Matthew 24:4-26; Colossians 2:4-8



30 June 2024

Why Does the Pastor Blow His Trumpet?

IT'S OUR TURN!
We Have Been Called

Why Contend Today?

- We are closer to the Lord's return than ever before. (Romans 13:11)
- *Our Tuesday Bible Study in Daniel 9 - Daniel's 70 Week Prophecy.*
- Christ's return will be **like** a "thief in the night"! What does that look like? (Matt. 24:43; Luke 12:39; 1 Thess 5:2, 4; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3; 16:15)
 - ① He comes in the darkest part of the night – when he is least expect. (Luke 12:40; Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:13; Mark 13:33-36)
 - ★ We are living in very dark times. (Genesis 6:5; Isaiah 5:20; Luke 17:26-30)
 - ② He comes quietly and unobserved by sleepers. (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; Isaiah 56:10)
 - ③ He comes to snatch something. (John 14:3; 1 Thess 4:16-17)
 - ④ He is after jewels – things of value. The pearl of GREAT PRICE – the Church – Matthew 13:46; jewels for "his" crown – Malachi 3:17; his "**peculiar** possession/treasure" (1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14)
 - ⑤ He is not interested in things of no value – Rom 3:12; Matt 25:30; Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3.
 - ⑥ He comes and goes before others are aware. (1 Cor 15:51-52)
 - ⑦ He leaves the house greatly impoverished but Himself greatly enriched.

Is He Coming for You?

(Luke 18:8; Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 9:28)

**HE IS NOT COMING FOR THOSE WHO ONLY HAVE A PERSONAL TESTIMONY
THAT CHRIST IS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOUR!**

Jude's Warnings (Jude 3-16)

- Have we taken these warnings seriously?

BUT YOU . . . (Jude 17)

- This letter is written to ordinary saints.
 - Those who are **CALLED, SANCTIFIED, and PRESERVED.** (v. 1)

- A saint is **defined** by God – NOT the world or self. Either you are a saint (Christian) by God's definition or you are not a saint (Christian).
- We looked at Christ's definition of a saint (Christian). (Luke 9:23; 14:26-33; John 3:1-8 with 1 John 2:29; 3:9-11)
- In Psalm 1, a saint (Christian) is contrasted with the ungodly: A saint is one who:
 - ❶ Does not live by the counsel (ways) of the world.
 - ❷ Does not hang out with sinners for the sake of hanging out.
 - ❸ Is not comfortable around those who are mockers of God, sin, and God's people - those who do not fear God.
 - ❹ **BUT** he does **meditate** on God's Word **day** and **night** – **A LOT!**
 - ❺ He is like a **strong** tree. Remember 1 John 2:14; Jeremiah 17:8.
 - ❻ He produces "**fruit**" for the Master (John 15:1-8) for the good of others. He lives for His Master (1 Peter 4:1-2; Matt 7:21; 12:50; 2 Cor 5:15) and others (1 John 3:16; 4:11)– NOT himself. He finds JOY in serving others. (Even in old age - Psalm 92:14)
 - ❼ His witness (leaf- who he is) is visible to others and it never fades.
- If you are not a saint then you are **wicked**. (Psalm 1:4-5)
- Saints are **DIFFERENT!** Saints stand out like **LIGHT** and **DARKNESS!!!**
- Saints are **DOERS** of God's written Word. (James 1:22; Matthew 7:21)
- God is an **EITHER-OR** God! He does not fool around with words.

ARE YOU A SAINT by GOD'S DEFINITION?

The Saint's Defense (Jude 17-21)

- ★ Here is the PRACTICAL APPLICATION of contending for THE FAITH. Saints will CONTINUALLY do these things to defend themselves from the EVILS that Jude/God has warned them about. FOOLS will ignore DOING these things.
- ❶ **Remember the Word as spoken (written) by the apostles.** The very words of the apostles are as authoritative today as they were when they were first spoken and written. To disobey the words of an apostle is to disobey God Himself! (Luke 10:16) Saints are to ----
 - ❶ **Hear God's Word!** (Romans 10:17; Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 22; 13:9; Matt 11:15; 13:9, 43)
 - ❷ **Read God's Word!** (1 Timothy 4:13)
 - ❸ **Meditate on God's Word.** Think hard about it! Do not take it lightly. (1 Timothy 4:15; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:11)
 - ❹ **Study God's Word! Diligently study God's Word!** (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16-17) Diligently, as a workman, approved by God, rightly dividing truth.
 - ❺ **Continue in the Word of God!** Do **it!** (1 Tim 4:16; 2 Tim 3:14; Titus 1:9; James 1:22; **Luke 8:21; 11:27-28**; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:14; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 2:17; 3:24)
- ★ **The best defense against a LIE is the TRUTH – God's Word.**

★ **The best defense against being deceived is KNOWING the TRUTH – God’s Word.** (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160)

★ **IN THE MIDST OF CONTROVERSY THE WRITTEN WORD IS THE TRUTH!**

★ We are to take Biblical **doctrine** seriously! (1 Timothy 4:13, 16)

★ Do not allow your minds be shaken (2 Thessalonians 2:2) and do not allow yourself to be blown to and fro from one teaching to another. (Eph 4:14)

② **Remember that you have been warned!**

• For every Biblical TRUTH there will be a COUNTERFEIT.

• A counterfeit FOOLS **MOST** people!!! A counterfeit is designed to deceive people.

• Christ, Paul, Peter, John, and Jude have warned us that there **ARE many** false teachers in the world today and that **many ARE** and **ARE BEING** deceived! (Mat 24:4-5, 11, 24; 1 Tim 4:1; 1 John 2:18; 2 Cor 11:13-15; Acts 20:29-30)

• A false teacher looks like, acts like, and sounds like a true teacher. (Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

• Jesus commanded us, “Take heed (BEWARE, BE ABSOLUTELY CAREFUL) that NO ONE deceives YOU!” (Matt 24:4; Col 2:8)

• We are commanded to TEST everyone and everything. (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21)

★ **TO BE FOREWARNED IS TO BE FORE-ARMED. ONLY A FOOL IGNORES SERIOUS WARNINGS!**

③ **Beware of DIVISIVE people.** (v. 19)

• Remember Korah! BEWARE of those in verse 16.

• Other warnings of divisive people: Romans 16:17; 2 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Thess 3:6, 14; 1 Tim 6:3-5; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Titus 3:10; 2 John 10-11.

• False teachers are *sensual – fleshy*. They do not have the Spirit of God and therefore are NOT Christ’s. (Romans 8:9; **James 3:15**)

④ **Build yourself up on your *most holy* faith.**

• FAITH = DOCTRINE.

• Christians are always **STUDENTS** of the Word of God. There is **ALWAYS** more to learn! **BUT** we must test everything. (1 Corinthians 8:2)

• The Word of God is likened to FOOD – we need food every day – the same is true about the Word of God. (Deut. 8:3; **JOB 23:12**; 1 Peter 2:2; John 4:34; Jer 15:16; Psalm 19:10; Heb 5:12-14)

⑤ **Pray in the Holy Spirit.**

• This is NOT praying in *unknown* tongues!!

• NOTE: Paul’s use of singular and plural nouns. NOTE the KJV added the word “*unknown*” to help distinguish between true languages and pagan gibberish.

• We are to pray with our spirit **and** our minds. (1 Corinthians 14:14-15)

• The Spirit and God’s Word **always** go together. (John 6:63)

- **Pray in accordance with God's will.** (1 John 5:14-15)
- We are to pray without ceasing. (Romans 12:12; 1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1; 21:36; Colossians 4:12; 1 Peter 4:7) - walking in the Spirit in a constant ATTITUDE of prayer. Constantly "talking with/communing with" GOD.
- The Holy Spirit has been given to us to HELP us in our prayers. He knows the mind of God and can lead us to pray rightly. (Romans 8:26-27)
- ★ **THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT ALWAYS GO TOGETHER. LEAVE ONE OUT AND WE WILL BE LED ASTRAY!**

⑥ **Constantly Keeping (imperative) Yourself in the Love of God**

- Meditate on the PERFECT love of God.
- God's love never changes!
- God's love is our **only** motivation to obedience. (1 John 3:1-3)
- Constantly be working out your salvation in the fear of God while God works in you! (Philippians 2:12-13)
- Real meditation on God's love will hold us up in the midst of persecution.
- ABIDE in God's love by OBEYING God. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 3:6, 24; 4:16; 1 John 5:1-3)

⑦ **Constantly LOOKING for Christ's Return**

- Eagerly wait for it! (Romans 8:23-25; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:13)
- **Groan for it!** (Romans 8:23) We groan for what we really want!!!
- Blessed are those **servants** who when the Master comes find them **watching** and **doing!** (Luke 12:37, 43)
- PRAY always that YOU might be found worthy "to be taken!" (Luke 21:36)
- His return is MERCY!

⑧ **Encourage and Exhort Those Being Deceived**

- Exhort with GENTLENESS but FIRMNESS. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
- Do not compromise but contend for **THE** faith.
- (1 Peter 3:15-16) 1) Sanctify the Lord God in your heart; 2) always be ready to give a defense to everyone for the HOPE in you; 3) with meekness and fear; 4) having a good conscience.
- Beware and abhor ALL evil. (Romans 12:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

CONTEND FOR THE FAITH!

WARNING!

ONLY CONTENDERS GO TO HEAVEN!

Are you taking Jude seriously?