

JUDE: Lesson 1

Earnestly Contend for the Faith (1-3)

16 June 2023

Vs 1 “Jude...to them that are sanctified...”

- **Sanctify:** to separate something or to set it apart.
 - A person may sanctify themselves. They may separate themselves from a particular set of sins. This does nothing to save that person. If they were lost before they sanctified themselves, they will still be lost afterward.
 - God sanctifies those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. He takes them out of the mass of humanity and makes them part of Himself, His Church, His Body, and His Son.

“...and preserved in Jesus Christ...” God is the One who will Keep you in Jesus Christ. You cannot hang onto your own salvation or “*endure to the end.*” Only God can preserve you.

- **2 Timothy 4:18**, God promised to preserve us unto his heavenly kingdom. We will not be able to take any credit for “*living it.*” God will get all the glory for getting us to heaven.

“...and called.” EVERY person who has been **sanctified** by God and **preserved** by God is also **called** by God.

- That means God does NOT have a select *handful* of people whom He has called.
 - God’s Holy Spirit empowers all believers to serve Christ as His witnesses (Acts 1:8). EVERY Christian is called of God to preach the gospel to unbelievers.
 - Note that preaching the gospel is not limited to church leadership.

Vs 2 “Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.”

- **Mercy:** not receiving the judgment that you deserve. We deserve hell. God’s mercy spares us.
- **Peace:** this is inner peace that only God can provide. No matter how many things go wrong in our daily life, God can multiply His peace to meet the need and remove worry and distress.
- **Love:** God’s love is unconditional. Even when you feel unlovable and unworthy, God still loves you.

Vs 3 Jude intended to write “**of the common salvation,**” but the need of the day was to exhort believers to “**earnestly contend for the faith...**” The remainder of Jude is centered on this exhortation.

CONTEND: to strive in opposition. To contest. To dispute. To vie (struggle, fight). To quarrel.

- **To strive in opposition.** Every Christian who obeys God and preaches the gospel to the lost will find themselves in the midst of contention. It is unavoidable to the gospel preacher.
- **To contest:** ask people why they do what they do, where they’re going (heaven or hell), who are they following (the Lord or the devil). Don’t worry about offending someone. Their eternal destiny is at stake.
- **To dispute:** with false religions that will take a person to hell. Dispute with lost people who are trusting something other than Jesus Christ to get them to heaven.
- **To vie (compete):** Are the religious cults in your neighborhood more active than you are, trying to gain converts? Don’t let them win! Eternal souls are at stake! You need to be better than the Mormon, Jehovah’s Witness, and other cults when it comes to witnessing.

- **To quarrel:** before you were saved, you used to quarrel about things that didn't matter. Now, when you hear someone speak an untruth about your Savior or your faith, don't sit back and let it go. Prove that person wrong from the holy scriptures. Be polite, but don't allow lies to prevail.
-

Scriptural support for contending:

Prov. 28:4 When you don't oppose the wicked, in essence, you are telling the wicked that their way is better than God's way. If you live according to God's commands, it should naturally bring you into situations where you'll have to contend with ungodly or disbelieving people.

Eph. 5:11 It's not enough to "**have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.**" We must ALSO "**rather reprove them.**" We are commanded to avoid sinful practices with sinful people and then to speak up and make sure everybody knows those practices are harmful and wicked.

1 Tim. 5:20 It's not enough to recognize sin when you see it and stay away from it. God wants us to bring it to light and rebuke those who practice the sin so others may fear.

2 Tim. 4:2 Preaching includes reproof, rebuking, and exhorting. A person's sin must be brought to light and dealt with. It must not be hidden away and treated as though it's not a serious issue. A person can't get right with God if they don't repent and get right with God. Speak out against sin!

Titus 1:9-11 If you're a child of God, you ought to do whatever you can to stop the mouth of any influence that is leading people to sin and away from the faith. You won't make friends that way, but God will be pleased with you.

Gal. 2:11, 2:4-5 When you find out about some people in your church who are trying to convince people to trust the law for salvation, do not allow it for even one hour. Rebuke any leader who does allow it.

Acts 9:29 When you speak boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, it will often anger people who believe their way of salvation is just as good as yours. They may even want to kill you. That's no reason to stop telling people the right way.

Acts 17:17 The very center verse of the New Testament is about a man disputing, contending for the faith with unbelievers. That practice ought to be central in our lives.

Matt. 10:32-38 Jesus Christ didn't save you to make peace in the world. He saved you to take the sword of the spirit, the word of God, and preach the truth.

- Using that sword may cause contention between you and your father (vs 35), but you do it for his soul's sake.
 - Preaching the truth of God's word may cause contention with every member of your household. Are you going to lay down the truth to keep peace with your family? The Lord says you're not worthy of Him if you do that. You must tell people about Jesus Christ our Savior.
-