



Grievous  
Wolves  
&  
WANDERING  
STARS



Ancient & Modern  
Apostasy Revealed In The  
Book Of Jude

Dr. James Rasbeary

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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## DEDICATION

This volume is dedicated to two fine Christian families, with whom it has been my pleasure to serve the Lord at the Lighthouse Baptist Church of Wylie, Texas:

**The Ron Birkett family.**

**The Greg Camp family.**

Thank you for your faithfulness and support through the founding years of our church, the years of struggle, and the years of victory.

**“LEARN THE BIBLE WHILE  
YOU ARE YOUNG, AND  
WHEN YOU ARE OLD YOU  
WILL DRAW FROM IT LIKE A  
WELL.”**

**Dr. J. Frank Norris**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction to Jude (1:1-2)	7
1. Three Facts about the Saved (1:1-2)	11
2. The Common Salvation (1:3)	17
3. Apostates: Satan's Undercover Agents (1:4)	29
4. The Apostate's Creepy Approach (1:4)	43
5. Messing with the Grace of God (1:4)	51
6. Turning Grace into Lasciviousness (1:4)	61
7. Denying the Only Lord God (1:4)	67
8. Defending the Chastity of the Church (1:3-4)	81
9. Delivered, Deceived, Destroyed (1:5)	91
10. The Angels that Left their First Estate (1:6)	99
11. "Even as Sodom" (1:7)	105
12. Filthy Dreamers (1:8-10)	121
13. Three Brands of Apostasy (1:11)	127
14. Trouble Spots in the Church (1:12)	135
15. Clouds without Water (1:12)	143
16. Fruitless Trees (1:12)	151
17. Raging Waves of the Sea (1:13)	161
18. Wandering Stars (1:13)	171
19. Enoch, the Contender (1:14-15)	179
20. The Root of the Problem (1:16-19)	189
21. Contenders that Make a Difference (1:20-23)	197
22. The Contender's Crown (1:24-25)	207
Endnotes	216

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. (29) For I know this, that after my departing shall **grievous wolves** enter in among you, not sparing the flock. (30) Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. (31) Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

Acts 20:28-31

## INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JUDE

**(Jude 1:1-2) "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called: {2} Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied."**



The writer of this divinely inspired Book is introduced in the first word of the first verse. Jude was the half-brother of Jesus Christ, as was James. The Lord Jesus Christ was virgin-born, without a human father. After the birth of Christ, Joseph and Mary had a normal, healthy marriage relationship, which produced four sons and several daughters. These brothers were named in **Mark 6:3 - "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him."** Jude was the shortened version of the very popular name Judah or Judas.

These brothers accompanied Christ to Capernaum, with Mary and the disciples. **(John 2:12) "After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days."** However, the half-brothers of Christ did not believe in Him prior to His resurrection:

- **(John 7:3-7) "His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. {4} For *there is* no man *that* doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, show thyself to the world. {5} For neither did his brethren**

believe in him. {6} Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready. {7} The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil."

James saw the resurrected Christ, and it is highly probable that Jude did as well. **(1 Cor 15:7) "After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles."** Mary and her sons were present in the Jerusalem church in the prayer meeting that led to Pentecost: **(Acts 1:14) "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."** Paul mentioned the Lord's brethren as being married and serving God in prominent roles, apparently with the Apostle Peter. **(1 Cor 9:5) "Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and *as* the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?"**

James became a prominent leader in the church of Jerusalem, and is commonly believed to have served as the pastor of that great church. Under Holy Spirit inspiration, he wrote the Book of James.

Jude introduced himself with humility, not as the half-brother of Jesus Christ, but as His servant. There is no higher title for a Christian to wear than **"the servant of Jesus Christ."** We should understand that the word *servant* as used in this sense has nothing to do with involuntary slavery. It refers only to a *voluntary service*. Noah Webster noted correctly in his 1828 English Dictionary that a slave is always a servant, but a servant is not necessarily a slave. Therefore, the modern English versions that change "servant" to "slave" in various other passages of the Bible are corrupting the meaning of the word. We are not slaves to Christ. The saved are children of God, heirs of God and joint-heirs of Christ. We serve Him because we want to. We are voluntary servants.

The Epistle of Jude was written to a specific audience of believers that were beloved to Jude (vs. 3). The identity of these



believers is unknown. We do know that the Holy Ghost of God authored this Book through Jude, making it a part of the Word of God. Therefore, it is inspired, inerrant, and preserved for us, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16-17). I believe that the King James Bible is the preserved Word of God in the English language. It's inspiration and inerrancy are perfectly preserved according to Psalm 12:6-7.

This Epistle was written to God's children everywhere, for all time. It's placement in the canon of Scripture, directly before the Book of the Revelation, befits its divine purpose. Jude accurately describes the apostasy that will fill "Christendom" in the last days prior to the Lord's return. Someone has said that Luke wrote the Acts of the *Apostles*, and Jude wrote the Acts of the *Apostates*. It is written specifically about and against apostate teachers and preachers that have turned from the faith. Paul described these false preachers and their churches in the perilous last days: **(2 Tim 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; {4} And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."**

There has never been a time in history in which the world was as plagued with counterfeit versions of Christianity as it is now. There are literally hundreds of groups, sects, schisms, and organizations that all claim the name of Jesus Christ. Some are worldwide organizations and others are small, isolated groups. Some are considered "mainstream," while others are considered "cults." Some have been around for centuries, while others are only a few years old. Most of these groups are apostate groups that are not true to the rightly divided Word of God.

True believers need to learn their Bibles to gain discernment, because not everything named "church" or claiming the precious name of Jesus is right. Many of them are false churches, preaching **"damnable heresies" (2 Pet. 2:1)!** In this study of Jude, we are

## **Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars**

going to turn on the brilliant spotlight of God's Word and expose the false teachers, preachers, and doctrines of our day. It is this author's hope that this book will challenge us to stand fast and strive forward in these the last of the last days.

## Chapter One

### THREE FACTS ABOUT THE SAVED

(Jude 1:1-2) "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called: {2} Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied."



In Jude 1:1-2, we find three wonderful facts about the saved, which were and are the intended recipients of this Epistle. A saved person is one that has been **"born again"** by personal faith in Jesus Christ. This new birth is not the product of a religious rite such as baptism, communion, or church membership. It is not the result of signing a card at a church. ***The new birth is a miraculous event that comes down from God, turning a lost sinner instantaneously into a child of God.*** This is not something that the sinner does. It is something that God does when the sinner repents towards God and puts his faith in Jesus Christ. By grace, he is saved. His spirit is regenerated or **"born again."** Then, and only then, he is saved. Consider these scriptures concerning the miracle of the new birth:

- (John 3:7) "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."
- (John 1:11-13) "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. {12} But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: {13} Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

- **(Eph 2:8-9) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast."**

Dear reader, if you have not yet been born again the Bible way, I exhort you to turn to Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Church membership, baptism, and good works cannot pay our sin debts. No matter how sincere you are or how much you try to do for God, you cannot please Him without faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. This faith must be willing to trust Jesus Christ **100%** for salvation. Saving faith is never 50% Jesus and 50% baptism, or 75% Jesus and 25% good works, or any other combination. **Salvation is 100% Jesus, all the way, or it is not salvation at all.**

Notice these three fantastic facts about the redeemed, which will help us to recognize the heresies of those who meddle with the doctrines of salvation:

## **I. THE SAVED ARE SANCTIFIED BY THE FATHER.**

Sanctified means "set apart as belonging to God." When a person is saved, they are automatically set apart as part of the people of God. They are part of His family from then on.

Who are those that are "**sanctified by God the Father?**"

- **(1 Cor 6:9-11) "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, {10} Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. {11} And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."**

According to the above passage, those who are **“justified in the name of the Lord Jesus”** are sanctified. Even those who were fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, etc., are sanctified by saving faith in Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ causes us to be translated from darkness to light. **(Acts 26:18) “To open their eyes, and to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”**

How permanent is this sanctification? Does it need to be repeated periodically, like the Old Testament sacrifices? Paul answers this question for us: **(Heb 10:10-12) “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. {11} And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: {12} But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God...”** We do not need multiple sacrifices or offerings for sin. Jesus Christ was our **“once for all”** sacrifice. He died once, and only once, and will never suffer or die again for men’s sins. Through that **“once for all”** sacrifice, we receive a **“once for all”** sanctification.

When I put my faith in Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, I was sanctified. I was set apart as belonging to God. I was washed clean of all my sins, and justified in the name of Jesus Christ. Justified means that it is *“just if I’d”* never sinned. My sins were forgiven, and Jesus Christ’s perfect righteousness was imputed to me, just as my sins were imputed to Him on the cross.

Only those who have been born again are sanctified by God the Father. The New International Version (NIV) waters down this doctrine in its translation of Jude 1:1. It reads: **“To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:”**<sup>1</sup> This faulty translation destroys the doctrine of sanctification in this verse. God the Father loves the whole world, but everyone is not automatically sanctified by God. God loved me

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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*before* I got saved, but I was not *sanctified* until I turned to Jesus Christ and was saved when I was 15 years old.

### II. THE SAVED ARE PRESERVED IN JESUS CHRIST.

Christ's salvation is an eternally secure salvation:

- **(John 10:27-29) "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: {28} And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. {29} My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."**

The Bible teaches eternal security. A permanent salvation. Once saved, always saved. I am saved by His grace and preserved by His power. Yet many who call themselves Christian are fearful of "falling from grace" or losing their salvation. I am glad that Christ keeps me from falling. **(Jude 1:24) "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy..."**

If I end up in hell, it will be because Jesus could not keep His promises – and, as we say in Texas, that just ain't gonna happen.

### III. THE SAVED ARE CALLED BY THE HOLY GHOST.

God says we are sanctified, preserved, and then called. The word "called" has a double meaning:

1. It means invited.
2. It means appointed.

When we were lost, God called us or invited us to salvation. If you aren't saved, God is calling you now to salvation.

- **(1 Cor 1:9) "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."**
- **(2 Th 2:14) "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

When the gospel is preached or shared, the invitation is given. **(Rev 22:17) "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."** The door is wide open for **"whosoever will."** I never have to worry about taking the gospel to the wrong person.

The only reason that I am saved is because God gave me an invitation. I have been called by the gospel of Jesus Christ. I said "yes" to that invitation!

Called also means appointed. When I accepted God's call to salvation, I was then appointed to some responsibilities:

1. I am called to be a saint. I am a saint, and I am to live like it. **(Rom 1:7) "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints..."**
2. I am called or appointed to a life of holiness. **(1 Th 4:7) "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."**
3. I am called to follow in the steps of the Saviour. **(1 Pet 2:21) "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps..."**
4. I am appointed or ordained to a fruitful life of service. **(John 15:16) "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."**

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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5. I am appointed to fulfill a number of good works, which God has for me to accomplish. These works do not save me. I do not do them to get saved, but because I am already saved! **(Eph 2:10) "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."**

The Holy Ghost is the One that calls us to Jesus Christ for salvation, and quickens us (makes us spiritually alive) when we trust Christ as our Saviour. So we see that the entire Trinity is involved in the work of redemption.

Notice a three-fold blessing for God's redeemed: **(Jude 1:2) "Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied."**

There are three things I need:

1. Mercy to soothe.
2. Peace to stand.
3. Love to strengthen.

These words are facing in three directions:

1. Mercy – *downward* from God.
2. Peace – *inward* to the heart.
3. Love – *outward* to others.

God can always give us what we need. In fact, He can multiply it! No matter what your need is, God has more than enough to supply that need. Sometimes I need mercy, and other times I need multiplied mercy. Sometimes I need peace, and sometimes I need multiplied peace. Sometimes I need love, and there are times that I need multiplied love. Thank God, His grace is always sufficient!



## Chapter Two

### THE COMMON SALVATION

**(Jude 1:3) "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."**



Jude is a very serious Book, written about a very serious subject. It is a warning against false doctrines, false prophets and false teachers. False doctrines need to be exposed. False teachers need to be exposed. False prophets need to be exposed. The light of God's Word must to be shined upon those who teach **"damnable heresies."**

The church of Ephesus knew how to put teachers and preachers to the test. Many years before, Paul had warned them that false teachers would arise, even from their own ranks:

- **(Acts 20:28-30) "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. {29} For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. {30} Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."**

Though the Ephesus church was not all that it should have been (it had left its first love and the first works), it knew how to try the spirits to prove if they were of God. They tried those that called themselves apostles, and **"found them liars:"**

- (Rev 2:1-3) "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; {2} I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: {3} And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted."

Every church needs to know enough of the Bible to try the doctrines of professing preachers, and prove if they are true or liars. If our church members are ignorant of Bible doctrine, they are not going to be able to tell the difference. They will be fooled by showmanship and smooth oratory (see Rom. 16:18). Pastors need to get back into their Bibles and start preaching the whole counsel of God again. The pastors of ignorant churches should be ashamed of themselves! Part of the pastor's job is to provide Bible training that will keep his people from being swayed by false doctrines:

- (Eph 4:11-15) "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; {12} For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: {13} Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: {14} That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; {15} But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even Christ:*"

We must be particularly careful when it comes to the doctrines of salvation. This doctrine divides the wheat from the chaff, the sheep from the goats. If a man is wrong on this doctrine,

he will be preaching **“another gospel”** and will be **“accursed”** (Gal. 1:8-9). Jude has begun to write about the **“common salvation,”** but God changed his purpose and the Book of Jude was the result.

The **“common salvation”** refers to the salvation that we all enjoy as Christians. All saved people were saved in the same way. There is only one way to be saved – **“by grace through faith”** in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-9). **“The common salvation”** also refers to our common benefits as saved people. Each child of God is an heir of God and a joint-heir of Jesus Christ, and enjoys the same privileges of every other child of God. Rewards differ among God’s children based on their obedience, service, and stewardship. But our inheritance in Christ is exactly the same. It is a **“common salvation.”**

There is only one salvation. There is only one way to be saved. There is only one Person of salvation, one name of salvation, and one plan of salvation. This common salvation that Jude mentioned is the only salvation that there is. **(Acts 4:12) “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”**

We need to be very familiar with the doctrine of salvation. The gospel is not something that is to be trifled with or compromised over. To do so brings a curse:

- (Gal 1:6-9) **“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: {7} Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. {8} 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. {9} 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.”**

Satan wants to corrupt the church with false doctrines and other gospels. He wants to turn us away from **“the simplicity that**

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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**is in Christ."** The gospel is not hard to understand. It is simple. Even a little child can understand it:

- **(2 Cor 11:3-4) "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. {4} For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."**

There is only one gospel – and that is the message that Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose again according to the scriptures – and that is ALL I need to be saved. I do not need confirmation, communion, membership, baptism, or good works. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ paid in full the debt of sin that was owed. I needed only to put my faith in Jesus Christ to become a beneficiary of that purchased redemption.

Most of the denominations calling themselves Christian teach some form of baptismal regeneration. They have added baptism to the gospel of grace. However, baptism is not a part of the gospel. Consider what Paul wrote:

- **(1 Cor 1:14-18) "I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; {15} Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. {16} And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. {17} For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. {18} For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."**

It is obvious that preaching the gospel did not include baptism. If baptism was a part of salvation, why wasn't Paul sent to do it? In

verse 18, it is the **“preaching of the cross”** that is **“the power of God”** unto salvation.

We are called Baptists because we baptize our converts and make a big deal about this ordinance. However, no true Baptist church baptizes people to get them saved. We only baptize those who have already been saved. This has been a great distinctive mark of our Baptist faith for 2000 years. While other denominations were baptizing people (including, of course, infants) for salvation, without the requirement of regeneration, we insisted that people must be born again before they could be baptized. This Bible conviction caused multiplied millions of our Baptist forefathers to be martyred.<sup>2</sup>

Legalism is the addition of an unscriptural requirement for salvation. Legalism began early on in the church, when some Pharisees tried to insist that Gentiles had to be circumcised and become Jews before they could be saved. **(Acts 15:1) "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved."** Legalism is the addition of “except ye be \_\_\_\_\_, ye cannot be saved.”\*

In the beginning, the addition was circumcision and the laws of Moses. But it does not matter what the exception is. Anything other than God’s requirement of believing in Christ (which is repentance and faith) is a satanic addition. Anyone who adds *any* exception to salvation is presenting a false, perverted gospel. It does not matter if the exception or addition is circumcision, Judaism, church membership, baptism, communion, “Lordship salvation,” good deeds, or “holding on to the end.” *Any* addition is a *satanic* addition.

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\* *Compromising* Christians now refer to Bible-believers as “legalists” if they hold to Bible standards or convictions. However, the term legalist has nothing to do with obeying God’s Word after salvation; it has only to do with the necessity of works *for* salvation.

When people begin to pervert the gospel, it will be revealed in one of five areas:

### 1. They pervert the doctrines of Christ, the Person of salvation.

They will deny His deity, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His vicarious death, or His bodily resurrection. Most of all, they deny the fact that He is God in the flesh. This is the great error of the Jehovah's (False) Witnesses and the Mormons, as well as the Unitarians. They deny the deity of Jesus Christ and the doctrine of the Trinity.

Not everyone that claims the name of Jesus worships the Jesus of the Bible. Some have **"another Jesus" (2 Cor 11:3-4)**. A man can carve a statue and call it "Jesus." He can worship it, love it, and sincerely believe in "Jesus." But he is worshipping vanity. That statue is not Jesus. In the same way, men can produce *mental* idols or religious ideologies and call them "Jesus," and be sincere – but they are also worshipping vanity.

Jesus is a Person, and He must be accepted for Who He is. He is the Son of God and God the Son. He was virgin-born. He did live a sinless life. He is equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the Trinity. There is no room for deviation when it comes to the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

- **(2 John 1:7) "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."**
- **(2 John 1:9-11) "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. {10} If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: {11} For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."**

## **2. They pervert the means of salvation.**

They deny the sufficiency of Christ's atonement on the cross of Calvary. They deny the necessity of His shed blood. They offer Cain's fruit basket instead of Abel's lamb.

Salvation is through the blood of Jesus Christ. Without that blood, there is no redemption or forgiveness for our sins:

- **(Lev 17:11) "For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul."**
- **(Eph 1:7) "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"**

Anyone who denies the blood atonement of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins is a false teacher who is teaching another means whereby men can be saved. The shed blood of Jesus Christ is the only propitiation for our sins (Rom. 3:25).

## **3. They pervert the method of salvation.**

God saves us by grace through faith in Christ. **(Eph 2:8-9) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast."** We are NOT saved through religion or works of the law, or any religious observance whatsoever:

- **(Rom 11:6) "And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."**
- **(Gal 2:16) "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified**

by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

- (Titus 3:4-7) "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, {5} Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; {6} Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; {7} That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

False gospels change the methods of salvation from grace to some form of works. They add to God's salvation, or they take away from God's salvation. They add works, or they take away man's responsibility to believe. Salvation in these false gospels is no longer 100% Jesus. It is Jesus plus something.

#### **4. They pervert the availability of salvation.**

Salvation is available to anyone capable of believing in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (this excludes infants and children too small to understand and believe). God's salvation is available to anyone, regardless of his or her race, age, or sins of the past. It is a **"whosoever will"** salvation:

- (John 3:15-16) "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. {16} For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
- (Rev 22:17) "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

As a Baptist, I do **not** believe that one must be a Baptist to be saved, although I believe that you have to be saved to be a



true Baptist (since we only baptize believers). I know that there are people in many religious denominations who are truly saved – not because of their denomination, but because at some point they heard the true gospel and believed on Jesus Christ as Saviour.

However, many denominations and cults deny that anyone outside of their religion can be saved. Pope Innocent III, considered one of the most powerful and influential popes in history, stated at the Fourth Lateran Council (1213 A.D.): *"There is but one Universal Church of the faithful, **outside of which no one at all can be saved.**"* Incidentally, this same Papal decree states that no marriage is valid unless it is performed by a Catholic priest, and that the children of those whom presume to marry outside the Church are illegitimate. And they dare to call Baptists bigoted? What Baptist preacher ever declared the child of legally married Catholics to be illegitimate? What Baptist ever declared that everyone in the world had to come to the Baptist church to get married?

Ask the local Church of Christ pastor if you can be saved without his church's baptism. If he is honest and consistent with his church's beliefs, he will say, "no." According to the historic position of his church, baptism must accompany faith, and the right authority must do it. To the Church of Christ, all other denominations have gone apostate – therefore, none has the right to baptize apart from themselves. Thus, salvation is exclusive to their churches!

Bible-believing Baptists do not confine salvation to their churches. We believe that people can be saved without ever entering a church or being baptized (the thief on the cross is a great example). God's salvation is available to anyone, anywhere, anytime. It is a *"whosoever will"* salvation.

## **5. They pervert the effects of salvation.**

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Specifically, they preach a salvation that is not *eternally secure*. They preach a salvation that is *temporary*, and which does not really save at all. In their “gospel,” God gives us *temporary* life instead of *everlasting* life.

Is salvation permanent or temporary, according to the Word of God?

- **(John 3:36)** "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."
- **(John 5:24)** "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Are we “kept” or “preserved” by our continued good works and perseverance to the end? Or are we kept and preserved by the grace of God?

- **(1 Pet 1:3-5)** "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Are we “holding on to the end?” Or are we held by the omnipotent hands of God Almighty?

- **(Jude 1:24-25)** "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, {25} To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen."

Any religion that preaches that a man has to “hold on to the end” or “persevere to the end” in order to achieve salvation is preaching *“another gospel.”* The heresy that we must maintain our salvation, or work out our salvation by holding on and doing good works is an insult to the total sufficiency of Calvary. It teaches that Jesus only made the down payment, and that we must “keep up the installments,” or our salvation will be repossessed!

The true gospel has an immediate, permanent effect – God immediately gives us eternal life and secures us permanently in Christ. Anything else is a perverted gospel.

Any doctrine of salvation has to match **John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** If what someone says does not match the plain statements of Jesus to Nicodemus, they are teaching *“another gospel.”* They are teaching **“damnable heresies.”** There is no baptism mentioned in John 3:16. Speaking in tongues is not mentioned. Holding on to the end is not mentioned. Church membership is not mentioned. According to John 3:16, all a person must do in order to have everlasting life is *believe* in God’s only begotten Son! That word “believe” means to trust with all the heart. When I trust Jesus Christ to forgive me of all my sins and take me to heaven on the merits of His death, burial, and resurrection, I am saved and given everlasting life, and spared from ever perishing in hell.

The doctrine of salvation is a great Biblical litmus test for false teachers. If they are wrong here, you know that they are wrong everywhere. They are wolves in sheep’s clothing.

**"Whosoever transgresseth, and  
abideth not in the doctrine of Christ,  
hath not God. He that abideth in the  
doctrine of Christ, he hath both the  
Father and the Son. {10} If there  
come any unto you, and bring not this  
doctrine, receive him not into *your*  
house, neither bid him God speed:  
{11} For he that biddeth him God  
speed is partaker of his evil deeds."**

**2 John 1:9-11**

### Chapter Three

## **SATAN'S UNDERCOVER AGENTS**

**(Jude 1:3-4) "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. {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."**



God has called us to **"earnestly contend for the faith."** This is the **"good fight"** that Paul referred to when he said, **"I have fought a good fight...I have kept the faith"** (2 Tim. 4:7). Paul took on all comers as he fearlessly and relentlessly battled for the faith. In his ministry, he faced apostates, modernists, liberals, Jewish rabbis, heathen idolaters, and heretics – both outside and inside the church. The battle for the faith will not end this side of Christ's return. Each Christian of every generation is called to put on the whole armor of God and earnestly contend for the faith once delivered.

Let us identify what Jude was talking about when he wrote of **"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** "The faith" is different than MY faith. My faith is what I use to trust God. "THE faith" is where I get my faith. "THE faith" is the Word of God, His revelation of truth to us. "THE faith" is the body of truth or revelation as given by God in the Scriptures. **(Rom 10:17) "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."**

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Satan knows that the Bible is the source of man's faith in God. In order to destroy our faith, he attacks the source of our faith. To destroy our faith, he attacks *"the faith,"* which is the Word of God. The infamous infidel Voltaire echoed his spiritual father when he said, *"If we would destroy Christianity, we must first of all destroy man's belief in the Bible."*<sup>3</sup>

The battle is always for the Bible. Today, there is a vast array of devilish forces rallying against God's Word: modernism, liberalism, evolutionism, environmentalism, socialism, communism, radicalism, humanism, feminism, atheism, agnosticism, and materialism are all in battle array. The homosexual crowd, the abortion crowd, the entertainment crowd, the liquor crowd, the drug crowd, the gambling crowd, and the pornography crowd have all set themselves against the Word of God. Saddest of all, the theological crowd and the seminary crowd also seem to be against the Bible. They correct it, edit it, criticize it, mock it, and ignore its commandments.

God is calling us to a defense of THE faith, the Word of God. That body of truth has been delivered. He is not going to give us another chapter or another verse of the Bible. His revelation is complete. In fact, God pronounces a curse on anyone who dares to add anything to His completed Bible or to take anything from it. (*Rev 22:18-19*).

While in High School, this author got into an argument with the son of the local Mormon bishop. I had not been saved very long, but I had my little red New Testament with me in my backpack. When he told me that he had further revelation from God in his Mormon books, I simply opened my New Testament to Revelation 22:21. At the bottom of the page was written, "THE END." I asked him why God said "THE END" if He wasn't done? The son of the Mormon bishop scratched his head and did not have an answer. The fact is that when Revelation 22 was completed, it was THE END of God's Word.

We are not to take a namby-pamby position concerning the truth. The Bible is clear that **“ye should earnestly contend for the faith.”** “Ye” is plural and refers to all of us. This is not just a battle for preachers to fight amongst each other. Every child of God is called to contend for the faith. **We are the priesthood of believers.** We are just as responsible for the Word of God today as the Old Testament priests were in their day.

Every child of God needs to learn the Bible so that he can defend the Bible and give an answer to unbelievers or skeptics. **(1 Pet 3:15) "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"**

Apostates would not be able to take over churches if the members were grounded in the truth. **The best defense for a church is a strong pulpit and an educated pew.** Apostates and heretics become very uncomfortable around strong, authoritative pastors, usually preferring ignorant churches and weak leadership (they tend to call strong pastors “dictators” to cover up their own rebellious spirit). If you have a strong, Bible-preaching pastor who takes a stand for true doctrine, thank God and stand with him. He is the under-shepherd appointed to help keep grievous wolves out of the church. If his doctrinal preaching runs some folks off, let them run.

As Christians, we need to take the faith far more seriously than many do. The Bible is worth fighting over. We need to contend for the truths of God’s Word. Doctrines should be defended, not abandoned. Too many Christians are too willing to throw away doctrine to try to “get along.” What doctrine are you willing to ditch to get along with heretics and apostates?

In this chapter, we are going to look at Scriptures that expose false teachers - apostates that will try to creep into our churches and turn them away from the faith once delivered. Verse 4 tells us that they creep in unawares. They sneak in. They are not what they

claim to be. They are wolves wearing sheep's clothing. **(1 John 4:1)** **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** Try them by the Word of God. We need to learn to interpret our experiences by the Bible, and not the Bible by our experiences.

Consider four facts about the apostate and his relationship to the devil:

### I. THE APOSTATE IS LINKED TO SATAN.

- **(2 Cor 11:13-15)** **"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. {14} And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. {15} Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."**

These are weighty verses that should be carefully considered. Not everyone who claimed to be an apostle was a true apostle. (And there are NO true apostles TODAY, and haven't been any since John the Beloved died at the end of the first century.) Not everyone who claims to be a minister of righteousness is truly what he claims to be. Some who claim to be **"ministers of righteousness"** are actually **"ungodly men"** living in **"lasciviousness"** **(Jude 1:4)**. Not every organization calling itself a church is really Christ's church. Many are preaching satanic doctrines that are totally contrary to the Word of God.

Satan has his counterfeits. Their works are deceitful. When you look at them, you think that you are seeing the real deal. But they are frauds. Paul identifies these men as **"his ministers,"** referring to Satan. They won't look like it, and they don't think that they are. But if they are preaching a false gospel, they are secret agents in



Satan's service. God calls them false apostles, deceitful workers. They are linked to Satan, not God.

## **II. THE APOSTATE IS TRANSFORMED TO LOOK LIKE A SERVANT OF CHRIST.**

These ministers are transformed by satanic power so that they appear to be apostles of Christ and ministers of righteousness.

- **(2 Cor 11:13-15) "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. {14} And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. {15} Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."**

They do not look like Satan worshippers, and they would be very offended if you said that they were. They don't paint pentagrams on the floor. They look like they serve Christ. They look like ministers of righteousness. These are not Buddhist priests. They claim to be Christian. They claim to have been sent by Jesus Christ. They are not Muslims or Hindus. They really do believe that they are Christians.

And they really do think that they are doing God service. They think that they are serving Jesus Christ, when in fact they are preaching a perverted gospel and a perverted theology. They think that they are doing God service, when in fact they are teaching others **"damnable heresies."**

No one can doubt the sincerity of most of these people. Some of them are frauds that are only pursuing wealth, but many others are sincere in their motives and self-sacrificing in their efforts. Do I dare to say that such sincere people are actually serving the devil? How dare I make such a brash claim! Yet, if they are teaching **"another gospel"** they are **"accursed"** (Gal. 1:8-9). Satan has

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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deceived these ministers. From their positions of leadership, these deceived ministers then deceive their listeners, and all are led astray from the Word of God.

Saul of Tarsus was deceived in this way before his salvation. Can anyone doubt his sincerity as a Jewish rabbi? Listen to his testimony:

- **(Acts 26:9-15) "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. {10} Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. {11} And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities. {12} Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, {13} At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. {14} And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. {15} And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."**

Saul never thought that he was doing anything wrong when he persecuted Christians. He beat them, punished them, and compelled them to blaspheme the name of Christ. He caused some to be martyred and had others thrown in prison. Did Saul of Tarsus consider that he might be wrong? Not at all. He thought that he was doing God service – until he heard the voice from heaven say, **"I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."** Can you imagine the shock that Saul felt when he heard the name of Jesus? In one moment of time, Saul realized he had been totally and completely deceived.

Saul had been sincere. But sincerely wrong is still wrong.

Many ministers are very sincere, but sincerely wrong is still wrong. They think they are doing God service. But they are in fact setting themselves up for a greater condemnation.

- **(Mat 23:15) "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."**
- **(Gal 1:9) "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."**

Dear reader, let us not be swayed by appearances. Let us trust in the Word of God. What God says is wrong is wrong. What God says is accursed is accursed.

### **III. THE APOSTATE HAS A SATANIC ORDINATION.**

- **(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."**

Did you notice that these ungodly, creeping preachers were "ordained?" Ordained means, "appointed, prepared, or sent." Ordained means that power and authority is given to them by the one that is ordaining them.

For example, Jesus ordained His apostles, giving them power and authority for their task. **(Mark 3:14-15) "And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, {15} And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils..."** Paul knew that he was ordained and had authority from God. **(1 Tim 2:7) "Whereunto I am ordained a**

**preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity."**

These creepy men were appointed and sent with authority by the one that sent them – which, as we have already seen, is Satan. He has given them power. He has given them authority as the **"god of this world"** (2 Cor. 4:4).

This ordination leads to condemnation. Consider the following passage very carefully, because they describe the condemnation of those whose ordination comes from hell instead of heaven:

- **(Mat 7:15-22) "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. {16} Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? {17} Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. {19} Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {20} Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. {21} Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} 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?"**

Jesus described folks at the Great White Throne Judgment that considered themselves Christians. They will say, "But Lord, we served and preached and performed miracles in your name! We did many wonderful works!" But these men and women were still lost. Jesus said, **(Mat 7:23) "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."**

These men transform themselves into ministers of righteousness. But they are apostates. God did not ordain them.

They did not trust in Christ 100% for salvation. They were sincere, but deceived.

#### **IV. THE APOSTATE'S MINISTRY WILL BE MARKED BY SATANIC POWER.**

Their power is real, but it comes from the power of darkness, not the power of God. Satan, the arch-deceiver, gives them power to deceive their followers. **(Mat 24:11) "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."** This power of deception is so great that even saved people could be deceived by them. **(Mat 24:24) "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."**

In fact, their ministries may be accompanied by genuine miracles:

- Jesus warned us to beware of imposters that had the power to show signs and wonders. **(Mat 24:23-24) "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. {24} For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."**
- The coming Antichrist of the Tribulation period will have satanic power that is evidenced by power, signs, and lying wonders. **(2 Th 2:7-12) "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. {8} And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: {9} Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, {10} And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the**

truth, that they might be saved. {11} And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: {12} That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

- In Revelation 13, we read of the False Prophet of the Tribulation period, who will have power to perform great signs and wonders. (Rev 13:11-15) "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. {12} And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. {13} And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, {14} And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. {15} And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."
- In Revelation 16 we read of unclean spirits that deceive men by performing miracles. (Rev 16:13-14) "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. {14} For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

In the above verses it is obvious that the devil has power that he can give to his servants to perform wonders. These wonders are used to deceive people. They are called **“lying wonders.”**

In the Book of Exodus, Pharaoh’s magicians had the power to perform wonders, which hardened Pharaoh’s heart:

- They turned their staffs into serpents. **(Exo 7:10-13) "And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. {11} Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. {12} For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. {13} And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said."**
- They turned water into blood. **(Exo 7:21-22) "And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. {22} And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said."**
- They called forth frogs. **(Exo 8:6-7) "And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. {7} And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt."**

In our time, great emphasis is placed on the “miracle” of healing, especially among the Charismatics and Pentecostals, but also in many other groups where “signs” are emphasized. Many of these “healings” are fake (we wonder why these faith-healers never go into the children’s burn units or leukemia units). This

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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author, however, believes that some of the healings are real – but the power for these wonders comes from darkness, not light.

Can the devil heal the sick? Jesus said, **(Luke 13:16) "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"** If Satan has the power to *bind* a woman's health, certainly he has the power to *loose* her from it. Would Satan loose someone from a health infirmity to blind men's minds from the truth? Absolutely.

The apostate is linked with Satan, and his ministry will be marked by satanic power to deceive people. Recent history is full of men who deceived great numbers of people while claiming to be preachers sent from God. Jim Jones was one. David Koresh was another.

But it isn't just those extreme, cult-like cases. Millions of Catholics will travel to shrines where pictures or statues of Mary are said to have wept tears or even blood.<sup>4</sup> Benny Hinn holds people in a trance as he performs his **"lying wonders."** They deceive multitudes even as they are deceived by the devil. **(2 Tim 3:13) "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."**

Jesus taught us *not* to look for signs. **(Mat 12:39) "But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas..."** The people were always demanding another sign. No matter what Jesus did, they always needed one more sign. Jesus told them that the resurrection would be the only sign that they would need. You and I do not need signs or miracles. The Lord Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead after three days in the heart of the earth. The resurrection proves that He is the Son of God and that His message is true. Why do you need another sign?



If someone's ministry has miracles, but their message does not match the Word of God, they are apostates and working through the power of darkness. Consider the following passage very carefully:

- **(Deu 13:1-5) "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, {2} And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; {3} Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. {4} Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. {5} And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee."**

God said that He would prove His people by their response to these false prophets. God warned them to not be fooled by signs or wonders. If the man and his message were wrong, he was to be rejected, signs or no signs.

False prophets of all ages want you to ignore the content of the message and the character of the messenger, and focus on the miracle. God said to check out what they are saying. If they are trying to get you to leave the Word of God, they are false prophets, and their power comes from hell, not from heaven.

**"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. {16} Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? {17} Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. {19} Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {20} Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**

**Matthew 7:15-22**

## Chapter Four

### THE APOSTATE'S CREEPY APPROACH

**(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."**



In the last chapter, we discussed some of the basic characteristics of Satan's undercover agents. They are linked to Satan. They are transformed to look like ministers of Christ. They look and sound like the apostles of Christ, but they are not. They have a satanic ordination, which will lead to condemnation. Their ministries will be marked by satanic power. They are deceptive. They can easily deceive people. Their ministries may be marked by genuine miracles and signs – but they come from a satanic power.

In this lesson, we are going to look at how these apostates get into churches. They can get into my church. They can get into your church. They may already be in place.

#### **I. APOSTATES CREEP IN UNAWARES.**

Jude described them as *creeps* - **"For there are certain men crept in unawares..."** They sneak in. Peter said that they come in **"privily"** (2 Peter 2:1) Jesus described them as wolves masquerading in sheep's clothing. Their Christianity is only skin-deep and lifeless. (Mat 7:15) **"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."**

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Paul said that they would arise from *within* the church – even from among the pastors. **(Acts 20:29-30) "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. {30} Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."**

The apostate's approach is cunning and sly, under the radar. They are afraid to come out into the light with what they believe. They will spread their doctrines behind the scenes. These people are like buzzards or parasites. They cannot start churches of their own. They always have to sneak in and cause trouble in someone else's church. They have to win someone else's converts.

Judas Iscariot is a great example of a creepy apostate. He was among the best disciples. He was faithfully involved in the ministry of the Lord's first church as an apostle. He was the treasurer. He fooled everyone but the Lord. But, we know that he was a thief. **(John 12:6) "This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein."**

I believe that he was also the chief instigator among the group – stirring up trouble and dissension among the disciples. We got a glimpse of this when Mary anointed the Lord's feet with precious ointment. **(John 12:3-5) "Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. {4} Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, {5} Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?"** As we will see in the next point, church division is caused by false doctrines. Judas was the troublemaker behind the scenes, stirring up contention.

Judas crept in unawares. He was involved and trusted, but he was really a child of the devil, a false teacher, an undercover agent that eventually betrayed the Lord for a pocketful of change. He was

involved for his own profit and his own agenda. He was the prototype apostate of the New Testament.

## **II. APOSTATES CAUSE DIVISION IN THE CHURCH.**

Judas caused division concerning Mary's offering of spikenard. He was not really concerned about the poor, as he claimed; he was concerned with lining his own pockets with the offerings. In this, he went totally contrary to the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostate will do the same thing in a church. He will sound pious, but he is contrary to the Word of God. The motives behind his actions will be carnal in nature – usually rooted in pride or a selfish agenda.

Paul warned us to avoid those who cause divisions contrary to sound doctrine:

- **(Rom 16:17-18) "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. {18} For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."**

We are to mark the troublemaker in our mind and avoid them. Such do not really serve the Lord Jesus Christ. If they did serve Christ, they would not go contrary to His written Word or bring harm to His local church.

The Corinthian church was marked by divisions among its membership. Paul put his finger on the problem:

- **(1 Cor 11:18-19) "For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. {19} For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you."**

The church was divided because of the presence of heresies in the church. Some said, "I am of Paul." Others said, "I am of Apollos." Another group said, "I am of Peter." The church was divided by false doctrines and by personality cults. (Many of our Baptist churches are divided between the "name brand preachers" of our time into similar personality cults). This is a shame. The local church should be united by Jesus Christ and His Word. Church members should identify with their own pastors, not with others outside the church. The presence of divisions indicates the presence of **"those who serve not the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own"** interests. They are either teaching false doctrines or they are in rebellion to what the Bible says.

### III. THEY ARE VERY PERSUASIVE AND PERSONABLE.

- **(Rom 16:17-18) "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions...and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."**

The apostate deceives the hearts of those that are ignorant of the Word of God. He delivers fair speeches that are very persuasive, but are not Scriptural. Our modern television preachers fit this point perfectly. They are charismatic in their personalities. They are persuasive. They are emphatic and strong and seem professional. Their stages and crowds add to their appearance of success. They mix in enough truth to cause ignorant people to overlook their false teachings. Yet, when you study his doctrine and position you will find that he is an apostate from the Word of God.

The **"simple"** Christian is easily fooled by **"good words and fair speeches."** "Simple" means "ignorant, uneducated, or ungrounded in the faith." The simple Christian is a spiritual babe, unable to discern the wolves underneath the sheep's clothing. If a preacher or religious leader seems competent, professional, educated, and has a dynamic or charismatic personality, he will fool many that are simply not grounded in the Word of God. This is why it is so

important for us to learn the Word of God – and this is why churches should spend more time and effort teaching and discipling their converts and new members.

In a local church setting, the apostate is very personable. He worms his way into the hearts and confidences of his followers and then turns them against others, especially the church leadership. He is always smiling. He is helpful. He seems to care. And boy, does he seem humble and spiritual. He or she will be likeable but not spiritually minded. This is the kind of man or woman that gets a crowd of friends in the church, turns them against the pastor, and then splits the church.

David's son Absalom was a great example of the undercover revolutionary. Notice how Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel away from David:

- **(2 Sam 15:2-6) "And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was *so*, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city *art* thou? And he said, Thy servant *is* of one of the tribes of Israel. {3} And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters *are* good and right; but *there is* no man *deputed* of the king to hear thee. {4} Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! {5} And it was *so*, that when any man came nigh *to him* to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. {6} And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel."**

He wormed his way into their hearts, while his own heart was deceitful. Like a polished politician, he made a lot of promises that he could not possibly have kept. He said, "If wish I was the king!

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Then you would get the justice that you deserve!" He stole the hearts of the people with good words and fair speeches – but he led them against God's anointed, David.

We have many Absaloms in our churches today. Sometimes they are disloyal staff members. Sometimes they are deacons. These self-appointed armchair pastors tell everyone that will listen exactly what they want to hear. *"If I was the pastor, I would not have done that! If I was the pastor, I would have done this instead!"* They gather a disgruntled, carnal, worldly faction of discontents and lead them against God's appointed man, the pastor! Such men (or women) may be personable and persuasive – but they are not right with God or in line with His Word!

Christians need to wise up and learn to discern properly by the Word of God. Just because someone is nice does not mean that they are right with God. Just because they make a fair speech does not mean that everything they say is Biblical. Just because they have great personalities and strong leadership ability does not mean that they are following Jesus Christ.

### IV. THEY BLEND IN WITH THE TRUE BELIEVERS.

Jesus illustrated this point in the parable of the tares and the wheat (Mt. 13:24-30). Tares are weeds that look like wheat, but they do not produce any grain ("fruit"). They are sown by the enemy among the good seed. The Lord's solution was to let them grow together until the harvest, when the wheat would be separated from the tares, and the tares would be cast into the fire to be destroyed. **(Mat 13:30) "Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."**

Apostates and heretics look like true believers, but they are different in heart and belief. They talk the talk and seem to walk



the walk – but look for the fruit of their lives and service. Consider what Jesus said about false prophets:

- **(Mat 7:15-20) "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. {16} Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? {17} Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. {19} Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {20} Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."**

If a person's personal life is marked by thistles instead of grapes, watch out. Where is the spiritual fruit that should mark them as a true believer? If his or her life is marked by division and trouble with churches and pastors, or in his home and marriage, you should beware. If they have trouble in every church they are in, or if every church they are in has trouble, watch out. Apostates, heretics, and church splitters will often have a trail of hurt churches and pastors behind their "ministry."

## **V. THEY INTRODUCE LEAVEN INTO THE CHURCH.**

Leaven or yeast is a small substance used in the baking of bread. A little leaven is put into a lump of dough to cause it to rise. Throughout the Bible, leaven is a picture or type of sin's work in our lives. This is why we use unleavened bread in the Lord's Supper. The unleavened bread pictures the sinless body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus and Paul both spoke of the danger of a little doctrinal leaven being introduced into the churches:

- **(Mat 16:6) "Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the**

**Sadducees." (Mat 16:12) "Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."**

- **(Gal 5:7-9) "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? {8} This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you. {9} A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."**

A little Calvinism introduced can cause a great deal of trouble in a soul winning church. A little charismatic truth, brought in by those watching the television preachers or reading the non-denominational books. A little change to the music. A slight shift in philosophy. A little step towards the Contemporary movement. All of these are forms of leaven that, once introduced, can gradually fill a church with false doctrines. We must beware the introduction of a little leaven to our doctrines or positions as a church.

Lighthouse Baptist Church has a doctrinal statement and has taken a position on vital issues for our time. Lighthouse Baptist Church is not Calvinist, Charismatic, Catholic, or Contemporary. We are an old-fashioned, Bible-believing, soulwinning, bus running, separated Baptist Church. We have high standards, Biblical music, and strong Bible preaching. We stand for the King James Bible. We teach and preach the Biblical doctrines of personal and ecclesiastical separation.

We are not evangelical. We are *not* a "Purpose-driven Church." We are not looking for a new church format or a new Sunday School format. We are not interested in the contemporary services or the praise and worship teams.

If folks don't like that, they can go to First Baptist Church, or the Assembly of God, or the Bible church down the street. Our church is not competing for customers. We are standing firm on the Word of God.

## Chapter Five

### MESSING WITH THE GRACE OF GOD

**(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."**



Jude warned us that the apostates were going to mess with the grace of God. They want to turn it into something else. They do so in two ways:

1. They mess with the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
2. They turn the grace of God into lasciviousness. They use their version of grace as a license to live without Biblical standards or holiness.

In this chapter, it is our goal to expose those who are messing with the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. We know from our study of the Bible that a man is not saved by works or the keeping of the law. Rather, he is saved by the grace of God when he puts his faith in the merits of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of his sins. **(Eph 2:8-9) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast."**

In church history, the gospel was corrupted through the intrusion of two opposing philosophies. Sadly, these false, corrupted versions of **"another gospel, which is not another"** **(Gal. 1:6-7)** are still being taught and believed today.

#### I. THE INTRUSION OF JUDAISM INTO THE GOSPEL.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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This began early on among the multitudes of new Jewish converts. Many thousands were saved in Jerusalem on Pentecost and in the days following. Many of these converts were from among the Pharisees and Sadducees (remember that Jesus told us to particularly beware of the influence of these groups?). Some were truly converted, like Saul of Tarsus (who became Paul). Others claimed the name of Christ, but were teaching a false gospel. We read of this in Acts 15.

- **(Acts 15:1) "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved."**

The Jews of this time had elevated this Jewish rite to the door of salvation. They taught that Gentiles could not be saved unless they first submitted to becoming Jewish proselytes through circumcision, and then they could be saved and become Christians. It appears that this doctrinal deviation was accepted by many of the early disciples.

However, Paul and Barnabas were quick to contend for the faith. **(Acts 15:2) "When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question."**

They did not sit back quietly and allow this **"damnable heresy"** to go uncontested. They stood up and earnestly contended for the faith. They caused **"no small dissension"** and had a pretty good **"disputation"** with them. Paul and Barnabas forced the issue to the attention of the apostles of Jerusalem:

- **(Acts 15:5-11) "But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses. {6} And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. {7} And when**

there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. {8} And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as *he did* unto us; {9} And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. {10} Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? {11} But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

Peter stood up for grace. The apostles stood with him, and Pastor James put it down in writing to be sent out among the new Gentile churches that salvation was by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, without the works of the law:

- (Acts 15:23-26) "And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: {24} Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment: {25} It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, {26} Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

James was quite strong in his statement concerning the Judaizers. He said that they "**went out from us**" and were "**subverting**" their souls. "Subvert" means, "To overthrow from the foundation; to corrupt; to confound; to pervert the mind, and turn it from the truth." Paul referred to this same crowd of Judaizers later: (Titus 1:10-11) "**For there are many unruly and vain talkers**

**and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: {11} Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."**

This false doctrine did not die, however. These false teachers went out and spread the leaven of their heresies, and seduced many churches away from the truth of the gospel. The Galatian churches were among them.

This doctrine is still around today, among the Messianic Jewish congregations. The Messianic Jewish congregations believe that Jesus is Christ and God, *but* many also believe in trying to live the Old Testament laws and rituals.<sup>5</sup> They fail to recognize that the ceremonial and Levitical laws were fulfilled in Jesus Christ and were nailed to the cross. Many, though not all, of these congregations believe that Gentiles have to be circumcised and commit to keeping the law of Moses in order to be saved – just as their first-century predecessors did.

## **II. THE INTRUSION OF PAGANISM INTO THE GOSPEL.**

This began with the introduction of the false doctrine of baptismal regeneration. This heresy teaches that baptism either brings or has a part in the regeneration of lost sinners. In other words, baptism saves. Paul refuted this false doctrine:

- **(1 Cor 1:17-18) "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. {18} For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."**

Salvation is through the cross, not the baptistery. The dying thief was not baptized, yet Jesus told him that he would be in paradise that same day. Baptismal regeneration introduces a necessity other than faith and the shed blood of Christ – the necessity of water and someone to perform the baptism. What if a

man is dying in the desert by himself? He is out of luck. He might call upon the name of Jesus Christ, but he *cannot* get saved according to those who hold to baptismal regeneration.

Early on, many churches fell away from grace and began baptizing people for salvation. This, of course, filled their churches with unsaved people calling themselves Christians in the first three centuries A.D. During that time there were two major groups calling themselves Christians: those who held to the true doctrine of salvation by grace, and those who held to baptismal regeneration. The former were Baptist by doctrine and practice, if not in name; the latter were the seeds that eventually flourished into the Catholic Church.

Emperor **Constantine** was the first so-called Christian emperor of Rome. He decided to become a Christian after seeing a miraculous “sign” of a cross in the sky (remember what the Bible says about signs and wonders?). He went to Rome and made Christianity legal throughout the empire and ended the persecutions. He built huge church buildings and made the ministry wealthy and state-supported. It was Constantine that changed the history of the world *for the worse* when he combined the State with the apostate churches (those who believed in baptismal regeneration). This State-Church combination became the Roman Catholic Church, which in turn led Europe into the Dark Ages for 1000 years.

Unfortunately, the only theologians that Constantine consulted concerning salvation with were from the affluent and apostate churches of Rome. He asked them, “What must I do to become a Christian and have my sins washed away?” They said, “You must be baptized to wash away your sins.” He then asked, “What about the sins I commit after my baptism?” They did not have an answer for that, and they still don’t. So Constantine, believing a false gospel, determined to wait until the last possible second, and to get baptized immediately before he died. That way, he reasoned correctly according to their doctrine, all of his sins would be

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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washed away and he could go to heaven. He was baptized by an Arian heretic named Eusebius. Some believe that he died before he was baptized. Whether he was alive at his baptism did not change his eternal destiny, because if he believed that his baptism would wash away his sins, he was sorely disappointed. Constantine has been in hell for all these centuries because he was deceived by a lying wonder and a lying gospel.

The doctrine of baptismal regeneration filled churches with unregenerated members. It is no surprise that paganism began to come into these unsaved churches. Any study of church history will reveal the paganism that came into the new Roman State Church. The old pagan gods of Rome became the sainthood of Roman Catholicism. God-called preachers were replaced by a pagan priesthood of unmarried men. The simple church government of Christ's church was replaced by a man-made hierarchy of bishops, cardinals, and popes, who blasphemously claimed to be the vicars of Christ. The Babylonian concepts of Mother-worship were incorporated into Roman Catholicism, and Mary took the place of preeminence instead of Jesus.

As a pastor, I know that it is hard enough to keep a congregation of saved people in line. What would you expect in churches led by and filled with unbelievers who cannot understand God's Word?

**Infant baptism** was the next logical step. If a person has to be baptized to have his sins washed away, then it is better to do it early. What if a baby dies without baptism? Therefore, they began baptizing infants around 370 A.D. And they did it by immersion, holding the little babies' noses as they put them under the water.

There is not a thing in the Bible about baptizing infants who cannot believe. It is a pagan practice that is only justified if you believe in baptismal regeneration. Proponents of infant baptism have to do as all heretics and apostates do: take a few scriptures, twist them out of context, and make some unscriptural



assumptions. The Philippian jailor's household got saved; the pedobaptist (baby baptizer) says, "Surely there were infants in that household!" Are we going to build our doctrine on **assumptions** or on what the Bible plainly teaches? The Rasbeary household has, at the time of this writing, six members, four of which are children. Should you assume that one of the four is an infant? If you did so, you would be wrong, because the youngest of our four children is five years old.

Infant baptism for salvation became the central doctrine of Catholicism. But don't take my word for it. Listen to the *Catholic Catechism*:

**"1277** - Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, **it is necessary for salvation**, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism.

**"1263** - **By Baptism all sins are forgiven**, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin.

**"1250** Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of **the new birth in Baptism** to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism. **The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.**"<sup>6</sup>

You can read the same thing for yourself in the *Catholic Catechism*. Those of us who do not baptize our children in the Catholic Church are denying them "the priceless grace of becoming a child of God."

When the Protestant Reformation took place, the Reformers left the Catholic Church, but they took along a lot of Catholic

doctrine. The fruit does not fall far from the tree. (**Ezek 16:44**) **"Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use *this* proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter."** The Roman Catholic Church is not only the "great whore" of Revelation; she is also the "**MOTHER OF HARLOTS**" (**Rev. 17:1,5**). She is a religious harlot, and her children are also religious harlots.

Does that sound too strong? **Does the doctrine of salvation matter to you?** We are not arguing over inconsequential points of difference. The doctrine of salvation is a "great gulf fixed" between Bible-believers and these denominations that teach baptismal regeneration. Either the blood of Christ washes our sins away, or the water of baptism does. It cannot be both.

These new, reformed denominations were merely reformed Catholic Churches; they still bore a strong resemblance to their mother in their doctrine of baptismal regeneration, among other things.

**Lutherans** still practice infant baptism, because they hold to the Catholic doctrine of baptismal regeneration. Don't take my word for it. Read Luther's *Catechism* on the subject of "Holy Baptism:"

*Second (Question):* What does Baptism do for us?

*Answer:* **Baptism works forgiveness of sin**, delivers from death and the devil, **and gives eternal salvation** to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Martin Luther further stated, "**Lutherans believe that, in baptism, a person is born into the Kingdom of God and becomes an heir of salvation.**"

What about **the Church of England** or **Anglican Church** (started by Henry VIII so that he could divorce his wife and marry Anne Boleyn)? The *Catechism* of the Anglican Church says:

"Q. What is Holy Baptism?

**“A. Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children** and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.”

“Q. What is required of us at Baptism?

“A. It is required that we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

“Q. **Why then are infants baptized?**

**“A. Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God.**

“Q. How are the promises for infants made and carried out?

“A. Promises are made for them by their parents and sponsors, who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him.”

Even the **Presbyterians** held on to infant baptism. Listen to the double-talk of their *Catechism*:

“Q95: To whom is baptism to be administered?

A95: Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; **but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.”**

According to the Presbyterians, no one should be baptized until they profess their faith in Christ – EXCEPT for infants whose parents are members of the church. Sorry, friends, no one inherits faith or salvation. You are not saved because your parents are saved. Each person must make the personal choice to be saved, and no one can get saved by proxy. My faith cannot save anyone but myself. Jesus can save the whole world – but He can only do it one sinner at a time.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Follow the perversion of the ordinance of baptism:

1. First, the meaning of baptism was changed. It was no longer an act of obedience following salvation by grace. It was no longer merely a symbolic picture of the true gospel – it became the gospel itself. Baptism saves, or Jesus saves through baptism. Water replaced the blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.
2. Then, the candidate for baptism changed from a true believer to an unbeliever. Instead of baptizing believers *because* of their salvation, they began baptizing unbelievers *for* salvation.
3. Then, they began baptizing babies to get them into the family of God as soon as possible. This filled their churches with unregenerated members.
4. Finally, they changed the method of salvation from immersion to sprinkling or pouring. There are no examples of baptism by sprinkling or pouring in the New Testament. True baptism is by immersion only. NO ONE had the right to change the mode of baptism to sprinkling or pouring!

We have mentioned just four “Christian” groups in this chapter, but there are many today that are messing with the grace of God when it comes to the heresy of baptismal regeneration.

These apostate preachers are going to mess with the grace of God. They are going to mess with the doctrine of salvation by grace. We need to take a strong stand for **“the grace of God that bringeth salvation.”**

## Chapter Six

### TURNING GRACE INTO LASCIVIOUSNESS

**(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."**



Apostates mess with the grace of God in two ways:

1. They mess with the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. This changes the gospel to a message of works instead of grace.
2. They turn the grace of God into lasciviousness. They use their version of grace as a license to live without Biblical standards or holiness. Anything goes.

**The primary difference between fundamental Baptists and the evangelical crowd concerns the doctrines of separation and holy living.** Many evangelicals will affirm the deity of Christ, salvation by grace through faith, etc. Most of them will be politically and socially conservative. Some of them are in independent congregations. But when it comes to separation from the world, ecclesiastical separation (from false churches), and personal holiness, there is a great gulf fixed. Most of them will claim to believe that the Bible is the Word of God and the sole authority for their lives, and yet it seems that the Bible loses its authority when it comes to issues of righteousness, separation, and personal holiness.

Most evangelicals do not want to be identified as fundamentalists. They do not want to be confused with those of us

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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who take a strong stand for the Bible and a literalist position in Bible interpretation. They certainly would never want to be called *Baptists*.

True fundamental Christians separate themselves from worldliness and worldly activities. They dress differently and they act differently because they want to obey what the Bible teaches. Fundamental Baptists care a lot about their English Bibles and want to make sure they have the right one. Fundamental Baptists are going to stand for the King James Bible because they believe God's promises and have taken the time to study the issue. Fundamental Baptists preach against sin and name it (and not just those sins outside the church). Fundamental Baptists are strong on local church membership, church attendance, and personal service to God in their local church.

Evangelicals will use any sort of butchered version, and they blend in very easily with the world. They do not want to bear a cross or a reproach for Jesus Christ. They are typically self-involved and want preaching that is self-centered instead of Christ-centered. They like to learn but they don't let it get too far into the living level of their lives. They usually follow the world's standards in their dress, hairstyles, and behaviour. Their marriages and child-rearing philosophies follow the world's trends.

Evangelicals also tend towards ecumenism. (a willingness to lay aside doctrine for "unity" with other denominations). Many of them openly embrace Roman Catholicism with all of its paganism and damnable heresies. They are not separated from heretics. Under an umbrella of unscriptural "love," the evangelicals throw truth overboard for the sake of "unity."

A lot of our folks watch evangelical leaders on TV and read their books, and they are being lead astray. These men may look like fundamentalists, and look solid enough on the surface, but they are personal and ecclesiastical compromisers.

It seems that “anything goes” among the evangelical crowds. Take, for example, John Hagee, a very popular preacher from San Antonio, TX. He comes from a Pentecostal background and is a Charismatic.<sup>7</sup> He divorced his first wife and the mother of his children, admitted to the sin of adultery, and married his mistress.<sup>8</sup> Thus, as an adulterer, he is absolutely disqualified from the office of pastor, and yet his church is filled with 5000 people week after week, has over 19,000 members, his books have sold in the millions, and countless people watch his television broadcasts.

Randy and Paula White “co-pastored” the “Church without Walls.” They publicly announced in a church service that they were getting a divorce. What kind of an example did they set for their flock? How many divorces came from this public exhibition of shame? Yet, both are continuing on in “the ministry.” This is another blatant example of how grace has been turned into an “anything goes” lasciviousness.

To defend their compromised position, those in the contemporary crowd or the evangelical crowd turn to those of us who believe and try to live the Bible, and they attack us and our beliefs. They call us legalists. We are called Pharisees and elitists. As they judge us, they call us judgmental. They strain at our gnats while they swallow camels. Worst of all, they say that we do not preach grace. If we preached grace, we would not insist on “legalistic standards” or be so judgmental towards the way people live.

Jude told us that these would turn the grace of God into lasciviousness. They will use the grace of God as an excuse to live without restraint. They don’t understand what grace really is. **They say that grace is not standards. This is lasciviousness.** Check out their church services. They are more like bars or nightclubs than churches. The auditoriums are often so dark that it is a wonder anyone can follow along in their Bibles. The music comes straight from the world, and is performed by worldly looking people. Check out their youth departments. Check out their kids. What a motley

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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crew the average youth department is! What a den of iniquity is often found in the youth group, led by worldly youth leaders!

They are excusing their worldliness and their lack of holiness, and are glorying in their shame. Instead of being contrite and ashamed of their sinful ways and their lack of holiness, they brazenly flaunt it under a banner of “grace” that is not grace at all. They call it liberty – but it is the liberty to live in sin or live like the world.

- **(Gal 5:13) "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*"**
- **(2 Pet 2:18-20) "For when they speak great swelling *words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. {19} While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. {20} For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*"**

They claim that this is the “Age of Grace,” and they imply that God has lowered His standards in this day and time. This again shows their ignorance of the New Testament. Anyone who reads the New Testament understands that Jesus Christ elevated the standards for New Testament Christians that are “under grace.” Read the Sermon on the Mount. Consider these passages and tell me that God expects less from us:

- **(Mat 5:27-28) "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: {28} But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust**



after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

- (Mat 5:38-39) "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: {39} But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."
- (Mat 5:43-44) "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. {44} But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

Separation is a Biblical doctrine. Holiness is a Bible doctrine. (1 Pet 1:15-16) "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; {16} Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." This is the doctrine that separates those who are truly serious about their Christianity and those that just talk a good talk. The doctrines of separation and holiness are the doctrines that separate serious Bible-believers from the evangelical, lascivious, worldly, anything-goes type of church.

1. Grace teaches us that we are saved unto good works. (Eph 2:8-10) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast. {10} For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
2. Grace separates us from the old way of life.
  - (Eph 4:17-24) "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind... {22} That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; {23} And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; {24} And

**that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."**

Getting saved by grace enrolls us into "Grace University." Grace has some lessons for us:

- (Titus 2:11-15) **"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, {12} Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; {13} Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; {14} Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. {15} These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."**

What does grace teach us? Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness. Grace teaches us to deny worldly lusts. The average church is a store window showcase for the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. We are to deny worldly lusts, not excuse them under the banner of grace and liberty. Grace teaches us to live soberly. Grace teaches us to live righteously. We ought to be concerned about what is right according to the Word of God. Grace teaches us to live godly. Godly means that you what God loves and hate what God hates.

Grace teaches us that we are to be purified by Christ and His Word. Grace teaches us that we are to be a peculiar people. We are not to blend in with society, but we are to be different. We are to seem unusual to a society that does not know God. Grace teaches us that we are to be zealous of good works.

Grace will always produce righteousness. Check the lifestyle of their people. Check their music. A worldly church is not pleasing to the Lord. Someone has turned the grace of God into lasciviousness.

## Chapter Seven

### DENYING THE ONLY LORD GOD

**(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."**



There is one last major characteristic of the false teacher in verse 4 that we need to look at carefully. They come under the guise of Christianity, and yet they deny the two most basic and fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith:

1. They deny the only Lord God.
2. They deny the Lord Jesus Christ.

It sounds incredible, but it is true. These false teachers call themselves Christians and claim to believe the Bible, and yet they are in fact denying the only Lord God and the Lord Jesus Christ. And yet multitudes will follow these false teachers and Christ-deniers.

The key word in this part of verse 4 is the word **"only."** The Bible is a very narrow-minded Book. It does not give ANY leeway concerning Who God is, Who Jesus is, or concerning the way of salvation.

These are the folks that say that any way will get you there. It doesn't matter who you believe in or what you do. Listen, if a teacher or preacher cannot divide the Word of truth concerning those three areas, he is not worth listening to. If He cannot tell you the truth about God, Jesus Christ, and the way of salvation, he is a fraud. He is a false prophet and a false teacher. And there are a lot

of famous false prophets in our day in time that are denying the only Lord God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### I. APOSTATES WILL DENY THE ONLY LORD GOD.

The Bible teaches clearly that there is only **one** true and living God. **(1 Tim 2:5)** "**For *there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...***" The world has a plurality of gods, but it does not change the fact that there is only one true God:

- **(1 Cor 8:5-6)** "**For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) {6} But to us *there is but one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him.***"
- **(1 Cor 10:19-20)** "**What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? {20} But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."**

All of the gods of the world are devils in disguise, and not gods at all. If a man is not worshipping the true and living God, he is actually worshipping Satan, the father of all lies and false religions.

The Bible also reveals Who God is and what God is like. God is a Person and must be accepted for Who He has revealed Himself to be in the Bible. We have no more right to form a mental image of God apart from Him Word than a man does to carve an idol of what He thinks God is like and call it a god. The Philistines thought that their god was half man and half fish, and they carved Dagon according to their own ideas. But Dagon was not God. He was just a figment of their vain, darkened imaginations.

We have a lot of humanists today calling themselves Christians. They say, "Well, I don't think God is like that. My god would not send people to hell." No, your god probably wouldn't – but the true and living God of the Bible has already said that He will. This false god of the mind and opinion is just as false as the half fish-god Dagon. Many apostates worship at the altar of their own vain and puffed up intellect.

God has also revealed His name. **(Psa 83:17-18) "Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: {18} That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth."**

God is not Allah, the moon god of the Muslims. He is never called the Great Architect, as the Freemasons call their god. He is never called Vishnu, the four-armed, fornicating god of the Hindus. He is Jehovah God, the God of the Bible, the God of redemption and salvation. He is the Almighty God, the Most High over all the earth. He has revealed Himself, and by faith we accept Him as He is.

Those who deny the only Lord God can be identified by their theology:

**1. Those who teach an umbrella theology deny the only Lord God.**

These believe that God takes many forms and wears many names, and that He accepts the worship of the Muslim, the Hindu, and the Christian the same. Any road will get you there. It doesn't matter who you worship as long as you worship someone or something sincerely.

Freemasons hold to this umbrella theology. **Because of this, born again Christians have no business being involved in the Freemasons.** Listen to what their own leaders say. Christopher Haffner's own explanation of how the Masonic concept of a Great Architect of the Universe,

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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as a placeholder for the Supreme Being of one's choice, is given in *Workman Unashamed*:

"Now imagine me standing in lodge with my head bowed in prayer between Brother Mohammed Bokhary and Brother Arjun Melwani. To neither of them is the Great Architect of the Universe perceived as the Holy Trinity. To Brother Bokhary He has been revealed as Allah; to Brother Melwani He is probably perceived as Vishnu. Since I believe that there is only one God, I am confronted with three possibilities:

1. They are praying to *the devil* whilst I am praying to God;
2. They are praying to *nothing*, as their gods do not exist;
3. They are praying to the *same God* as I, yet their understanding of His nature is partly incomplete (as indeed is mine — 1 Cor 13:12).

**It is without hesitation that I accept the third possibility."**<sup>9</sup>

This is why born-again Christians have no business joining Masonic Lodges. To do so is to become unequally yoked with unbelievers and infidels, calling them all "brethren." The only spiritual "brother" of a child of God is another born again, blood-washed saint who has trusted in Christ alone for salvation.

Anyone who teaches an umbrella theology that God is known by many different names and worshipped in many different ways is denying the only Lord God.

### **2. Those who teach a plurality of gods deny the only Lord God.**

This is polytheism. There are many gods, of which yours is one. This was how the heathens thought of the God of Israel in the Old Testament. After losing a battle to

Israel, the darkened understanding of the king of Syria decided that the God of Israel was limited to the hills. **(1 Ki 20:23) "And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, Their gods *are* gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they."**

They did not deny the existence of Jehovah God; they just added Him to a long list of gods that included their own pagan deities. Missionaries among the Buddhist and Hindu nations of the world have a difficult time with this issue. Many Hindus will "convert" by simply adding Christ to their list of gods. However, until they are willing to acknowledge that their pagan gods are not real, they are not truly in a place where they can be saved.

Of the major religions in America, the most deceptive concerning their theology is the **Mormon Church**. You should study their history, because no religious movement ought to be divorced from its history. Look to see where they came from. Look and see what they believe.

**No matter what they tell you at the door, Mormons believe in polytheism.** They believe that there are many gods, of which Jehovah is one. In fact, they believe that you can advance spiritually until you can become your own god of your own world or galaxy.

Joseph Smith taught that God was once a man, presumably in some other time/space/universe, and had Himself a Father. Therefore, God is not eternal, but had a beginning point as a created being. Though Mormons claim to only worship the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet they believe that there are other gods in other places, which evolved from men. Smith wrote: "...you have to learn to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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same as all Gods have done before you, - namely, by going from one small degree to another..."<sup>10</sup>

An ex-Mormon explained the theology that even many professing Mormons do not seem willing to admit (or perhaps understand):

"God was once a man who lived on another planet. This is the most important teaching of Mormonism. Nothing else comes close to it. We believe that God was once a mortal man on another planet who progressed by living in obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel he had on his world, then he died. He became a resurrected man and evolved to become a god. He is still married now (some early leaders say he is a polygamist) and created this world. We worship only the one true god, which is really one god among millions or billions or more. We believe that we will follow in God's footsteps by becoming perfect and we too will become Gods and Goddesses creating spirit children and peopling other worlds."<sup>11</sup>

Mormons claim to be Christians, but they deny the only Lord God. Do not be deceived by their public relations image.

### 3. Those who deny the nature of the Trinity deny the only Lord God.

We have to accept God as He has revealed Himself to us. He has revealed Himself to us as one God in three Persons, which we refer to as the doctrine of the Trinity. **(1 John 5:7) "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."**

The Trinity is seen throughout the Old Testament, beginning with Genesis 1:1, when God's name is given as Elohim. This name refers to one God, and yet the name



itself is plural in nature. In Genesis 1:26, God said, **“Let us make man in OUR image.”** Man is a triune creature of spirit, soul, and body (1 Thess. 5:23) just as God is three-in-one in the Persons of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The Trinity is a mystery that is accepted by faith, because this is how God has revealed Himself to us.

New English perversions of the Bible deny the only Lord God when they remove or change scriptures referring to God’s triune nature. Many of the new versions remove 1 John 5:7, thus making a subtle denial of the only Lord God. My King James Bible never denies anything about God.

The Mormons deny the doctrine of the Trinity in that they deny the coequal nature of the Father and the Son. In Mormon theology, Jesus Christ is a created being, equal with Satan, not the Father. He is exalted above mankind, and yet He is not on an equal basis with the Father. This is a denial of the only Lord God.

The Russellite cult, called the Jehovah’s Witnesses, also deny the Trinity. They teach that Jesus is a created being, and therefore not equal with the Father.

Unbelieving Jews deny the only Lord God when they deny the Trinity. Muslims deny the Trinity. Unitarians deny the Trinity. Oneness Pentecostals deny the Trinity. In doing so, all of these groups have substituted a false god for the “only Lord God” as He has revealed Himself in the Bible.

You cannot be wrong on Who God is and expect to be right on anything else. These apostates are denying the only Lord God.

## **II. APOSTATES WILL DENY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

They will deny many things, including:

1. His virgin birth.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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2. His sinless life.
3. His vicarious death.
4. His bodily resurrection.
5. His Second Coming.

But there is one thing that apostates deny above all others, and that is the deity of Christ. They say that Jesus Christ was a good man, an exalted man, a great man, but just a man. He was not God in the flesh. They name Jesus, but their Jesus is not the God of the Bible. Exalted, but inferior to God.

If Jesus is not God in the flesh He cannot save anyone. Our sovereign God is the God of salvation. Hence, if Jesus is not God He cannot be their Saviour, no matter what they say.

- **(Jude 1:25) "To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen."**
- **(Isa 43:3) "For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt *for* thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee."**
- **(Isa 43:11) "I, *even* I, *am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour."**

Muslims and Jews will admit to Jesus, but not to His deity. Muslims believe He was a good man and a prophet, but not God the Son. Mohammed lived 600 years after Christ. He heard the gospel through the faithful Baptist witnesses of that time, who were called Paulicians. But Mohammed rejected the doctrine of the Trinity and listened to the voice of a seducing spirit instead. Mohammed rejected the truth and embraced a lie. (Incidentally, Mohammed was a pedophile who married a little girl and consummated the marriage when she was only ten years old). You cannot go wrong on Jesus and end up right.

The Jehovah's Witnesses deny the deity of Christ. The New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses reads in John 1:1 – "In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was **a god**." (By the way, you would be surprised how often many of the new English Bible versions agree with the New World Translation when they attack the deity of Jesus Christ.) The JW's teach that Jesus was created by God prior to Genesis 1:1, and that Jesus then created everything else. Therefore, Jesus is a created being, and not eternal God.

Anyone who denies the Virgin Birth denies the deity of Christ. If Christ was born of human parents, then He was not the Son of God. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was God manifest in the flesh through a supernatural, unique conception. This is not an optional doctrine.

### **III. APOSTATES WILL DENY THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION.**

Some of these apostates say that any road will get you there. You can be saved any number of ways, as long as you are sincere. A recent Pew Forum national survey found that a "majority of all American Christians (52%) think that at least some **non-Christian faiths** can lead to eternal life. Indeed, among Christians who believe many religions can lead to eternal life, 80% name at least one non-Christian faith that can do so."<sup>12</sup>

Some have described eternal life as a big wheel with one hub but many spokes. That's nice, isn't it? Too bad it isn't Bible. God didn't describe salvation as a wheel with many hubs. He described it as a door – one door. He described it as one way, a narrow way, which begins at one narrow gate. Salvation is narrowed down for all eternity to one name – the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The most popular preacher in America appears to be confused concerning his *soteriology* (doctrine of salvation). **Joel Osteen**, pastor of the Lakewood Church of Houston, TX, claims the largest

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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congregation in America with over 30,000. Osteen is a closet Pentecostal who admits to speaking in tongues in private. Osteen is regularly criticized even among evangelicals for his doctrine-less sermons, which have been compared to cotton candy: light, sweet, and void of nutritional value. Osteen's version of Christianity has been called "Christianity Lite." Despite this, or perhaps because of it, tens of thousands of people attend his services and listen to his sermons.<sup>13</sup>

On June 20, 2005, Osteen appeared on the Larry King show on CNN. This interview revealed the true compromising nature of Osteen's cotton candy gospel. Take note of Osteen's total lack of conviction concerning salvation:

KING: But don't you think if people don't believe as you believe, they're somehow condemned?

OSTEEN: You know, I think that happens in our society. But I try not to do that. I tell people all the time, preached a couple Sundays about it. **I'm for everybody. You may not agree with me, but to me it's not my job to try to straighten everybody out.** The Gospel called the good news. My message is a message of hope, that's God's for you. You can live a good life no matter what's happened to you. And so I don't know. I know there is condemnation but I don't feel that's my place.

KING: You've been criticized for that, haven't you?

OSTEEN: I have. I have. Because I don't know.

KING: Because we've had ministers on who said, your record don't count. You either believe in Christ or you don't. If you believe in Christ, you are, you are going to heaven. And if you don't no matter what you've done in your life, you ain't.

OSTEEN: Yeah, I don't know. There's probably a balance between. I believe you have to know Christ. But I think that if you know Christ, if you're a believer in God, you're going to have some good works. I think it's a cop-out to say I'm a Christian but I don't ever do anything ...

KING: What if you're Jewish or Muslim, you don't accept Christ at all?

OSTEEN: You know, I'm very careful about saying who would

**and wouldn't go to heaven. I don't know ...**

KING: If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They're wrong, aren't they?

OSTEEN: **Well, I don't know if I believe they're wrong.** I believe here's what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. But I just think that only God with judge a person's heart. **I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don't know all about their religion. But I know they love God.** And **I don't know. I've seen their sincerity. So I don't know.** I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.

Later, Osteen was put on the spot by a caller:

CALLER: Hello, Larry. You're the best, and thank you, Joe -- Joel - for your positive messages and your book. I'm wondering, though, why you sidestepped Larry's earlier question about how we get to heaven? The bible clearly tells us that Jesus is the way, the truth and the light and the only way to the father is through him. That's not really a message of condemnation but of truth.

OSTEEN: Yes, I would agree with her. I believe that...

KING: **So then a Jew is not going to heaven?**

OSTEEN: No. Here's my thing, Larry, is I can't judge somebody's heart. You know? Only God can look at somebody's heart, and so -- **I don't know. To me, it's not my business to say, you know, this one is or this one isn't.** I just say, here's what the bible teaches and I'm going to put my faith in Christ. **And I just I think it's wrong when you go around saying, you're saying you're not going, you're not going, you're not going, because it's not exactly my way.** I'm just...

KING: But you believe your way.

OSTEEN: I believe my way. I believe my way with all my heart.

KING: But for someone who doesn't share it is wrong, isn't he?

OSTEEN: Well, yes. Well, I don't know if I look at it like that. I would present my way, but I'm just going to let God be the judge of that. **I don't know. I don't know.**

KING: So you make no judgment on anyone?

OSTEEN: No. But I...

KING: **What about atheists?**

**OSTEEN:** You know what, I'm going to let someone -- I'm going to let God be the judge of who goes to heaven and hell. I just -- again, I present the truth, and I say it every week. You know, I believe it's a relationship with Jesus. But you know what? I'm not going to go around telling everybody else if they don't want to believe that that's going to be their choice. God's got to look at your own heart. God's got to look at your heart, and only God knows that.<sup>14</sup>

Why didn't Osteen just tell the truth? Why didn't he tell King that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one goes to the Father but by Him (Jn. 14:6)? The answer is simple: **Osteen does not really believe that a person must trust Christ to be saved.** In his mind, Hindus in India serving thousands of gods must be saved, because "they love God." Which god, Joel? How many gods, Joel? Who do they love with such "sincerity?" The truth is that Osteen spoke from his heart, and from his heart he denies that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven!

**Thomas Dexter "T.D." Jakes** is a prominent television preacher and the pastor of the Potter's House in Dallas, TX. The September 2001 cover of Time magazine showcased Jakes with the title, "Is this the next Billy Graham?"<sup>15</sup> Yet, the man is an apostate preacher. Doctrinally, he is an Oneness Pentecostal and uses their terminology when referring to the Trinity. He believes that speaking in tongues is the necessary sign of the baptism of the Spirit, and has been observed "slaying people in the Spirit."<sup>16</sup>

He is also unclear about the doctrine of salvation. On May 2, 2006 he was on National Public Radio, and this is what he had to say about salvation when he was questioned by a **Muslim** woman named Annette:

**ANNETTE:** I'm a Muslim here in Portland. I'm part of a Shiite community. And we had a wonderful interface dialogue last weekend with a local **Unitarian** church. And I'd like to ask you please to speak about concrete experiences you've had as

far as interfaith dialogue goes. **And also would like to ask you, do you feel that only Christians could hope to enter Heaven?**

**Pastor JAKES:** Very great question. When it comes to interfaith experiences, I'm currently serving by the appointment of former President Bush and President Clinton, as co-chair of an interfaith advisory committee to help people get back up on their feet.

And we do have on the board Muslims, Catholics, a Jewish Rabbi, Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostals across the board. And we're working together very effectively because we all care about common goals. We have our distinct theologies and our own ideologies but there are common grounds that we can work together very effectively in many, many cases.

**When it comes to Heaven, I try to leave that up to God. I certainly believe that Christianity is right, but when it comes down to the final test--who goes and who doesn't go--Jesus said, Other sheep have I who are not of this fold. Them also must I bring. I'll let Him identify who those sheep are and I stay out of the conversation.**

Why didn't Mr. Jakes tell Annette the truth? Why didn't he stand strong and contend for the faith? Why didn't he tell Annette that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, and that we must be saved by believing in His name? The simple answer is that Jakes does not believe that a person **must** believe in Christ to be saved. He believes in an umbrella theology in which God is worshipped through many different "folds." Despite the apparent good works and social work of Mr. Jakes, we must not overlook the false gospel that he preaches.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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As far as Osteen's and Jakes' statements that only God gets to decide who goes to heaven, we quote from God Himself on this subject:

- (1 John 5:9-13) "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. {10} He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. {11} And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. {12} He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. {13} These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Mr. Jakes, God identifies "who those sheep are." He identifies them as those that have the Son because they have believed God's testimony concerning Him. They have received eternal life because they have received the Son of God as personal Saviour. Those who reject Jesus Christ as the Son of God (such as Annette from Portland) have denied God's testimony and called Him a liar. You cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Jakes was right about one thing. Until he believes the Bible and is willing to preach the gospel without compromise, he should just "stay out of the conversation."

We need to stand up and stand strong on the Word of God. There is only one true and living God. The Lord Jesus Christ is our only Saviour. The only way for anyone to be saved is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Any preacher or teacher who cannot understand and then stand for these simple truths does not deserve to be listened to by anyone, anywhere, at any time.



## Chapter Eight

### DEFENDING THE CHASTITY OF THE CHURCH

**(Jude 1:3) "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."**



God is jealous over the chastity of the local church. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, **(2 Cor 11:2-3) "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. {3} But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."** Satan wants to get into the church and corrupt her away from her future husband, just as he seduced Eve into disobeying her husband, Adam. If we are not diligent, the devil will beguile us through his subtlety.

Pastors must be jealous over the churches entrusted to their care. Our job is very similar to that of Abraham's servant, who was sent to find a bride for Isaac. He was to find her, persuade her to marry a man she had never met, and then get her safely to Isaac. He was not to abuse her, but to protect her and her chastity. If she wavered during the journey, he was to encourage her to keep going on. His job was to get her to Isaac as a "chaste virgin."

Jude tells us to beware of certain ungodly men who come creeping into churches and want to turn the church away from

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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chastity to lasciviousness. Pastors are to protect the church from such “creeps.”

The local church ought to be spiritually chaste and 100% faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ, her future Bridegroom. The average church today does not seem chaste. The average church today is lukewarm and worldly.

Ungodly men will try to creep into the church and turn her from chastity to lasciviousness and false doctrines. It has happened in the past. The Galatian churches were turned away from Jesus Christ to a false gospel. They fell from a message of grace to a message of works.

Look at some of the churches of Asia, which Jesus addressed in the Book of Revelation. The church in Pergamos had been corrupted and was no longer chaste.

- **(Rev 2:12-16) "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; {13} I know thy works and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. {14} But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. {15} So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. {16} Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."**

Someone had brought two sets of false doctrines into the church of Pergamos. One was a doctrine of worldliness, the “doctrine of Balaam.” Balaam talked like a prophet of the Lord, but he was a fraud. He led the Israelites into idol worship and

fornication. Balaam was one of those ungodly men that Jude spoke of. He turned the grace of God into lasciviousness, and someone had introduced this false doctrine into the church of Pergamos.

The other was the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which was a change in the government of the church. Nicolaitan means “rule over the laity.” This is where the Catholic concept of a priesthood or clergy got into the churches. The Lord designed that the church be under one Head – Jesus Christ. The pastor serves as the undershepherd and overseer, but Jesus reminded us that we are all brethren, without special privileges. Deacons are servants. Pastors are servants, and members are servants, and JESUS is King and Head. Jesus said that He **hated** the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. Yet this corrupting doctrine had crept into the church. Someone was not defending the chastity of the church of Pergamos.

The church of Thyatira had also been terribly corrupted. They had permitted a wicked woman preacher to come into their church, bringing all sorts of wicked doctrines:

- **(Rev 2:18-21) "And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; {19} I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to *be* more than the first. {20} Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. {21} And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not."**

They were putting up with, suffering, this woman named Jezebel to call herself a prophetess. Someone should have told her, “No, you are not!” The pastor should have put her in her place or let her go on down the road. Instead, she was suffered to preach and teach and seduce the members of the church. She was

## **Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars**

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teaching and seducing Christ's people to commit fornication and idolatry. Someone did not defend the chastity of the church!

Lighthouse Baptist Church needs to defend itself from this type of undercover invasion by creeps and seducers that come in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. We need to stand guard and stay close to the Word of God. The best defense a church has is a strong pulpit and an educated pew. Keep the pulpit strong. Give the preacher the freedom he needs to preach the Word and let the chips fall where they may. Weak pastors open doors to corrupting influences. Strong pastors keep such wolves and goats out of the flock.

What are some areas that churches must be careful to defend, if we are going to protect our spiritual chastity and doctrinal purity?

### **I. WE MUST BE VIGILANT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF PASTOR.**

Humanly speaking, if a church is going to stay right it needs a strong and scriptural pastor at the helm. I am just speaking practically in this chapter about what kind of pastor a church ought to have.

I am convinced that the average Baptist – even those who call themselves independent and fundamental – don't have the foggiest idea of how to choose a church or a pastor. I am convinced that many who are "looking for a church" are looking for things that are not Biblical. Most of the time, they are looking for programs and activities. I am rarely asked about our doctrinal position, our music, our soul winning or our missions program. They ask, "What do you have for our kids? What do you have for single adults? What do you have for seniors? What do you have for young couples?"

They have the same attitude concerning pastors. Is he funny? How old is he? We don't want someone who is too old or too

young. Thirty-nine-and-a-half would be perfect. Is he a great orator?

The Bible gives clear qualifications for the office of a bishop, and all of them deal with his personal character and his doctrinal position. They do not cover what the average Christian looks for in a pastor.

Churches need to insist on Biblical qualifications for their pastor, and they need to encourage and support the pastor as he stands true to the Word of God. Look for a **preacher**, not a teacher. Thank God for teaching, but teachers are a dime a dozen. Teaching doesn't change the life. Teaching doesn't bring conviction or conversion. Strong, bold, Biblical preaching is what sets a church on fire and changes lives. Look for a man that is absolutely settled in his convictions. Look to see which way he leans. It is better to lean too conservatively than to lean towards a liberal or compromised position.

Look for a man whose family is right, whose wife is right and in submission to her husband. **(1 Tim 3:4-5) "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; {5} (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)"** If a man cannot wisely and effectively lead his own house, how can he take care of his house and the house of God? If his wife is not following, why should you? If his children are not following, why should your children follow? If he can't handle his own finances, who is going to handle the church's? If he can't make wise decisions and get things done for his family, what makes you think that he is qualified to lead the flock of God?

Look for a man that is a soulwinner and that has the right stand on the Bible, the KJV, the Sunday School, the bus ministry, dress standards, missions, and music. That will narrow it down.

One of our best members called me before he joined. He asked me point blank, "Are you ever going to change the church's music

or allow the contemporary stuff to come into the church?" I assured him that it would never happen as long as I was the pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church. His question did not offend me – it impressed me!

There are preachers out there who are looking for churches to take over and convert into liberal, contemporary churches. They will take it through stages and gradually change a church into something else. They are thieves, like their father the devil. If you are going to hire a pastor, you had better make sure that he is someone who has the same stand the church has, by conviction.

**If the pastor turns down a road of compromise, the church is not likely to recover while he is there.** There are fundamental folks sitting in compromised churches trying to be a good influence that ought to get out and join a church that is right. I would not want to endorse a liberal or compromised church by my presence or my offerings.

We must be vigilant in upholding the pastor's right to protect and help the flock with his preaching. Consider the Word of God concerning the pastor's preaching ministry:

- **(Titus 2:15) "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."**
- **(2 Tim 4:2-3) "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. {3} 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;"**

Bible preaching will expose false teachers and make the church uncomfortable for those who have no right to be comfortable. Strong preaching runs off the "creeps."

## **II. WE MUST BE VIGILANT IN GUARDING THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.**

The Bible qualifications are salvation and baptism, in that order. Ideally, the church as a membership should be made up entirely of born again people that have made a testimony of their faith in Christ by following Him in believer's baptism.

God is the One who set baptism as the door for church membership. The New Testament examples all show salvation coming first, with baptism following immediately after, and then those new converts being added to the church. Therefore, baptism should be guarded carefully. It does matter who is baptized, and it matters when, and it matters how, and it matters who does it.

At Lighthouse Baptist Church, we do not accept the baptism of non-Baptist groups. We are a *Baptist* church, not an inter-denominational church. I will not accept the baptism of groups that believe heresies or that do not want to be identified with our Baptist faith. If I accepted the baptism of the Church of God or the Church of Christ, I would be endorsing their false doctrines. I would be acknowledging that they are New Testament churches, which they are not.

Let a church get filled with unbelievers and you will have a mess. Let a church get filled with those of differing doctrinal positions, and you will also have a mess. The MIXED multitude caused nothing but trouble for Moses and the Israelites. A church needs to have one Lord, one faith, and one baptism if there is going to be unity.

## **III. WE MUST BE VIGILANT CONCERNING THE MUSIC MINISTRY.**

When a church begins to move away from the old paths into the contemporary praise and worship direction, it will often begin to reveal itself in the music first. The wise pastor will set some strict guidelines for the music ministry of the church. We must be ever

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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vigilant for the intrusion of the Charismatic influence in our music. We must watch out for the jungle beat of the world's music. We must watch out for music that stirs our flesh instead of our spirit. We must make sure that our music is doctrinally sound, and doesn't just sound good.

### IV. WE MUST BE VIGILANT CONCERNING THE YOUTH GROUP.

Right along with the music, this is where worldliness so often shows up in our churches – and it is a *permitted* worldliness. Churches will do anything to have a big youth group – even if it is a big worldly mess! Many youth pastors I've seen wouldn't even be allowed to teach Sunday School at Lighthouse Baptist Church. They wouldn't even be allowed on my platform.

In many youth groups, the Bible is not even taught in Sunday School. The simple classroom setup has been replaced by a rock concert stage setting. Many of them feel more like nightclubs than church classrooms.

Our kids don't need a buddy-buddy youth pastor who is trying to be cool. Our kids need **leadership** that is going to help them transition into a solid, conservative, faithful adulthood for Jesus Christ. If the youth pastor is not providing this leadership, fire him and bring in someone who will – even if he is 60 years old!

The average church is content to get a crowd of kids, but they do nothing productive with them once they've got them. A youth group can have a lot of fun, but its main purpose is the same as the rest of the church – to honor and glorify Jesus Christ, and to provide an opportunity for spiritual growth and spiritual service.

Teenagers ought to love hot Bible preaching. They ought to love the Bible. They ought to go soulwinning. They ought to live clean. They ought to dress right. They ought to serve God. Teenagers ought to listen to the right music. They should obey and



love their parents. They should be pure. I shouldn't feel like I'm taking my teenagers to a rock concert when I go to church.

## **V. WE MUST BE VIGILANT CONCERNING OUR ADULT LEADERSHIP.**

- **(2 Tim 2:2) "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."**

The Bible teaches us that stewardship is a privilege for those who are faithful. **(1 Cor 4:2) "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."** A church ministry is a stewardship. It is a trust. It should not be given to those who have not proven themselves to be faithful. How can we teach or set an example if we are not faithful?

A lot of trouble has been caused in churches through the adult leadership. Sometimes it is staff leadership. Sometimes it is the deacons. That's why God has set in stone the qualifications of the deacon and his wife. Sometimes it is laymen in the church.

A lot of trouble comes up in adult classes, where the teacher abuses his position to lead his class against the pastor. The pastor entrusts a man to teach and stay in line with the position of the church, and that adult teacher betrays that trust by using his class as an outlet to oppose the pastor. No adult Sunday School teacher should ever oppose his pastor in his class!!! Never! Such troublemakers bring great harm to the Lord's church and defile her chastity.

The church is to be chaste for her Lord and Saviour. We need to be aware that Satan wants to corrupt the Lighthouse Baptist Church, and we need to make sure that our church stays right. And it will start right here where I stand, and it will start where you sit in your pew.

**"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. {3} 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;"**

**2 Timothy 4:2-3**

## Chapter Nine

### **DELIVERED, DECEIVED, DESTROYED**

**(Jude 1:5) "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."**



Verses 5-7 give three Old Testament examples of apostasy and judgment. Verse 5 describes the Israelites who, after being delivered from Egypt, rebelled against God and died in the wilderness under God's judgment. Verse 6 describes the angels that sinned against God and were cast from heaven to hell, awaiting a future judgment. Verse 7 describes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, who turned from righteousness to a reprobate way of life, and were wiped off the earth by God's fiery judgment.

These verses serve as a warning to all concerning the condemnation and future judgment of false prophets and false teachers. Our God is not a God to be trifled with. We need to learn to fear the Lord.

➤ **(Psa 119:120) "My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments."**

Studying God's judgments in the past will lead me to a healthy and proper fear of the Lord in the present. This is why we need to teach and preach about the judgments of the Lord – those times in the past where God said, "I am tired of your sin. You have crossed the line, and I am going to end this now, for good."

Peter gives us a key to understanding this passage: **(2 Pet 2:3) "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make**

**merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."**

These false prophets and false teachers seem to be having success. They have a big following and a lot of merchandise. But they have a judgment that will not linger long, and a damnation that **"slumbereth not."** It is a fearful thing to stand as a false prophet or a false teacher and lead people away from the Word of God and the God of the Word. In the Old Testament, such an act was a crime punishable by death. Jesus strongly rebuked the false teachers of His time, which included the Pharisees and scribes. **(Mat 23:15) "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."**

Sadly, these false teachers and preachers rarely turn from their ways back to the truth. Paul told us this: **(Titus 3:10-11) "A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; {11} Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."**

**"Subverted"** means "completely overthrown from the foundation." It also means that the mind has been perverted away from the truth. The subverted person has been overthrown from the foundation of his beliefs. He is not likely to be turned.

Turning away from God and His truth can lead to a reprobate mind. **(Rom 1:28) "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient..."** Reprobate means "abandoned in sin or error." It's a sad thing when a person is given up or given over by God, and they become subverted, **"condemned of himself"** because he has turned his back on the truth. But it happens. Men become **"reprobate concerning the faith:"**

- **(2 Tim 3:6-8) "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led**

away with divers lusts, {7} Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. {8} Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."

In our text, Jude reminds us of the Exodus from Egypt. **(Jude 1:5) "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."**

Jude said, "I would like to remind you of what you learned in Sabbath School about how God delivered Israel out of Egyptian bondage." The types of the Exodus are pretty clear. Egypt pictures the world; Pharaoh pictures Satan, and the bondage they suffered pictures the bondage and power of sin. The Passover and the crossing of the Red Sea on dry ground picture redemption. Therefore, the Israelites that were "under the blood" picture saved people.

But Jude is speaking of apostates and false prophets among the people. He was reminding us of those people that came out of Egypt with Israel, but never changed in their hearts. The Old Testament calls this crowd the **"mixed multitude."** It was this mixed multitude that influenced the children of Israel away from a life of faith in God.

In the types of the Exodus, you have a redeemed people, and the mixed multitude, of whom were the false teachers and prophets that Moses had to deal with so often, and which finally led to God's judgment on the entire generation that came out of Egypt (except for Caleb and Joshua). This mixed multitude has always caused trouble to the people of God. They are still causing trouble today. They are still in our churches.

Consider some facts about the mixed multitude in the Wilderness Wanderings, which apply to our study of the apostasy:

**I. THE MIXED MULTITUDE CAME OUT OF EGYPT *WITH* ISRAEL, BUT THEY WERE NOT *OF* ISRAEL.**

- (Exo 12:37-38) "And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot *that were men, beside children.* {38} And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, *even very much cattle.*"

They were not of the children of Israel. They just liked to hang around them and mingle among them. They were tares among the wheat. They were professors, not possessors, like the crowd that Titus had to deal with: (Titus 1:16) "**They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.**"

I am afraid that there are a lot of folks in our churches, and especially in the compromising churches, that are tares among the wheat. They like to hang around Christians, and consider themselves Christians, but they are not true members of the family of God. They do not want to be in the world (Egypt). They are perhaps moral or religious people, but they have one great problem: *they have not been born again*. As such, they are unable to discern the will of God or spiritual things, and their lives are marked by the works of the flesh in varying degrees.

It is not enough just to like to go to church and enjoy the services and friendships of the church, or programs of the church. You may enjoy having Christian friends. You may enjoy spiritual music. You may enjoy the spiritual life that a true church has. You may desire to have your children in a Sunday School or Christian School. You may like serving in a church ministry. But if you have not been born again, you are not a part of the family of God. There must be a true, genuine new birth experience. Until then, you are an "**alien from the commonwealth of Israel,**" just like the mixed multitude.

False professors tend to cause all sorts of problems in churches. No matter how they try, they cannot walk in the Spirit until the Spirit of God lives in them. Their lives do not and cannot evidence the true fruit of the Spirit. Instead, carnality and the works of the flesh will mark their lives.

## **II. THE MIXED MULTITUDE TURNED THE HEARTS OF THE ISRAELITES AWAY FROM GOD AND BACK TO EGYPT.**

- (Num 11:4-6) "**And the mixed multitude that *was* among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? {5} We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic: {6} But now our soul *is* dried away: *there is* nothing at all, beside this manna, *before* our eyes.**"

The mixed multitude was the source of many problems in the **"church in the wilderness."** They "fell a lusting" and starting complaining. Before long, the Israelites were complaining and murmuring against Moses. Where did the trouble start? In the lusts of the mixed multitude.

## **III. THE MIXED MULTITUDE OPENED THE DOOR FOR FALSE PROPHETS FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE.**

Even Aaron became an apostate while Moses was on the mount. He made a golden calf and taught the people to worship it. What caused Aaron to commit such a horrible sin? The people, stirred by the mixed multitude, demanded that he do so. The presence of this unsaved group led to idolatry in the **"church in the wilderness."**

Jude mentioned two false prophets and leaders in verse 11: Balaam and Korah. What did Balaam do? He **"taught Balac to cast a**

**stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication" (Rev 2:14).** God brought Israel out of the world; Balaam brought the world to Israel in the wilderness.

Korah was raised up by the people to lead their rebellion against Moses, the divinely appointed leader. That crowd opens the doors to apostate groups and leaders in the church. They open the door to the world and to rebellion against divine authority.

Churches today are focusing on reaching the "mixed multitude demographic." It is no wonder that their churches are so worldly. What do you expect when a large percentage of the church is probably not even saved? These churches just say, "Sign this card and you're in." They don't insist on a new birth experience.

The mixed multitude opened the door to false prophets, idolatry, rebellion, and worldliness. Even so, the mixed multitude in the church will constantly try to pull the church and pastor towards the world.

#### **IV. THE MIXED MULTITUDE LED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE.**

They were delivered. They were deceived. They were destroyed. How sad! They had seen God's mighty hand and mighty miracles performed on their behalf. Yet, they turned in their hearts back to Egypt and were not steadfast in their covenant with the Lord.

- **(Psa 78:10-13) "They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law; {11} And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had showed them. {12} Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. {13} He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap."**



In this light, Peter warned us to beware, lest we fall from our own steadfastness, and get led away in the error of the mixed multitude:

- **(2 Pet 3:16-17) "As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. {17} Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."**

We cannot lose our salvation; but we can lose the Promised Land life of victory that God wants us to have, if we are not steadfast in our faith. May God help us to avoid the presence of the whining, griping, complaining, worldly-minded mixed multitude!

**"For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, {7} Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. {8} Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."**

**2 Timothy 3:6-8**

## Chapter Ten

### THE ANGELS THAT LEFT THEIR FIRST ESTATE

(Jude 1:6) "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."



Jude verses 5-7 give three Old Testament examples of apostasy and judgment. In the last chapter, we discussed the mixed multitude and their influence upon the people of Israel. We must beware of the tares among the wheat. We must be on guard against those who would cause us to be ***"led away with the error of the wicked"*** so that we ***"fall from your own steadfastness"***(2 Peter 3:17).

Verse six then reminds us that even angels are not immune from rebellion or apostasy away from God and His authority. It also reminds us that even angels are not immune from God's judgment and wrath concerning their sin. The angels mentioned in Jude 6 are fallen angels, devils, which are now chained in darkness awaiting a terrible judgment. They are set forth as an example of apostasy and God's judgment for their sin.

#### I. THE ORIGINAL ESTATE OF THESE APOSTATE ANGELS.

These angels were created by God for a certain habitation and estate. They were not created as devils. God created them as angels. This was their original position or "estate." They were designed to live in heaven with God. That was their "habitation."

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Hebrews 1 gives us some important information about God's purpose for the angels. Consider the following facts about the angel's original estate:

1. The angels are inferior and subservient to Jesus Christ. **(Heb 1:4-5) "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. {5} For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?"**
2. The angels are to worship Jesus Christ. **(Heb 1:6) "And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him."**
3. The angels are to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. **(Heb 1:7-8) "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. {8} But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."**
4. The angels are ministering servants, designed for service to God's redeemed people. **(Heb 1:14) "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"**

This was their original estate. They were ministers and servants of God. Most of the angels remained in this position of service and worship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## II. THE AWFUL SIN OF THESE FALLEN ANGELS.

- **(Jude 1:6) "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."**

- **(2 Pet 2:4) "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;"**

These angels were not satisfied with their position in the plan of God. They did not want to spend eternity as mere servants to Jesus Christ and to the heirs of redemption. They rejected their God-given estates as servants. Instead, they joined in the rebellion of Lucifer, whose great sin was prideful ambition. He too was unsatisfied with his position. He wanted to take the throne of Almighty God:

- **(Isa 14:12-15) "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! {13} For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: {14} I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. {15} Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."**

Lucifer chose to leave his estate, and this act of prideful rebellion transformed him eternally into *Satan*, the adversary of God and His people.

When Satan rose up in rebellion, one third of the angelic host joined with him. The great red dragon pulled one third of the stars of heaven with him as he fell: **(Rev 12:3-4) "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. {4} And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."**

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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What was their sin? Proudful ambition. Dissatisfaction with God's plan and purpose for their existence, which led to a rebellion against God. They left their **"first estate"** and their **"habitation."**

Sadly, many Christians are not satisfied with God's estate or habitation for their lives. They are not content with God's plan, purpose or will. This is where Eve failed in the Garden of Eden. She would not be content with all that God had given her; the desire for the one forbidden thing became overwhelming. She could have eaten from any other tree. Because of their sin, Adam and Eve also lost their first estate and were driven from their habitation.

We need to learn our place in God's plan and program, and then learn to be content within the boundaries of God's purpose. Many wives today are not content with their estate as "help meets" for their husbands, keepers at home, and rearers of children (Gen. 2:20; Titus 2:5). They are running after careers, leaving their God-ordained estate. Many wives refuse to follow their husbands or respect their husbands' God-given position as the head of the home. They are leaving their first estate to take over the position that God has given to the husband alone.

Many husbands today have left their estate as breadwinner and spiritual leader in the home. Friend, we cannot violate the Word of God without consequences. God has a **"due order"** in which things ought to be done (1 Chron. 15:13). Our homes are not functioning properly because husbands and wives, fathers and mothers are not fulfilling their roles as designed by God.

Many preachers have become dissatisfied with God's calling on their lives, and have turned to the world for satisfaction. Instead of pleasing God, they have turned into men-pleasers to avoid persecution or difficulty, or to achieve worldly success. They love the praise of men more than the praise of God. In doing so, they have forsaken their "first estate" as men of God.

Many Christians are not satisfied with their place in God's plan or God's purpose for their lives, and have turned to their own plans

instead. Many deacons are not satisfied with being servants of the church (the word deacon means "servant"). They want to take over the estate of the pastor. We need to stay in our God-ordained estates and learn to be content with the will of God for our lives.

**Dissatisfaction is one of the gates that opens into the path of apostasy.** Whatever estate God has chosen for you, be content and serve God with all your might! Take heed to example set by devils, and avoid their path!

### **III. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD UPON THESE SINFUL ANGELS.**

- (Jude 1:6) **"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."**
- (2 Pet 2:4) **"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;"**

When these angels sinned, they were cast out of heaven. Some of them were cast directly to hell, where they are now imprisoned. By the way, hell was created for these apostate angels. **(Mat 25:41) "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels..."** Hell was not designed for people. It was designed as a place of punishment for sinful angels.

Some of these devils are still loose in the world. We know this from the gospel accounts, in which Jesus cast many devils out of many people that had been afflicted by them.

Jude and Peter, however, tell us that many of these fallen angels are not loose on the earth, but have are in everlasting chains in the darkness of hell, reserved unto judgment. It appears that these devils will be loosed during the Tribulation period, to afflict the reprobate people of the earth. Read about them in Revelation 9.

The final abode of Satan and his devils, and his unregenerated spiritual children, will be the lake of fire. **(Rev 20:10) "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."** This is the ultimate price tag of rebellion against God.

### IV. TWO WARNINGS TO GOD'S PEOPLE.

1. Satan is the original apostate and father of false doctrines.

He persuaded Eve that the Word of God was wrong concerning the wages of sin. He said, "Ye shall not surely die." Then, he presented a false gospel. He told her that if she would eat of the forbidden tree, she would be like God. We must beware of the **"doctrines of devils"** and **"seducing spirits:"**

- **(1 Tim 4:1) "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"**

If Satan could persuade angels to follow him in rebellion against God, don't think that he cannot persuade men – or you.

2. The awful judgment of God against rebellion and apostasy.

Matthew Henry wrote: "There is, undoubtedly there is, a judgment to come; the fallen angels are reserved to the judgment of the great day; **and shall fallen men escape it? Surely not."**

If you die unsaved, you will go to a place of everlasting fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels. Make sure that you have not been deceived by a false gospel, a doctrine of devils!



## Chapter Eleven

### **"EVEN AS SODOM"**

**(Jude 1:7) "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."**



In verse 7, Jude described the moral apostasy and perverted lifestyle of the men of Sodom and the surrounding cities. Though Sodom and those cities were destroyed by fire from heaven, the sin of Sodom, called sodomy, has continued on in the gutters, sewer pipes and dark closets of human history to this present time. In fact, it is a sign of the times that sodomy has come out of the closets and is now so widely accepted in societies around the world.

In this chapter, I am going to deal with this wicked sin and perverted way of life. I do not want to. But we cannot hide our heads in the sand while these perverts take over our country. If someone wants to call me a homophobe, that is their right, just as it is my right to call them perverts. Homophobia is defined as the "irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexuals." There is nothing *irrational* about what I believe concerning this so-called way of life. I do admit to a strong aversion to sodomites, just as I would have towards anyone who is involved in sick, perverted activities. I consider homosexuality a perversion of nature, and I consider homosexuals to be dangerous elements of our society. I believe that their perverted sin brings God's judgment on cities and nations.

Consider what Jude has to say to us about the horrible sin of homosexuality:

### I. THE PERVERSION OF SODOM.

- (Jude 1:7) "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."

Like the angels of verse 6, the men of Sodom and Gomorrha left their **"first estate."** Like the angels in verse 6, their destruction is **"set forth for an example"** and warning to all future generations.

The first estate of man is found in Genesis 1 and 2. God made Adam and Eve for each other. It wasn't Adam and *Steve*. God did not even make Adam, Eve, and Steve and tell Adam to make his choice. Homosexuality was not God's first estate for man.

God created them in His own image, but He made them **"male and female"** (Gen. 1:27). God told Adam and Eve to **"be fruitful and multiply"** (Gen. 1:28). God made them *biologically compatible* to produce children. This is a man's first estate. It is the natural plan of God for men and women to marry and produce children together inside their healthy marriage relationship.

When men and women leave their **"first estate"** to go after **"strange flesh,"** this is a perversion of nature. Paul describes this in no uncertain terms:

- (Rom 1:24-28) "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: {25} Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. {26} For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change

**the natural use into that which is against nature: {27} And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. {28} And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"**

God calls sodomy “**vile affections.**” They did “**change the natural use into that which is against nature.**” The men left the “**natural use of the woman**” and “**burned in their lust one toward another.**” They work that “**which is unseemly.**”

Because of their sinful ways, they receive in themselves “**that recompense of their error**” that God has decided is meet: which includes all forms of sexually transmitted diseases as well as mental depression and social abhorrence. 50% of all suicides are among homosexuals, who only make up 1-2% of the entire population.<sup>17</sup> They are supposed to be “gay” and “happy?” In 1978, San Francisco passed gay rights laws. Since then, some sexually transmitted diseases have risen by 2500%. 71 % of those with A.I.D.S. are homosexuals.<sup>18</sup> This is not an accident. It is the product of a certain perverted, unnatural way of life.

It is natural for a man to want a woman. It is natural for a woman to want a man. Adultery is absolutely wrong, but it is not *against nature*. I am not justifying adultery; I am simply pointing out how perverted the sin of homosexuality is. It is against nature.

The homosexual lifestyle is also evidence of a “**reprobate mind.**” Most of the time, homosexuals aren’t going to change. They are reprobate. When the Sodomites tried to abuse the angels at Lot’s house, the angels smote them with blindness. Did they repent? No, they continued on in their attempt to abuse the angels - (Gen 19:11) “**And they smote the men that were at the door of**

**the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door."**

The Homosexual League of New York City polled 400 homosexuals and asked them, "Would you want to be cured if you could?" 96% said that they would not want to be cured if they could.<sup>19</sup>

Jude said that they were "giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh." When a society gives itself over to fornication, all forms of sexual perversion will be practiced. They were *addicted* to fornication. This addiction led to perversion.

Most of the time, the word *fornication* refers to immorality between unmarried people, while adultery refers to immorality in which at least one person is married. However, fornication can also refer to *all* forms of sexual sin. The Greek word translated "fornication" is "*porneuo*," from which we get our word "pornography."

If you have a problem with pornography, you are a fornicator. Pornography is one of the doors that leads into the sin of sodomy. In 2003, statistics showed that the pornography industry brought in 57 billion dollars worldwide, and 12 billion dollars in the US. Porn revenue was greater than all the major sports franchises combined. It was more than ABC, CBS, and NBC made combined. Child pornography generated \$3 billion a year.

The Internet is a tool being used by the devil and the homosexual crowd and the reprobates of this world to destroy our children. *The average age of a child when he or she is first exposed to pornography on the computer is 11 years old.* Parents, did you get that! The largest consumers of pornography is the 12-17 age group. Search engine names for children's sites (such as Pokeman) will often bring up thousands of porn sites.<sup>20</sup>

Let me remind you that the Bible is against fornication in all its forms: **(1 Cor 6:18-20) "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. {19} What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? {20} For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."**

When a society gives itself over to fornication, anything goes. Any perversion becomes commonplace and acceptable. New experiences are sought out. After they gave themselves over to fornication, they began going after **"strange flesh."** Strange would refer to that which is not normal or natural. When people give themselves over to sexual sin, it is a downward spiral into a moral abyss, looking for a greater pleasure or bigger thrill.

God calls homosexual behaviour an abomination: **(Lev 18:22) "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."** It is linked closely with bestiality, forbidden in the very next verse: **(Lev 18:23) "Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion."** 15% of sodomites *admit* to having sex with animals. Once you have broken the boundaries of nature, anything goes.

God said that these sins were practiced by the Canaanites, among whom were the people of Sodom.

- **(Lev 18:24-25) "Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: {25} And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants."**
- **(Lev 18:27-29) "(For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which *were* before you, and the land is defiled;) {28} That the land spue not you out also, when**

ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that *were* before you. {29} For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit *them* shall be cut off from among their people."

In going after "**strange flesh**," sodomites live a filthy lifestyle. 43% of homosexuals admit to 500 or more partners in a lifetime. 28% admit to 1000 or more. 70% admit that half of those partners were total strangers.

## II. THE PEOPLE OF SODOM.

Genesis gives us the original account of the wickedness of Sodom:

- (Gen 13:13) "**But the men of Sodom *were* wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.**"
- (Gen 19:4-5) "**But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: {5} And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, **Where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.**"**

The sin of Sodomy had crossed every age barrier and social barrier. They were young and old. They came from every quarter of the city – rich, poor, and middle-class. It had spread throughout "**all the people.**" They wanted to "**know**" the angels. They wanted to rape the angels that they thought were men.

Sodomites first want toleration. Then they want acceptance. Then, they want affirmation. Then, they openly abuse those who are not like them. These men of Sodom came out in a pack to commit acts of violence against these two men.

Sodomites have violent tendencies. They are dangerous to society. Judge John Murtaugh, Chief Magistrate of New York City

Criminal Court, said, "Homosexuals account for one-half of the murders in large cities."<sup>21</sup> Los Angeles Police officer, Captain William Riddle, said, "30,000 sexually abused children in Los Angeles were victims of homosexuals."<sup>22</sup> An article written by Dr. E. Fields of Marietta, GA, said, "Homosexuals are 100 times more likely to be murdered (usually by another homosexual) than the average person, 25 times more likely to commit suicide, and 19 times more likely to die in a traffic accident." 50% of women on death row are lesbians.<sup>23</sup>

### **What about child abuse?**

Homosexuals cannot reproduce, so they have to recruit. They are far more like to abuse or molest children than heterosexuals. One study found that 33% of homosexuals ADMIT to having sex with minors.<sup>24</sup> The fact that any would admit to such a crime is incredible. One large homosexual group has for its slogan, "Sex before eight before it's too late." A study found that 73% of homosexuals have had sex with boys under 19 years of age.

**Homosexuals commit 33% of all reported child molestations in the US.**<sup>25</sup> When you consider that they make up only 1-2% of the population, this number becomes astounding. **It means that 1 in every 20 homosexuals is a child molester, while 1 in 490 heterosexuals is a child molester.**

They cannot reproduce; they can only recruit. The younger, the better. It is common among sodomites and lesbians. In 1980, a New York survey found that 48% of all homosexuals admitted molesting at least six minors.<sup>26</sup> The risk of abuse is so great that many insurance companies will not insure groups that allow homosexuals to work with children.<sup>27</sup>

Sodomites have to recruit. This is why they adopt children. 60% of all adoptions are by sodomites.<sup>28</sup> Homosexuals aren't born; they are made.

There are two groups to watch out for: the effeminate and the abusers. **(1 Cor 6:9) "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not**

**inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,"**

**1. The effeminate.**

Someone who effeminate is not automatically a homosexual, but he is leaning in that direction and will be targeted by homosexuals. Effeminate is defined by Webster's 1828 Dictionary as "having the qualities of the female sex; soft or delicate to an unmanly degree."

Feminine men are much more likely to become sodomites than masculine men. This is why it is more common to see sodomites coming from single mother homes or from a home with a dominant, masculine mother and a weak, feminine father. The gender lines are not there and children are confused. Christians need to make the gender lines crystal clear to their children.

**2. The "abusers of themselves with mankind."**

These are the reprobate sodomites. They are abusers. They are the ones who prey on boys and on the effeminate to recruit them into sodomy. Not all homosexuals are effeminate. Some of them are big, strong, and aggressive – but they are violent, abusive molesters looking for prey. Sometimes, they are married and have families of their own. A lot of sodomites are married.

I could tell you some stories that would curdle your blood about how older boys or men have abused smaller boys, using violence and fear and abuse to twist their minds and make sodomites out of them. These **"abusers of themselves with mankind"** are looking for someone to take advantage of, and usually that means a small child. Watch out for older boys in the neighborhood or school, cousins, uncles, etc.



Do not let your little boys go into public restrooms by themselves. Consider this news article by Dr. Hugh Pyle:

#### SODOMITES ARRESTED

**Atlanta cops are now having to police the restrooms at the Atlanta airport because of perverts clustering there to grab male travelers for sodomy trysts.** It's tragic when a man can't take his young son to the restroom in an airport without running into such corruption. And what of the young boys or teens who go to the bathroom alone? A few years back, Georgia Interstate rest areas had to be closed and public parks carefully policed because the sodomites were plying their sordid vices in public! Are we back to the 'days of Lot,' or not?<sup>29</sup>

I take no chances with my children. They do not do sleepovers. They do not go with unsupervised groups. They do not hang out with kids in the neighborhood.

At Lighthouse Baptist Church, everyone who works with children has a background check and we have rules that protect our kids.

Our kids may very well be approached by homosexuals at some point in their childhood or teenage years. Kids, if that happens, get away and tell your parents. Parents, teach your children what to do. This is not a joke.

#### **"BEWARE OF DOGS."**

The people of Sodom cannot be trusted. **(Phil 3:2) "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision."** The expression "dog" refers to sodomites. **(Deu 23:17-18) "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel. {18} Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the**

price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these *are* abomination unto the LORD thy God."

Christians need to beware of the dogs in our society. They are pushing an agenda that will eventually make Bible preaching illegal. They are pushing a program that will redefine marriage and corrupt future generations of Americans – and bring God's judgment.

The following is the "*Homosexual Manifesto*," written by Michael Swift. This hateful, militant speech is a clear statement of the homosexual agenda (some sentences were edited because of their vile content):

***"We shall sodomize your sons,*** emblems of your feeble masculinity, of you shallow dreams and vulgar lies. ***We shall seduce them in your schools,*** in your dormitories, in your gymnasiums, in your locker rooms, in your sports arenas, in your ***seminaries,*** in your ***youth groups,*** in your ***movie theater bathrooms,*** in your army bunkhouses, in your truck stops, in your all-male clubs, in your houses of Congress, wherever men are with men together. Your sons shall become our minions and do our bidding. They will be recast in our image. They will come to crave and adore us...

***All laws banning homosexual activity will be revoked.*** Instead, legislation shall be passed which engenders love between men.

All homosexuals must stand together as brothers; we must be united artistically, philosophically, socially, politically, and financially. We will triumph ***only when we present a common face to the vicious heterosexual enemy.***

If you dare to cry faggot, fairy, queer, at us, ***we will stab you in your cowardly hearts and defile your dead, puny bodies.***

We shall write poems of the love between men; we shall stage plays in which man openly caresses man; we shall make ***films*** about the love between heroic men which will

replace the *cheap, superficial, sentimental, insipid, juvenile, heterosexual infatuations* presently dominating your cinema screens...

Our writers and artists will make love between men fashionable and *de rigueur*, and we will succeed because we are adept at setting styles. ***We will eliminate heterosexual liaisons through the devices of wit and ridicule, devices which we are skilled in employing...***

...We are everywhere; we have infiltrated your ranks. Be careful when you speak of homosexuals because we are always among you; we may be sleeping in the same bed with you.

***There will be no compromises.*** We are not middle-class weaklings. Highly intelligent, we are the natural aristocrats of the human race, and steely-minded aristocrats never settle for less. ***Those who oppose us will be exiled.***

***The family unit -- spawning ground of lies, betrayals, mediocrity, hypocrisy, and violence -- will be abolished. The family unit, which only dampens imagination and curbs free will, must be eliminated. Perfect boys will be conceived and grown in the genetic laboratory. They will be bonded together in a communal setting, under the control and instruction of homosexual savants.***

***All churches who condemn us will be closed...***

***Any man contaminated with heterosexual lust will be automatically barred from a position of influence.*** All males who insist on remaining stupidly heterosexual will be tried in homosexual courts of justice and will become invisible men.

***We shall rewrite history***, history filled and debased with your heterosexual lies and distortions. We shall portray the homosexuality of the great leaders and thinkers who have

shaped the world... We shall be victorious because we are fueled with ***the ferocious bitterness*** of the oppressed who have been forced to play seemingly bit parts in your dumb, heterosexual shows throughout the ages. ***We too are capable of firing guns*** and manning the barricades of the ultimate revolution.

***Tremble, hetero swine, when we appear before you without our masks!***<sup>30</sup>

### III. THE PROPHETS OF SODOM.

Jude used Sodom as an illustration of apostasy. The sodomites hate true Christianity, but they like to be close to the house of God. **(2 Ki 23:7) "And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove."** We are seeing this fulfilled today, as churches and denominations are starting to affirm the homosexual lifestyle as legitimate and right.

The United Presbyterian Church has officially approved homosexuality as normal. A segment of the United Methodist Church has as well. The National Council of Churches is openly involved in pushing the sodomite agenda. The Episcopal Church and the Catholic Church are opening their arms to the homosexual crowd. The Catholic Church has long harbored a high percentage of homosexuals in its clergy. An internal study by the Catholic Church found that 4392 priests had abused more than 10,000 victims over the previous 50 years.

The Episcopal Church ordains homosexual priests and blesses their civil unions. Various Lutheran and Mennonite groups are accepting of homosexuality and have sodomite ministers. The Unitarian and Universalist churches accept sodomites, ordain them into the ministry, and will even perform marriages for them.

There is a denomination of homosexual churches called the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, started in 1968. This denomination now has over 150 congregations and 29,000 members. A website dedicated to “affirming churches” lists 197 in Texas. 30 are in the capital city of Austin. 29 are in Dallas. 31 are in Houston.

In 2008, the homosexual activist group Soulforce was welcomed with open arms by Bill Hybels and the Willow Creek Community Church of South Barrington, IL. Hybels and a group of elders sat down and ate a friendly meal with these proponents of abomination. One of the visiting lesbians reported:

***“For our part, we were surprised and pleased that Willow Creek’s own 30-year study of homosexuality has led them to conclude that: (1) Sexual orientation is unchangeable. and (2) Sexual orientation should not keep someone from being received into their church. They acknowledged that 6 of the 7 verses used to condemn homosexuality are irrelevant; really referring to other things. Unfortunately, they still felt that one Genesis text supported their position that gay and lesbian members must commit to celibacy to become members. We told them how this perspective has caused many in their congregation, because of their love for Willow Creek, to live lives of deception and secrecy in order to be accepted and still enjoy sexual expression in their committed relationships.***

As we looked for action steps at the end of over 2-hour meeting, we agreed to continue the dialogue. ***Bill Hybels also indicated that their church will continue to study the subject and that he would begin to speak out against the misinformation that some Christian groups publish. We then, stood, held hands, and prayed together.***”<sup>31</sup>

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Can you imagine the Apostle Paul sitting down with homosexuals for a meal, agreeing that the Bible verses dealing with this sin are irrelevant, accepting homosexual members without repentance, promising to continue his study on the subject (in case he was wrong?), and then holding hands and praying together with them? Should militant homosexual activists be “pleased” by what they see in the church of a thrice-holy God?

In 2008, the Baptist Press ran an article that would be amusing if it were not so pathetic. It was entitled, *“Gay Couples in Church Directory Kindles Flap.”* “The question of placing photos of gay couples in a church pictorial directory has kindled controversy in a Texas Baptist Congregation... Members of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth are divided over whether homosexual couples should be pictured together in the same way as other couples within the church.” The pastor, Brett Younger, said, “For decades Broadway has had gay members as part of our membership, but no couple has been pictured as a couple in our church directory.”<sup>32</sup>

What a crying shame! How can this so-called pastor overlook the obvious perversion and sin of his own members living together in open, unashamed sin! All I can say is that Broadway certainly lives up to its name (Mt. 7:13).

When churches are openly siding with the sodomite crowd, we are in trouble as a nation. When churches will accept, endorse, and bless what God has called an ABOMINATION, it shows how far away from the Bible those denominations and organizations have gone.

In the Old Testament, the presence of sodomites in the land was a sign of apostasy and moral declension. When revival took place, they ran the sodomites out of the house of God and out of the country!

Lighthouse Baptist Church is not affirming anything but the Bible. What God hates, we hate. What God calls an abomination, we call an abomination. What God says is against nature, we say is

against nature. God help the prophets of Sodom who call good evil and evil good!

#### IV. THE PUNISHMENT OF SODOM.

- **(Jude 1:7) "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."**

God wiped them off the face of the earth. Now, Sodom and Gomorrah are buried in ashes under the Dead Sea, in the lowest spot on land, 1378 feet below sea level. What used to be like **"the garden of the LORD"** (Gen. 13:10) is now one of the most desolate places in the world.

God set them forth as an example. They died under fire from heaven, and they are still **"suffering the vengeance of eternal fire"** in hell.

God has set forth a warning to those in the homosexual lifestyle: repent, or else! **(1 Cor 6:9-10) "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, {10} Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."**

Homosexuals *can* be saved. Paul hinted that some had been saved in Corinth. **(1 Cor 6:11) "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."** The blood of Jesus Christ can wash away any sin, no matter how vile. But there will not be any salvation without **repentance** concerning this abominable sin.

The sad fact is that 96% of the sodomites surveyed in New York City said they would not be cured if they could. This stubborn

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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rejection of God's truth will lead to **"the vengeance of eternal fire:"**

- **(Rev 21:8) "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."**
- **(Rev 22:14-15) "Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. {15} For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."**

We need to be aware of the perilous times we live in. The sodomites have an agenda, and they are shoving it down the throat of our nation.

James Dobson identified this agenda well when he said, "Those goals include universal acceptance of the gay lifestyle, discrediting of scriptures that condemn homosexuality, muzzling of the clergy and Christian media, granting of special privileges and rights in the law, overturning laws prohibiting pedophilia, indoctrinating children and future generations through public education, and securing all the legal benefits of marriage for any two or more people who claim to have homosexual tendencies."<sup>33</sup>

It is time for Christians to stand up for God's Word. It is time for a return to man's "first estate."



## Chapter Twelve

### FILTHY DREAMERS

(Jude 1:8-10) "Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. {9} Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. {10} But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves."



In verse 11, Jude refers to apostate teachers as "filthy dreamers." The word "dreamer" refers to a prophet. Usually, in the Old Testament, it referred to a *false* prophet:

➤ (Deu 13:1-5) "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, {2} And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; {3} Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. {4} Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. {5} And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust

thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee."

In Jeremiah's day, Jerusalem was overrun by false prophets, false teachers, and filthy dreamers:

- (Jer 23:25-32) "I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. {26} How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart; {27} Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal. {28} The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. {29} *Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces? {30} Therefore, behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. {31} Behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. {32} Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD."

These false prophets were stealing away the word of God (vs. 30) and replacing them with deceits from their own hearts and imaginations. They were deceiving the people with their lying dreams. God said, "They prophecy lies. They are prophets of deceit out of their own heart." These false prophets caused the people to forget the LORD and worship Baal.

We have today a bunch of apostate teachers and preachers who are nothing more than filthy dreamers. They do not preach the word of God faithfully. They prophesy deceptions out of their own depraved hearts and call it the word of God. Notice their character, as related by Jude:

### **I. THEY DEFILE THE FLESH (vs. 8).**

When we turn our backs on the Word of God, it will lead to a filthy way of life. Jude compared these filthy dreamers to the sodomites of verse 7. **“Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh.”** They are religious perverts.

We are told to crucify the flesh and to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (2 Cor 7:1). We are told to put off the old man, which is corrupted according to the deceitful lusts, and to put on the new man, which is created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:22,24). We are told to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11).

Yet these filthy dreamers lead their followers to live in the flesh and to let the flesh have its way in their lives. They talk about the Spirit of God, but their works and deeds are worldly, sinful, and defiled. Balaam is a great example of a “dreamer” who led the children of Israel into fornication and idolatry.

Take the sordid history of the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church. In the years prior to the Reformation, the Catholic Church ruled over the kings of Europe, and their priests did whatever they wanted. History records the abuses and wickedness that accompanied **“the great whore” (Rev. 17).**

First, they dreamed up the unbiblical, pagan concept of priestly celibacy. This policy of a celibate priesthood came from the ancient Babylonian cults. The priests were not supposed to get married. This alone is a doctrine of devils: **(1 Tim 4:1-3) "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart**

from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; {2} Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; {3} **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."**

When Martin Luther visited Rome, he was shocked by the open immorality. For Rome's 100,000 citizens, there were over 6800 registered prostitutes (1 in 14 of the entire population). Cardinal Peter D'Ailly said he dared not describe the immorality of the nunneries, and that "taking the veil" was simply another way of becoming a prostitute. Priests became known as "the husbands of all women" and in many areas, the men of the towns insisted that priests keep concubines for the protection of their wives and daughters.

The Popes were no better. The Bishop of Cremona stated in the days of Pope John XII that, "No honest lady dare show herself in public, for Pope John had no respect for either single girls, married women, or widows – they were sure to be defiled by him, even on the tombs of the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul." Pope Boniface stated that "to lie carnally with women or with boys is no more a sin than rubbing one's hands together."

When we turn our backs on the Word of God, it will lead to a filthy way of life. Roman Catholicism has and will continue to have filthy behaviour among its priestcraft as long as it perpetuates the devilish doctrine of priestly celibacy.

Filthy dreamers defile the flesh. We see this today in the sodomite churches, most of which are part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The Charismatic churches have become extremely sensual, and many evangelical churches have followed suit. Check out their youth groups.

Instead of restraining the flesh, these filthy dreamers defile the flesh. This alone should help us to identify the false prophets among us.

## II. THEY DESPISE DOMINION.

The word dominion refers to government or authority. Apostates and rebels do not like authority structure or authority figures. They have no respect for God's appointed authority structure. **(2 Pet 2:10) "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities."**

This causes them to **"speak evil of dignities."** A dignity or dignitary is someone who deserves honor because of his or her position.

- **(Rom 13:7) "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."**

Apostates and rebels do not give honor to whom it is due. They have trouble with God's authority structure. Such people cause no end of trouble in a church.

Michael the archangel did not speak evil, even when he contended with the devil himself. When did this happen? It is not referred to in the Old Testament account. However, this is not a problem. If God chose to wait until the New Testament to reveal it to us, that is His choice.

At the death of Moses, Satan tried to steal away his body? Why? Probably to turn him into an idol for the Israelite people. **(Jude 1:9) "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."** This is also referenced by Peter: **(2 Pet 2:10-11) "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. {11} Whereas angels, which are**

**greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."**

Surely, then, we should not commit evil when dealing with those to whom God has commanded us to honor. No matter who they are, they are not as bad as the devil!

*Don't get the devil in you trying to get him out of someone else.* There are right ways to do right things. Sometimes we do the right thing in the wrong way. ***Think about it: if Michael had sinned in his contention with the devil, Michael would have become a devil himself!***

### III. THEY LIVE LIKE BEASTS.

- **(Jude 1:10) "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves."**

They speak evil of things of which they are totally ignorant. The natural, unregenerated man cannot understand the things of God. (1 Cor 2:13-14). The natural man judges the Bible by what he sees; the spiritual man judges what he sees by the Bible.

It was unreasonable to hate Jesus Christ and demand that He be crucified; but the religious leaders, the apostates of His time, demanded that it be done. Maybe this is why Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 describe those leaders as dogs and bulls – "brute beasts?"

These apostates and their followers end up living like **"brute beasts,"** incapable of reasoning like human beings. Paul warned us of **"unreasonable and wicked men" (2 Th 3:1-2).**

These are the filthy dreamers, the false prophets and false teachers that we must contend with. May God give us wisdom and discernment to recognize filthy dreamers when they come!

## Chapter Thirteen

### THREE BRANDS OF APOSTASY

**(Jude 1:11) "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."**



In verses 5-7, Jude gave three examples of God's judgment upon apostates. He destroyed the Israelites in the wilderness, He cast the sinning angels out of heaven, and He burned Sodom and Gomorrah off the face of the earth.

In verse 11, Jude gives us three different brands of apostasy: the way of Cain, the error of Balaam, and the gainsaying of Korah. These three men were apostates. They turned their backs on God and His Word, and followed the devil instead. They are given to us as real-life examples of the danger of turning away from God.

God pronounces a curse on them – *"Woe unto them!"* Those who depart from the faith for the world are under God's judgment. *"Woe unto them!"* It is a serious thing to reject the Word of God and the will of God.

We as Bible-believers are to earnestly contend against all three brands of apostasy. They are still around today.

#### **I. THE WAY OF CAIN – SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Cain was the first man born into this world. He was born a sinner, and pictures the natural man, the fallen man. We are born as Cain was, sinful. We are sinners by birth and by choice.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Cain was the child of saved parents, and had a religious upbringing. He and his brother Abel were taught about the LORD and how to worship Him. However, when it came time to bring their divinely ordained offerings, Cain decided to do things his own way. He brought a basket of fruit instead of a lamb.

- **(Gen 4:3-5) "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. {4} And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: {5} But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell."**

Cain was the first freethinker. He was a rebel who didn't care about God's way of doing things. God had established the blood sacrifice that pictured grace salvation and the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God, on Calvary. But Cain rejected God's appointed sacrifice and brought a sacrifice of the work of his hands – his crops. Cain was the first to practice *works salvation*.

You have to be saved God's way, not your own way. Cain had a sacrifice, but it wasn't God's sacrifice. God has appointed salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus. There is no other way of salvation.

Cain's offering was a basket of vegetables that he had toiled and grown with his hands. These vegetables pictured his self-righteousness. When God rejected his offering, He was showing that the way of salvation is through the shed blood of a lamb, not through self-righteousness or works. Cain was not willing to accept that he was not good enough to be accepted of God on his own merits.

The way of Cain is a works salvation – whether it be through good works, religion, baptism, mass, communion – the way of Cain is always self-righteousness instead of God's righteousness! Cain had a "do" religion. Abel had a "done" religion.



Self-righteous people usually have a problem with “the blood.” They want a bloodless sacrifice. They call us “Bloody Baptists” because we believe that redemption is through the blood of Christ:

- **(Lev 17:11) "For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul."**
- **(Eph 1:7) "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"**

Cain's self-righteousness caused him to be filled with pride, which kept him from coming to repentance. When God rejected his works-based offering, Cain's countenance fell. His false front fell down. He showed his true inner self. He was the first hypocrite – putting on a show, but with no real change of heart. When God Himself corrected Cain, he still refused to change his ways or give up his perceived rightness. He was right and God was wrong! People still reflect this attitude when they reject what the Bible says in favor of their own opinions.

Many are preaching a salvation today that requires no repentance – no change of heart or life. Before anyone can be saved they must come to the personal realization that they are lost and hell-bound sinners and in need of a Savior.

Cain was like many religious people today – they go through the religious motions, but they have no repentance and no humility before God. Cain was religious, but he was not saved. He was still a child of the devil.

- **(1 John 3:11-12) "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. {12} Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."**

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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His religious self-righteousness caused him to hate his brother, and then murder him. The Cain religions are going to be persecuting religions. They are going to be violent religions.

Baptist churches do NOT burn people at stakes or execute dissenters. Throughout our two thousand year history, we have been persecuted by the millions, and our blood has run like rivers, but we have **never** persecuted others. The Catholic Church, Protestant Churches, Orthodox Churches, the Jews, and the Muslims cannot make such a claim. The Jews were the first persecutors of Christians (see the Book of Acts). The Catholic Church murdered millions of people who believed differently. Many of the Protestant denominations of Europe and early American history persecuted dissenters. Islam has murdered countless millions who did not believe in the way of Mohammed. Self-righteous religions are going to be persecuting religions. Many would today if they had the power.

Self-righteousness leads to pride, which God hates. Salvation by grace through faith leads to humility and contrition of heart. It takes away our boasting and causes us to give God ALL the glory. **(Eph 2:8-9) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast."**

Cain's crowd is the boastful crowd. Abel's crowd is the one giving all the glory to God for His amazing grace and the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

## II. THE ERROR OF BALAAM – SELF-INTEREST.

Balaam is a mysterious man in the Bible. He looked like a prophet of God. He was, however, a false prophet who **"loved the wages of unrighteousness:" (2 Pet 2:15-16) "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; {16}**

**But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet."**

Balaam was a fraud, a false prophet looking only for his own self-interest. Numbers 24:1 tells us that he used enchantments or devilish magic. Numbers 31:16 tells us that the counsel of Balaam led Israel into their great sin at Peor, in which they were seduced by the Midianite women into fornication and idolatry. Joshua 13:22 tells us that Balaam was a soothsayer. Numbers 31:8 tells us that Moses and Joshua had Balaam executed when they conquered the kings of Midian. In Revelation 2:14, Jesus said that Balaam had been a stumblingblock to Israel, and that his doctrine was present in the Pergamos church.

Balaam's story is told in Numbers 22, 23, & 24. A synopsis is given in Deuteronomy 23:4-5 - **"Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee. {5} Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee."**

When Israel came into Midian, Balak tried to hire Balaam to curse Israel. Balaam turned him down at first when the Lord said no; but when Balak upped the price, Balaam sold-out and tried to curse God's people. The Bible says that God turned his curse into a blessing. Balaam tried to curse, but a blessing came out of his mouth instead. He was a hireling preacher, ready to sell out to the highest bidder, despite his pious claims otherwise. God had to use a talking donkey to finally stop this lying, filthy dreamer.

What is the error of Balaam? He *"ran greedily...for reward"* Balaam sold out for money. There are a lot of preachers out there today who have sold out God because they loved the wages of unrighteousness. I am talking about the TV charismatic superstars.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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And I am talking about men who used to be Bible preachers, and then sold-out for money or the potential of making more money.

Such preachers of the school of Balaam are not seeking the kingdom of God. They are pursuing their own self-interest. **(Phil 2:21) "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."** They have turned God's *calling* into a *career*.

Isaiah called the false, money-hungry preachers of his day **"greedy dogs."** (Isa 56:11) **"Yea, *they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.*"**

They are shepherds looking for their own gain - fleecing the flock instead of feeding the flock. In pursuing their own self-interest, they have put the church up for sale on the street corners of the world. They are prostituting their ministries for money.

There are certain "big name" preachers who won't preach in small churches or come for anything less than a set honorarium. They can stay away from me. I don't need to hear those big shots. Jesus comes here for free every time we gather together. I guess that some preachers are better than Jesus.

Now, before we move off this point, we should stop and consider the fact that it isn't just preachers running greedily after the error of Balaam. A lot of Christians have sold out their Christianity for a pay raise or a promotion or a job salary. Too many are working on Sunday that don't have to. They just want the overtime. A lot of Christians have grown cold to the things of God and refused to walk by faith because they were coveting the things of this world.

### III. THE GAINSAYING OF KORAH – SELF-WILL.

- **(Jude 1:11) "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."**

The word "gainsaying" means "contradictory or opposing." Korah made the tragic mistake of opposing God's chosen leader, Moses. The story of Korah is told in Numbers 16.

- **(Num 16:1-3) "Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took *men*: {2} And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: {3} And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, *Ye take* too much upon you, seeing all the congregation *are* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?"**

Korah was the leader of rebellion in the camp against Moses. Moses was God's man – God's appointed leader. Korah was a Levite, but not a priest – that was Aaron's job. Korah raised a rebellion among all the leaders and all the people against Moses.

Korah was the ultimate rebel – proud, arrogant, rebellious to authority, discontented, ambitious, and selfish. Korah used his influence for evil instead of good. He, his family and his followers were swallowed alive in the pit, which some believe means that they went down alive into hell. He was self-willed. He was going to do things his way.

Unfortunately, the gainsaying of Korah is often seen in our Baptist churches. The old rebellious spirit of Korah rises up in our homes when wives and children oppose the headship of the husband and father in his home. The selfwilled spirit of Korah rises up in our churches when one or two people decide that the pastor

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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takes too much upon himself. They are the ones mumbling and grumbling and calling the pastor a “dictator.”

What Korah and his accomplices forgot was that God had chosen Moses and appointed him alone as the leader of that **“church in the wilderness” (Acts 7:38)**. When they fought against Moses, they were fighting against God – and God dealt with them.

We need to watch out for self-willed people in the church. Self-will leads to apostasy, because we cannot do God’s will when we are filled with our own will. We need to learn to die to self so that we can do God’s will for our lives.

We are to contend for the faith. We need to understand that not all religious groups are of God – most are of the devil. We must not yoke up with those crowds. We must not become like those crowds.

We must avoid:

1. *The way of Cain* – works salvation and a bloodless gospel.
2. *The error of Balaam* – selling out for money, advancement or materialism.
3. *The gainsaying of Korah* – rebellion against God’s authority and the authority figures God has placed in our lives.

## Chapter Fourteen

### TROUBLE SPOTS IN THE CHURCH

**(Jude 1:12) "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they* are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;"**



Jude used a number of comparisons to describe the character and work of apostate teachers, preachers, and church members. He compared them to the mixed multitude in the wilderness, to devils, to Sodom and Gomorrah, Cain, Balaam, and Korah.

In Jude 12-13, God describes apostate teachers and influences with five natural illustrations of their character: spots, clouds without water, fruitless trees, raging waves of the sea, and wandering stars.

In this chapter, we are going to focus in on verse 12 concerning Jude's statement, **"These are spots in your feasts of charity."** Please understand that he is not speaking of far off or distant teachers, who are spreading heresy down at the Kingdom Hall or the Mormon Temple. He is speaking of men inside the church, the same ones that he mentioned in verse 4 that crept in unawares. They are in "your" feasts.

Verse 11 mentions **"feasts of charity."** A lot of scholars have debated about what these feasts were. They are not the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is nowhere referred to as a feast, which implies an extensive meal and a celebratory atmosphere. The Lord's Supper is a solemn occasion, a memorial to the death of Christ on the cross.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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These **“feasts of charity”** were simply church fellowship meals, when the members would get together and eat a meal together and enjoy fellowship with each other. It was an extra activity, apart from the normal work and service of the church. Jude stated that these apostate individuals would come out to the feasts of charity, but they were spots in the feast, troublemakers, blemishes on the church.

These people were trouble spots in the church. These apostates wanted to use the church, they wanted to be involved in the church, but they didn’t want to be under the ministry of the pastor. They are in the church, but they are not *with* the church in its purpose. They want to be involved in a church, but only to pursue personal agendas. They are using the church, but they are not interested in the ministry of the pastor that God has given to the church. They are like Korah in verse 11. They think the pastor takes too much on him. “Who does he think he is? I don’t need him.”

This is what is meant in verse 12 when it says that they are **“feeding themselves without fear.”** They lack an appreciation or respect for the position of the pastor as the undershepherd of the flock, whose primary job is to **“feed the flock.”** They don’t want to eat what he is serving. They feed themselves and ignore his preaching and teaching ministry.

I believe that this problem can be much more common in larger churches that have many ministries. In a large church, there are many, many members who do *not* go because they love the Bible or because they want to hear the message that God has given the pastor. They go because the kids enjoy the children’s churches, or for Boy Scouts, or for a homeschool fellowship, or a softball league, or because it has a Christian School. Many of these people are stubborn, carnal, worldly, contentious, and doctrinally unsound, perhaps even unsaved, and they become trouble spots – points of contention and irritation, especially to the ministry of the pastor. Smaller churches with less ministry frills tend to have less of



this crowd – but, on the other hand, one or two trouble spots in a small church can also cause a great deal of contention.

## **I. CONSIDER THE DESCRIPTION THAT GOD GIVES – “SPOTS.”**

A spot refers primarily to a stain or blemish. The word “spot” is used in this way four different ways in the King James Bible, all of which fit the profile of the apostate teacher or trouble spot in the church:

### **1. Spots Refer to Fleshly Defilement.**

- **(Jude 1:23) "And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."**

These false teachers have already been described as ungodly, lascivious and walking after their own lusts. They are spots of fleshly defilement. They are living in the flesh, and looking to use the church as a means of indulging their flesh. Sometimes they are perverts looking for prey. Sometimes they are men or teenage boys looking for girls to seduce.

The Corinthian church was rebuked by Paul for their fornication (1 Cor. 5:1). In the seven letters to the seven churches of Revelation, two of the churches were rebuked by the Lord because of the fornication going on inside the church: Pergamos and Thyatira. These churches had spots of fleshly defilement.

### **2. Spots Refer to Worldly Behavior.**

- **(James 1:27) "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world."**

When we meddle with the things of this world, we become spotted and stained, because the world is filthy and dirty. **(1 John 5:19) "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."**

Many a good church has become spotted because worldly people came in and brought the world into the church with them. Sometimes, this worldliness is in the pastor or youth pastor. Without strong preaching and standards, a church can quickly become very worldly.

### 3. Spots Refer to Cancerous or Leprous Growth.

Leviticus refers to these kinds of spots thirteen times. Some people are spots of cancer in the church:

- **(2 Tim 2:16-18) "But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. {17} And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; {18} Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."**

Some churches are suffering from cancerous members that have brought in false doctrines, divisions, strife, contention, and trouble. Cancerous tumors need to be removed from the body for the body's sake. They have to be cut out. Sometimes God does that to protect the life of the church.

### 4. Spots Refer to a Different Family Brand or Mark.

- **(Deu 32:5) "They have corrupted themselves, their spot *is not the spot* of his children: *they are* a perverse and crooked generation."**

God's children have a different mark. **(1 John 4:5-6) "They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world,**

**and the world heareth them. {6} We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."**

These trouble spots bring a worldly, devilish mark into the church. They are of the world. They talk like the world, think like the world, and act like the world because of what they are.

Peter had something to say about these trouble spots: **(2 Pet 2:13-15) "And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; {14} Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: {15} Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son* of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;"**

They have **"eyes full of adultery."** They cannot even go to church without "checking out" all the ladies there – no matter how modestly they are dressed. They are spots of fleshly defilement **"that cannot cease from sin,"** and apparently don't want to. Their work is **"beguiling unstable souls."** They deceive those who are not grounded in the faith. Their hearts are set on **"covetous practices."** They have **"forsaken the right way and are gone astray."**

Only God and faithful pastors know the damage caused by trouble spots in the church!

## **II. CONSIDER THE ATTITUDE OF THESE SPOTS TOWARDS THE PASTOR AND HIS GOD-GIVEN MINISTRY.**

They are **"feeding themselves without fear."** Jude uses the observation of their behavior at the feasts of charity to teach a

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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deeper spiritual truth. It connects back to Korah, who rejected the divinely appointed position of Moses as leader. **(Num 16:3) "And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?"**

If you will do a word study on **"feeding themselves,"** you will find that it comes from a definite Greek word referring to a pastor feeding his sheep. These people have the attitude that says, *"I don't need the pastor to feed me. I can feed myself."* And they ignore the preaching of the pastor and his teaching and his guidance in the church.

Consider the feeding ministry of the pastor:

- **(Jer 3:15) "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."**
- **(Acts 20:28) "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."**
- **(1 Pet 5:1-2) "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: {2} Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;"**

The pastor's ministry is to feed the flock from the Word of God. Peter said, **(Acts 6:4) "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."** It is a sorry pastor who does not take the time to study and pray so that he can feed the flock of God with knowledge and wisdom from God's Word. Many

churches have gone away from Bible teaching and preaching. Shame on the pastor who is slack in his study of the Word of God, and that is negligent in his preaching and teaching ministry! Shame on the pastor who has to get his sermons off the Internet because he is not a diligent student of the Bible!

On the other hand, it is a sorry church member that does not take advantage of the pastor's ministry when he *does* study and prepare and work hard to feed the flock from God's Word. Many do not. They are trouble spots. They want the feasts of charity and the peripheral blessings that the church provides, but they are not in tune with the pastor or God's Word. They arrogantly shrug off the ministry of God's man. "We can feed ourselves. We don't need that man telling us what to do."

Strong preaching drives those folks nuts and then it drives them out the door. Let them go.

### **III. CONSIDER THE SAD LACK OF REVERENTIAL FEAR CONCERNING THE THINGS OF GOD.**

- **(Jude 1:12) "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear..."**

They have no respect or reverence for the Word of God, the man of God, or the work of God. They just come to get, and have no reverence towards God's house or the way things ought to be done.

Ananias and Sapphira were apparently this way. They lied about their commitment, and then lied in the face of Peter. They lied to the Holy Ghost, and God killed them in church.

- **(Acts 5:11) "And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things."**

- **(Acts 5:13) "And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them."**

False professors were afraid to join the church. That wasn't the kind of church where they could do as they pleased. I want our church to be that kind of a church. Not necessarily with people dying, but such that apostates and predators are afraid to join because they know they won't be able to promote their agenda here.

If teenage boys are looking for girls to corrupt, I want them to say, "Lighthouse Baptist Church won't let us do our thing. They have too many rules. We can't get to their girls." If perverts are looking for prey, we want them to say, "No, Lighthouse Baptist Church has too many rules and too many watching eyes, and background checks for its workers. I won't be able to get away with anything there."

Our preaching, our standards, our music, our guidelines, our security and principles keep many trouble spots out of our church, where they belong.

## Chapter Fifteen

### **CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER**

**(Jude 1:12) "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;"**



In this chapter, we are going to focus on the second description of the apostate teacher. He is like a cloud without water, carried about by the winds. This is a very descriptive term for false prophets, heretical teachers, and apostate influences in the church.

#### **I. CLOUDS OFTEN SPEAK OF GOD'S PRESENCE.**

In the Bible, clouds often accompanied the presence of God:

1. The Lord appeared to Israel in a pillar of cloud (Exo 13:21).
2. When the Temple was finished, God filled it with a cloud of His glory (1 Ki 8:10-11).
3. On the Mount of Transfiguration, God spoke to Peter, James and John from a cloud (Mat 17:5).
4. Jesus ascended to heaven in a cloud (Acts 1:9).
5. The Lord is coming again with clouds (Rev 1:7).

Therefore, it is no great surprise that these transformed ministers would be as clouds. They are clouds, but they do not have God's presence among them. Unfortunately, some people only look for clouds. They do not look for the rain. They lack the discernment or Bible knowledge to recognize that these clouds are without life-giving rain. If it looks cloudy, they think that God is in

it. Therefore, they are easily deceived by a religious atmosphere or a soul-stirring experience.

The lack of rain tells us that these clouds are not filled with the presence of God. They are promising, but they never fulfil their promises. They just have the appearance of God's presence. To understand why, consider the next point.

### II. RAIN SPEAKS OF BIBLE DOCTRINE.

- **(Deu 32:2) "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:"**

The Word of God is like rain upon the grass. Bible doctrine is like dew upon the souls of men. A true Bible preacher is going to be like a cloud *with* rain. He is going to preach doctrine, and the doctrines of the word of God will be like rain and showers upon the fields. Consider some facts about rain as we examine its comparison to the Word of God.

#### 1. **Everybody needs rain.**

Rain is the primary source of fresh water for most of the world. Without rain, this world will shrivel up into a global desert. In the same way, everybody needs the Word of God. We need to know what the Bible says about everything. We need the doctrines of God's Word. It is life or death.

You may not like a rainy day, but we wouldn't live long without them. Children do not like rainy days. When I was a child, I hated rainy days because they kept me inside. But adults look for rain because we know that we need it. Even so, immature Christian often get bored with doctrinal truth. They cannot tolerate "long, boring sermons about doctrine." They want funny stories and entertainment. However, **mature**



**Christians** understand that we need the rain of the doctrines of God's Word.

## **2. Rain is absolutely necessary for growth.**

First, rain softens the ground. Bible preaching softens the heart. Rain causes nutrients to be released in the soil, which the plants then absorb through their roots. When a seed is planted, it requires two things to grow: the right temperature and water. After a plant begins to grow, it requires water to survive. It draws water and nutrients from the soil through its roots. Without water, the plant will wither away and die.

You are not going to grow spiritually without the water of God's Word. You need the "showers of blessings" that come from the faithful preaching and teaching of the Bible:

- **(Isa 55:10-11) "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: {11} So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it."**

We need God-sent preachers to preach and water us with the Word of God. This is a necessity for spiritual growth and development.

We must have water if we are going to grow and be fruitful and prosper for the Lord. Many a Christian and many a church has turned into a barren desert simply because they grew tired of Bible preaching.

## **3. Rain cleanses.**

Rain washes dust and dirt off of a plant's leaves so that the process of photosynthesis is not hindered. Without rain, dust and pollen build up, blocking sunlight. Bible doctrine and Bible

preaching is cleansing to the life of a believer. It helps us to get cleaned up so that our spiritual growth is not hindered. Bible preaching will call us to the altar of repentance and help us to live clean.

- **(Psa 119:9) "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word."**

#### **4. Rain refreshes.**

I love the smell of rain. I love how it cools the air and makes everything seem fresh and clean. Even so, the word of God will refresh the minds, hearts, and spirits of God's people.

- **(Psa 119:28) "My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word."**

The Word of God, when it is read or preached, will encourage, strengthen and refresh God's people. It will do more lasting good than any self-help book of the world.

#### **5. Preachers and teachers should take notice of the fact that not all rain reaches the surface.**

Some rain evaporates while falling through dry air before reaching the ground. This is called *virga*, a phenomenon often seen in hot, dry desert regions. This fact reminds me of some preaching I have heard. It was true enough, but the preacher was so high up in the stratosphere that the rain never reached the ground.

Preachers need to make God's Word plain so that it can be heard, understood, and applied. We don't need "high-falutin'" preachers spouting out dry, dusty theological terms from the ancient "church fathers." We need **plain preaching** from the Word of God, so that the people listening can understand it and apply it on a personal basis. It is no coincidence that high falutin' preachers often have dried out churches.

Preachers should also work to make their preaching interesting and easy to follow, or it will not make contact with the listeners. Dry, boring preaching seldom makes much of an impact. Preaching should be done on purpose, with strength, boldness, courage, and intelligence, and in such a way that the most people can benefit from it. Otherwise, the doctrine may never reach the pay dirt of people's hearts and minds.

All of this illustrates that I desperately need Bible doctrine and Bible preaching. Clouds are a promise of rain. When I see clouds, I should expect to get some rain. When I go to church, I should expect to hear the Word of God preached. I should be able to expect to hear doctrine from the Bible, and not psychology or self-help or a motivational business speech. I do not want to hear "fluff and puff." I want to hear, **"Thus saith the Lord!"**

Yet many, many, many churches have turned their backs on Bible doctrine and have turned to worldly messages that please the crowd. Their sermons are entertaining and make the listener feel good about himself – but they are not doctrinal. They are not Biblical. Therefore, they are "clouds without water."

The sad fact is that many Christians have no interest in Bible sermons. They want something short and inspirational. They don't want to study the Bible. They want a good motivational story or a tear-jerking tale. They want humor and a short sermon preceded by a lot of entertaining music. They want feelings, not necessarily facts. Paul told us that this time would come:

- **(2 Tim 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; {4} And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."**

### **III. THESE PREACHERS ARE LIKE CLOUDS WITHOUT RAIN.**

1. **They lack the rain that they promise. Because of this, their churches are marked by a very shallow “spirituality” and a lack of lasting fruitfulness.**

They are like a West Texas river – a mile wide and an inch deep.

Take, for example, a recent admission from Bill Hybels of the Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago. Hybels started his church based on what the community wanted instead of what Christ wanted. He took survey teams through the community, asking those people who admitted to being **unsaved**, why they didn't regularly attend a church.

According to Hybels, the survey revealed that people: "(1) didn't like being bugged for money; (2) found church boring, predictable, and routine; (3) didn't think that the church was relevant to their lives; and (4) always left church feeling guilty."

Hybels then designed a church program to reach these unsaved, church-skipping people according to what *they* wanted. The Bible is clear that the unsaved man cannot discern spiritual things, and yet Hybels built a church to meet the wants of unregenerate people that had already decided that they wanted nothing to do with the “old time religion.”

Unfortunately, our society is success-driven instead of principle-driven. Because the Willow Creek Church grew to thousands and thousands of members, many groups across America began adopting the Willow Creek methods.

Years later, Hybels' church did an internal study which revealed that they weren't seeing the spiritual results that they had hoped for. Hybels admitted:

“Some of the stuff that we have put millions of dollars into thinking it would really help our people grow and develop spiritually, when the data actually came back, **it wasn't helping**

**people that much.** Other things that we didn't put that much money into and didn't put much staff against is stuff our people are crying out for.

**"We made a mistake.** What we should have done when people crossed the line of faith and become Christians, we should have started telling people and teaching people that they have to take responsibility to become 'self feeders.' We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their bible between service, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own."<sup>34</sup>

*Oops.* Of course, what he realized is that people do not need entertainment to grow spiritually. They need to hear the gospel, get born again, and then get fed the milk and meat of the Word of God – not watered-down sermonettes for Christianettes. The problem is that the folks he has cannot stand real Bible preaching. If Hybels preached the truth and brought his church into alignment with the New Testament, his thousands of compromising Christianettes would hit the road running – to get away!

These are clouds without rain. They do not deliver on their promises. And there are many Baptist churches that are also lacking rain. They don't have the doctrinal preaching and teaching that helps Christians to grow in grace. Many church members have been in church for years and yet do not know the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. Our preachers have grown lazy in their study and worldly in their living. We, too, have our clouds without rain.

## **2. Like clouds, they are easily carried about by the winds.**

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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We need to be anchored to the Word of God so that we are not so easily driven about. Children are easily fooled. Mature Christians should have more discernment.

- (Eph 4:14) "**That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**"

### 3. Like clouds, they are subject to pressure.

Too many preachers are simply moving according to the pressure they receive in their environments. The pressure to succeed, to make money, to get people into church and keep them in church. The pressure to compromise, to back off, to please certain individuals in the church. Hirelings and false preachers give in to that pressure. They become men-pleasers instead of Christ-pleasers.

A preacher has to have a backbone like a 4x4 post these days, to withstand the pressure inside his church, among his brethren, in his home, and in his community.

### 4. Like clouds, they are light and lack substance.

A cloud is just a collection of water vapor. It has no real substance. Many preachers totally lack substance in their preaching and teaching. It is a "feel good experience," or entertainment. But there is no meat in their message.

We need men of God whose sermons have the rain of God's Word. The Bible is what we need, not men's ideas or worldly entertainment. May God help us to have the discernment to recognize "**clouds without rain.**"

## Chapter Sixteen

### CORRUPT TREES

**(Jude 1:12) "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;"**



In Jude 12-13, Jude uses five illustrations to describe these apostate teachers or influences in the local church:

1. **They are spots in your feast of charity.** They are trouble spots, cancers in the church.
2. **They are like clouds without water, carried about by the wind.** Rain pictures Bible doctrine. (*Deu 32:2*) "*My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew...*" Bible preaching is like showers of rain upon the grass. Bible preaching brings growth, cleansing, and spiritual refreshment.
3. **They are like trees whose fruit has withered,** and then are without fruit, and ready to be pulled up by the roots and burned.
4. **They are raging waves of the sea.**
5. **Finally, they are like wandering stars.**

In this chapter, we are going to focus in on the comparison of apostates to fruit trees with corrupted fruit.

#### I. FRUIT TREE FACTS.

**1. The Christian is compared to a fruit-bearing tree on a number of occasions in the Bible.**

Consider the following scriptures concerning trees and fruitfulness:

- (Prov 11:30) "The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise."
- (Psa 1:3) "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
- (John 15:16) "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

We are chosen and ordained to bear fruit. We are to be fruit-bearing Christians in the Lord's orchard.

**There are seven types of fruit that we are to be bearing as believers:**

- 1) **Soul-winning fruit.** The fruit of a Christian should be another Christian, another "tree" producing fruit in the Lord's orchard. We are to reproduce ourselves by winning souls and discipling them.
  - (John 15:8) "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."
  - Paul wanted fruit (converts) among the Romans. (Rom 1:13) "Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles."



- 2) **The Fruit of holiness.** The believer's life is to be marked by holiness and separation. **(Rom 6:22) "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."** This fruit is sorely lacking today.
- 3) **The Fruit of the Spirit.** This fruit is produced by the Holy Spirit in the cultivated, yielded life of the believer. It makes the believer Christ-like. **(Gal 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."**
- 4) **The Fruits of goodness, righteousness and truth.** The Christian life ought to be marked by these three virtues.
  - **(Eph 5:9) "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)"**
  - **(Phil 1:11) "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."**
- 5) **The Fruit of missionary investment.** Paul thanked the Philippians for their missionary love offering, and told them that fruit from their investment in his ministry would abound to their account. Even so, the generous and giving Christian life will abound with fruitfulness. **(Phil 4:16-17) "For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. {17} Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."**
- 6) **The Fruit of good works.** What do you do for the Lord? What ministry are you involved in the local church? We are to be fruitful in good works. **(Col 1:10) "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being**

**fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"**

- 7) **The Fruit of thanksgiving and praise.** This is the fruit of our lips. **(Heb 13:15) "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."**

Jude was describing trees without these types of fruit, or, if they had any, it was withering away. Many churches are sorely lacking in many, if not all, of the seven types of fruit listed above.

## **2. Trees are known by their fruit.**

If a tree has apples on it, it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that it is an apple tree. A tree is known by its fruit. This is why Jesus said, **(Mat 12:33) "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit."** You expect a peach tree to produce peaches, and an apple tree to produce apples.

Carnal, apostate leaders are going to produce corrupt fruit. Jesus warned us and told us to look for the fruit of their lives and ministries. Check out their families. Check out their churches.

- **(Mat 7:15-20) "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. {16} Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? {17} Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. {19} Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {20} Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."**

3. **Fruit trees are expected to produce fruit. If they do not, they are cut down and burned.**

- **(Luke 13:6-9) "He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. {7} Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? {8} And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: {9} And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down."**

The homeowner planted a fig tree for one reason – so that it could grow figs for his enjoyment. However, for three years the fig tree did not produce any figs. The homeowner was ready to have it cut down and replaced. If the fruit tree does not produce fruit, it is wasting space and will be cut down and burned.

**4. Orchards require constant care and supervision if they are going to remain productive.**

Even the orchards of the Garden of Eden required care. **(Gen 2:15) "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."**

My grandfather grew peaches after he retired from the Navy. He had about 400 trees. It was a lot of work taking care of that orchard. In the harvest months, the trees had to be carefully picked. In the non-harvest months, they had to be pruned, irrigated, weeded, and sprayed with insecticide. Fruit trees need care and supervision. If they aren't cared for, the branches get too heavy and break off, or the weeds grow up and keep them from getting the water they need. Or, the insects harm the tree or eat the fruit.

Churches need constant care and supervision as well. God the Father is the Husbandman. He works on us, prunes us when necessary, and plows us up sometimes, so that we can bring forth more fruit. I haven't always enjoyed the pruning

process, but I know that God is in control. We just need to stay yielded and in His will.

Pastors are also responsible for taking care of the church orchard. The preaching of God's Word and a well-planned church ministry of teaching and service helps to keep the church spiritually strong. The preacher must be ever diligent in his work of plowing, pruning and irrigating if he hopes to see a harvest for the Master.

## II. FRUIT TREE FAILURES.

Jude described these apostate teachers and influences as **"trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit."** Apostates make a religious show. They have the leaves, but not the fruit. They do not have soulwinning fruit. They lack the fruit of the Spirit, and instead reveal the fruit of the flesh. They lack the fruit of good works, of righteousness or truth, of missionary investment, and of true thanksgiving and praise.

I am more concerned about Lighthouse Baptist Church as an orchard than I am the churches that have gone away from the Lord and are already without fruit. We can become like these trees, if we are not very careful.

**Here are the four downward steps of a failing church:**

### 1. The fruit begins to wither.

"Wither" means "to fade; to lose its native freshness; to become sapless; to dry." Good churches do not go from fruitful to fruitless overnight, or even in one year. They wither away. They fade out. They slowly lose their freshness. They slowly dry out. The fruit gradually lessens until it is withered and worthless.

This is seen in the seven churches of Revelation 2-3. These churches had some fruit, but what they had was withering

away. The Ephesus church had been a great church. It had been started by Paul and had reached thousands of people for Christ throughout Asia Minor. It was also pastored by Timothy and even the apostle John. The church was about 40 years old now, and Jesus said they still had some good qualities. But the fruit was starting to wither because they had left their first love and abandoned the first works.

Withered fruit is a sign of a problem in the roots:

- **(Isa 37:31) "And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward:"**
- **(Hosea 9:16) "Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay *even* the beloved *fruit* of their womb."**

When the roots are strong downward, trees bear good fruit upward. When the roots dry up, the fruit withers and ceases. We need to make sure that we are rooted securely in Christ and in the water of His Word. It is not the showy leaves that determine the strength of a tree. It is the roots buried out of sight that determine our strength and fruitfulness.

Withered fruit is a sure sign of drought. **(Joel 1:12) "The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, *even* all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men."** We need to make sure that we stay irrigated by the rivers of waters (Ps. 1:1-3)!

We need to make sure that we abide in Christ and abide in His Word. If we don't, our joy will wither away, and with it will go our fruitfulness for the Lord. We will gradually fade out. We will stop winning souls. We will stop reaching children. We will lose the fruit we have gained. We will stop producing the fruit

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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of righteousness and truth and become just another compromising, withered church.

### 2. Secondly, these trees are without fruit altogether.

How sad. No spiritual fruit. No soulwinning. No converts. No fruit of the Spirit. No thanksgiving. No life. No young people surrendering to the ministry. No drunks getting sober. No marriages healing and being saved. No bus kids riding to church. No baptisms. Dead, dead, dead! May God help us to never reach the point where we are without fruit for the Lord!

Here is a question each of us should answer to ourselves: "If everyone in my church was just like me, what kind of church would my church be?" Are you fruitful for the Lord?

### 3. Thirdly, these trees are considered "twice dead."

Apostates are twice dead, despite their professions. They are dead in their sins and dead to God. They are physically dying and destined for an eternity in hell and the lake of fire. I believe that twice dead refers to someone who has become **reprobate**.

If someone has been born again, he is said to have been "twice born." He was dead in sin, but he has been quickened in Christ and made spiritually alive forevermore.

Apostates are twice dead. They have reached a point of rejecting the gospel and teaching heresy in which they become reprobate, and will never be saved. They are as good as in hell. **(2 Tim 3:8-9) "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. {9} But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was."**

If Lighthouse Baptist Church withers and loses its fruitfulness, it will either shut down or fill up with hell-bound

apostates. Some of our children and grandchildren may grow up into reprobates, because we have lost our fruitfulness.

**4. Fourth and finally, they are cut down plucked up by their own roots.**

They are rooted out by God and burned. **(Mat 3:10) "And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."**

This is the final destiny for all apostates. Those who reject the Word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ will eventually be cut down and cast into the fire of hell.

Churches can also be cut down. This was the Lord's warning to the church of Ephesus (Rev 2:5). He told them that if they did not repent, He could remove their candlestick. This would be equivalent to rooting it out. This church was very close to being removed from the Lord's orchard.

Dear reader, consider your own life and ministry. Are you bearing good fruit for the Lord? Is your church covered in good fruit, or withered fruit? Or is your church lacking **"fruit that remains"** altogether? Withered fruit or a lack of true spiritual fruit is a telltale sign of a wayward or apostate church.

**"Ye have not chosen me, but I  
have chosen you, and  
ordained you, that ye should  
go and bring forth fruit, and  
*that* your fruit should remain:  
that whatsoever ye shall ask  
of the Father in my name, he  
may give it you."  
John 15:16**



## Chapter Seventeen

### **RAGING WAVES OF THE SEA**

**(Jude 1:13) "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."**



Raging waves of the sea speak of danger and destruction. Christians need to understand that there have been perilous times in the past, and we are coming into perilous times once again. Our church history is lit by the fires of millions of martyrdoms. For a little over two hundred years in America, we have enjoyed freedom from the raging waves of religious persecution. Not so in other parts of the world, especially in those areas dominated by Communism and Islam. But we have enjoyed a respite from the raging waves of violent persecution. However, Paul warned us that perilous times would come in the last days:

- **(2 Tim 3:1) "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."**

I believe that this verse means that perilous times will come for *all* Christians *everywhere*. Things are going to be hard for all of God's redeemed. The world is changing, and it is changing for the worse. I believe that the storm swells are starting to rise.

#### **I. THE SEA IS A PICTURE OF THE WORLD.**

1. The world is tossed and dominated by sin.

- (Isa 57:20-21) "But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. {21} *There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.*"

The world is dominated by its constant drive to try to satisfy the three-fold lust of man's fallen nature: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the lust of pride. Because of this fleshly drive, the world is full of the manifold works of the flesh, as described in Galatians 5:

- (Gal 5:19-21) "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, {20} Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, {21} Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

These are the things motivating much of the world today. Like the troubled sea, the nations of the world rage and toss about, stirring all sorts of dirt and filth.

### 2. The world is inhabited and controlled by the devil.

- (Isa 27:1) "In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that *is* in the sea."

Satan is the "dragon that is in the sea" of lost humanity. His crooked form slithers through the masses of mankind, stirring them in their depraved way.

- (Rev 12:9) "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Satan is the pied piper leading the deceived nations of the world against God and His Word. He is the dragon stirring up the sea of humanity against God and His people. Listen to the words of the Psalmist:

- **(Psa 104:25-26) "So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. {26} There go the ships: *there is* that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein."**

As our "church ships" sail the sea of this world, Satan will be swimming along around us, trying to destroy us. He will be watching for his opportunity to strike! He is never far away from the ships!

3. Thirdly, the world is dominated by false religions.

- **(Rev 17:15) "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."**

Revelation 17 describes the final worldwide religious system, the Great Whore of Babylon. She embodies every false religion or heretical concept since the Tower of Babel. She embodies the ancient Babylonian paganism that is found all over the world. Where is such religion found? Everywhere. The sea of humanity, the multitudes, nations, and tongues, are dominated by these false religious systems that are anti-Christ and anti-Bible.

When Jesus sent His churches into all the world, He was not sending them on a picnic. He told them, **(Mat 10:16) "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."** Can you imagine a more dangerous place for sheep to be than in the midst of wolves?

He sent us forth as ships into a sea of humanity that is dominated by sin, dominated by Satan, and dominated by false

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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religions. Our job is to cast out the gospel nets and catch as many fish as we can.

- **(Mat 4:19) "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

When Jesus said that, He wasn't referring to fishing on the riverbank. He was talking to commercial fishermen that were washing their nets. Fishing is our business, not a mere hobby for the church to indulge once or twice a year. We are to be casting out our nets into the sea as we sail towards the heavenly harbor, fishing for men.

As we do so, we are going to have to deal with the old serpent of the seas, who wants to capsize us and destroy us. We have to deal with a humanity that is largely against the gospel ministry, including spiritual wickedness in high places in the nations of the world. We have to deal with religious systems that are in rebellion against God and His Word. There are going to be some raging waves that we have to sail through if we are going to do the will of God! Let us do so with courage, conviction, and determination!

## II. RAGING SEAS HAVE INCREDIBLE DESTRUCTIVE POWER.

In World War II, my grandfather served aboard the *USS Franks (DD-554)*, a destroyer, in the south Pacific. Though he served aboard many ships in his twenty-eight year Naval career, working his way up from the bottom to Lieutenant Commander, the *Franks* always held a special place in his heart. The crew of the *Franks* earned 9 battle stars for engagements with the enemy, and participated in such famous campaigns as Gilbert Islands, the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Guam, Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.<sup>35</sup>

On December 18, 1944, the *Franks'* battle group (Task Force 38) was struck by a typhoon, which proved to be one of the most powerful cyclonic storms in the recorded history of the Pacific

Ocean. The storm was named *Typhoon Cobra*. At its peak, the winds whistled at 115 knots while the waves crested at 100 feet high. The troughs between the waves were like canyons. Many of the ships floundered. More than one hundred aircraft were lost from the carriers. Future President Gerald Ford was a lieutenant onboard the *Monterrey*, a carrier. He spent the night fighting fires caused by the storm, and saved his ship from destruction.

Three destroyers were sunk in that storm: the *Spence (DD512)*, the *Monahan (DD 354)* and the *Hull (DD 350)*. 790 sailors lost their lives. 93 were rescued. In the words of Admiral Chester Nimitz, the typhoon's impact "represented a more crippling blow to the 3rd Fleet than it might be expected to suffer in anything less than a major action."

The commander of the *Hull* described the experience: "The ship remained over on her side at an angle of 80 degrees or more as the water flooded into her upper structures. I remained on the port wing of the bridge until the water flooded up to me, then I stepped off into the water as the ship rolled over on her way down".

My grandfather's ship, the *Franks*, suffered a 70-degree roll. At 72 degrees, she would most likely have capsized and gone under. What sea battles with Japanese battleships and bombers could not do, the raging waves of the sea almost did.<sup>36</sup>

Raging seas have incredible destructive power. Consider what the Psalmist wrote:

- **(Psa 107:23-27) "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; {24} These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. {25} For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. {26} They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. {27} They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end."**

We saw the power of hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico over the last several years. You saw pictures of the awesome destruction caused by the raging waves of the sea. There is incredible power in the raging waves of a fierce storm!

Churches of history have suffered terrible damage from the raging waves of the sea. Baptist populations have been wiped out in various nations of the earth. Islam, Catholicism, and Communism have decimated Christianity in many parts of the earth. Raging waves within the church have also sunk many a church and many a pastor's ministry!

### III. THE RAGING SEAS PICTURE SATAN'S PERSECUTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

- **(Psa 2:1-3) "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? {2} The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, {3} Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."**

The heathen rage against God's authority. They rage against His Word and His people. They want to cast Him off. They don't like anyone around reminding them of their responsibility or accountability to the God of heaven! This is why they do not like Bible-believers or Bible preachers. This is why they do not want Bible-believing churches in their neighborhoods, cities, or even countries. This is why atheistic and pagan organizations in America want to silence our churches in the public arena of ideas. They cannot even stand the sight of a Christmas tree, simply because they hate God.

The world has tried to destroy the church and will continue to try. It is stirred up by Satan. Most of this persecution comes from

false religions. In his booklet on Baptist history, *The Trail of Blood*, J.M. Carroll wrote, "There is no hatred like religious hatred."

**The first murder was religiously motivated.** Cain murdered Abel because his own offering had been rejected by the Lord, while Abel's had been accepted. Instead of changing his ways to be right with God, he turned in hatred against his brother and murdered him in a rage. Abel became the first murder victim and the first martyr.

Stephen was murdered by a mob of Jewish religious leaders simply because he told them the truth. **(Acts 7:54) "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth."** They hated him so much that they actually gnashed on him with their teeth! Then, when Stephen said that he saw the Lord, they stopped up their ears, ran him out of town, and stoned him to death:

- **(Acts 7:55-59) "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, {56} And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. {57} Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, {58} And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. {59} And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."**

The apostles were beaten simply for preaching in the name of Jesus. **(Acts 5:40-42) "And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. {41} And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. {42}**

**And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."**

Countless Christians were martyred by the pagan Roman Empire simply for following the Lamb. All of the apostles died martyrs' death. Even John most likely died from being boiled in oil and then banished to Patmos. Andrew was crucified. Tradition tells us that he told his tormentors. ***"I would not preach the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross."***

In Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, we read: "Death was not considered enough punishment for the Christians, who were subjected to the cruelest treatment possible. They were whipped, disemboweled, torn apart, and stoned. Plates of hot iron were laid on them; they were strangled, eaten by wild animals, hung, and tossed on the horns of bulls. After they were dead, their bodies were piled in heaps and left to rot without burial."

It is impossible to persecute others on New Testament principles. Self-righteousness is founded in pride, and it leads to rage and destruction. Raging waves of religious persecution have often been hurled against the Lord's churches, with devastating results. In many places around the world, the sea is still raging. And it may be raging here in America before long. Then, we'll find out who the real Christians are.

#### **IV. RAGING WAVES ARE ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS WHEN THEY COME INTO THE SHIP.**

Jude was warning about apostates that creep in unawares, and cause harm to the church from the inside. The same self-righteous pride that motivates the unsaved can motivate unsaved or carnal church members within the church. In their self-righteous pride, they will tear an entire church apart and tear down the pastor and his family, and then sweep back out, leaving destruction behind.



They will destroy a whole church in their cold rage and anger just to prove that they are right.

Dr. Keith Gomez says that these raging waves within the church follow four steps:<sup>37</sup>

1. They infiltrate. They come into the church.
2. They instigate. They start trouble. They get offended. They gossip. They spread rumors. They raise doubts. They enlist supporters. They raise rebellion.
3. They destroy. Relationships are destroyed. Ministries are hurt. Pastors and their families are hurt. People leave the church. Harm is caused. Children are influenced.
4. They leave. Like waves retreating back into the ocean, they leave a path of destruction, and a pastor trying to put things back together again. And in their own minds, they really do believe that they were right. In fact, they were serving the devil.

The ungodly behaviour that often occurs in churches is a crying shame. I know of several pastors whose homes were burned down by disgruntled church members. One pastor was literally driven out of his mind and had to be put away for a time. He was later restored and had a good and productive ministry. Many pastor's children are out of church because of what they saw their parents go through at the hands of these **"raging waves of the sea."**

I know of many, many other churches that suffered devastating splits because of raging waves within the church. In each case, the people behaved like raging heathens, and not like Bible-believing, Spirit-filled Christians. But, in each case, they all thought that they were right.

They are also raging waves of the sea, **"foaming out their own shame."** If you've ever been to the beach after high tide or a storm, you have seen the trash and foam stirred up by the waves. These apostates and troublemakers leave trash and foam behind too.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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They ought to be ashamed of their wicked behaviour, but they aren't. They should be ***ashamed*** of their sinful anger, their lies, their cowardice, their distortions, their gossip, and their slander. They should be ashamed of their actions and words, but they are **not**.

Church members who stir up strife and dig up trash are like these raging waves. They leave behind them a legacy that they should be ashamed of.

Choose your friends wisely. I won't be friends with church-splitters or pastor-killers. I also will not be friends with those who have tendencies to stir up trouble in the church.

Apostate teachers are like raging waves. Sometimes, they are outside the church, hurling destructive persecution against God's people. Sometimes, they are inside the church. They infiltrate, instigate, destroy, and then leave the mess for someone else to clean up.

We had better be strong in these last days, when perilous times are coming. We need to have discernment within the church, and practice Bible principles amongst ourselves. The raging waves outside the church will never do as much damage as raging waves within the church.

## Chapter Eighteen

### WANDERING STARS

**(Jude 1:13) "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."**



Jude calls apostates **"wandering stars."** What is meant by this expression? There are three possible answers to this question:

**1. Angels are called stars, particularly fallen angels.**

➤ **(Rev 12:4) "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."**

In Job one, Satan is seen as a wanderer through the earth. **(Job 1:7) "And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."**

Devils have left their first estate and have become wandering stars. This is the second time that apostate teachers and influences are compared with fallen angels. The first was in verse 6. These stars did not keep their first habitation. They left their first estate. They did not stay fixed in the place that God had designed for them.

**2. Preachers are called stars.**

- **(Rev 1:16) "And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength."**
- **(Rev 1:20) "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches."**

Some of these pastors were right where they were supposed to be. They were fixed in place. Some of these pastors were beginning to wander. Jesus told the pastor in Ephesus to get back to his first love and the first works (Rev 2:4-5).

Some of them were wandering far away from the Lord. The church of Pergamos was full of the doctrine of Balaam, and the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. The pastor of Thyatira had a woman preacher in the church that was leading people into idolatry and fornication. And she wasn't being stopped by the pastor. The pastor of Sardis had allowed his church to die. They were living only on a reputation from years gone by – **"thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3:1)**. The Laodicean church had wandered so far away that the Lord was outside knocking to get in. Sadly, pastors can wander far from their former positions.

### **3. Wandering stars refer to planets and meteors in space.**

They are the opposite of what are called "fixed stars." Fixed stars are always in the same position in relation to each other. Fixed stars form the constellations, which do not change.

- **(Amos 5:8) "*Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the***

**waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name:"**

The constellations are the same now as they were two thousand years ago, or four thousand years ago. They are the same as when God put them in space on the fourth day of Creation.

Fixed stars have been used for centuries for finding direction and counting time. They are trustworthy. You can chart your course by their light.

The expression "**wandering stars**" refers to what are now called "naked-eye planets." These are the planets that can be seen in space with the naked eye, without using a telescope. There are five planets that can be seen by the naked eye: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, which are the five planets closest to earth. In fact, the name "planet" comes from the Greek word *planetes*, meaning "wanderer."

Ancient astronomers noted that while most of the stars stayed in the fixed positions relative to each other, these wandering stars would move across the sky in different places at different times. They appeared to just *wander* across the sky.

I believe that the third application is the most fitting for the apostate Christian. Wandering stars. Not fixed in place. These wandering stars are bright, but uncertain. They are brighter than others, but uncertain in their position. You don't know what they believe. Joel Osteen cannot come out and say anything concrete. T.D. Jakes could not tell a Muslim woman that she needed to trust in Jesus Christ to be saved. And what they believe now may change in the next five years, when the winds change. They shine brightly, but they are uncertain in their position.

You can't chart a course by a wandering star. I thank God for the "fixed stars" in my life. My pastor has been preaching for more than forty years. He is the same today as he was when I first heard

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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him preach. He has not wavered in his doctrine, standards, soul-winning, or preaching. He set a course for me that has remained fixed in place.

A lot of Baptist preachers have become like wandering stars. They are not fixed in place. Twenty years ago, they were very different than they are today. Twenty years ago, they preached against sin and named it. They had Bible convictions. They lived by Bible principles. They won souls to Christ. They ran bus routes because they wanted children to get saved. They preached holiness and righteousness. They stood for the King James Bible. They were Baptists and weren't ashamed of it. They were **"steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).**

Now, twenty or thirty years later, they have wandered far, far away from their formerly steadfast positions. No longer do they risk offending the money members by preaching against sin. No longer does their church have standards of dress or conduct. No longer do they insist on faithful attendance to services. In fact, they may not even have as many services as they used to. No longer are their auditoriums filled with the old hymns and songs of Zion. The God-honoring music they once stood for has been replaced by pop and soft rock and country music. No longer do they preach and thunder from the pulpit. They have wandered away from the King James Bible and embraced or begun to tolerate the new butchered perversions of scripture. Many of them have taken Baptist off their signs and off their letterhead. They are wandering stars, drifting away from where God appointed them to be.

We are to be like the fixed stars in the heavens. Always the same. In the right place. Consistent. **(Psa 57:7) "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."**

### I. WE NEED TO BE FIXED IN OUR DOCTRINE.

The Bible is the Word of God, and doctrine is vital. We need to be steadfast in the doctrines of this blessed Book. Wandering stars tend to be wishy washy or confused in their doctrines. It is vital that we know what we believe, and that what we believe is right according to the Word of God.

I believe that the Bible is inspired and preserved for us in the King James Bible. I believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, that He was virgin-born, lived a sinless life, died vicariously for us on the cross, was buried for three days and nights in the heart of the earth, and rose bodily from the grave. I believe that Jesus Christ ascended back to the right hand of the Father, where He is the sole Mediator between God and man, the only Saviour of mankind. I believe that He is coming again to set up a literal kingdom on this earth.

I believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, that it is a free gift purchased by God and given to all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ. I believe that salvation is eternally secure by the promise of God and the provision of Calvary. I believe that faith in Christ is absolutely essential for salvation for all mankind. We need to be fixed in our doctrines. Settle it and then stand steadfast, unmovable.

## **II. WE MUST BE FIXED IN OUR CONVICTIONS.**

***A conviction is doctrine put into practice.*** We are to live by Bible convictions. In other words, we are to live by what the Bible says is right or wrong. In order to do so, we must develop some Biblical standards for right living and holiness. If these standards are *Biblical*, they will be *high*.

A lot of churches these days have few, if any, set-in-stone Bible convictions. Some churches have sold their convictions at garage sale prices. Anything goes. We have a generation on our hands that has no idea of what church is really like.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Bill Hybels and the Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago has probably done more to ruin Christianity in America than any other preacher or church. He designed a church to be pleasing to unsaved people. He admits it. He had no convictions concerning holiness or righteousness. He designed a church that was worldly, carnal, and entertaining. It is nothing more than commercialism in the church – putting the church on the street corner to sell to unbelievers.

On the other side of Chicago, the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana was and is running 20,000 a Sunday with old-fashioned church services and preaching that would send the Willow Creek crowd running for their lives. First Baptist Church was winning and baptizing thousands while upholding the Sunday School, soulwinning, bus ministry, dress standards, the Biblical home structure, Bible preaching, and separated living.

Our convictions need to be fixed. Right is right and wrong is wrong. The church ought to be run to please the Lord, not men. Our church, our homes, and our individual lives need to operate by Bible convictions. Too many Christians simply blend in with their church surroundings, but they do not develop Bible convictions. Then, when the church changes, they change. Or when they change churches, they just blend in where they are.

Wandering stars are not fixed. They don't have Bible convictions.

### **III. WE MUST BE FIXED IN GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES.**

Too many folks are wandering around in life, wavering back and forth concerning the will of God. Thank God for missionaries who go, who get where they are going, and then stay no matter what. It's hard enough to get them to the field. It usually takes several years and thousands of dollars of God's money.



Missionaries who come back prematurely from the field should understand how their actions hurt the cause of missions in general – both on the field and back in the States. I for one am tired as a pastor of having to cancel support and tell our folks, “Yes, I know they said God called them to the field, but now they are back in the States and they aren’t returning.” I must wonder how the folks on the field feel. No wonder missionaries have trouble gaining the trust of the people in their communities. Most of them have seen missionaries come and go.

Thank God for pastors who go where God sends them and then stay there through all the ups and downs in their ministries. Thank God for Christians who stay in the church God puts them in. These Christians are like trees planted in the house of the Lord.

God doesn’t change His mind nearly as often as some Christians claim that He does. We need to be fixed in the will of God – not wandering back and forth.

#### **IV. WE MUST BE FIXED IN OUR SERVICE FOR THE LORD.**

God’s work is hindered by those who start serving God and then quit when it gets hard or routine or boring or difficult. We need some stars that just keep shining in their place year after year after year after year. Stay in that class. Keep shining on that bus route. Keep shining in that nursery. Keep shining on that mission field. Keep shining in your church. Christian worker, stay in you place! Be consistent!

#### **V. WE NEED TO BE FIXED IN OUR LOCAL CHURCH.**

I have developed a disdain for the *gypsy Christians* I have seen so much of in my area. They wander from church to church to church. They have been *church shopping* for five years. They join one and stay for a while. When they don’t like something or get

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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bored, they leave and wander to the next church that catches their fancy.

I am weary of Christians that do not take the church more seriously. I am weary of Christians who are looking for a church home but will not even come to Sunday School or the evening services. These Christians develop an arrogant, critical, self-righteous attitude concerning the local church. They are wandering stars.

I am fixed in my local church. My home church is the Lighthouse Baptist Church of Wylie, Texas. My home church is not Trinity Baptist Church in Arlington (where I was ordained). My home church is where I am. I am proud of my church and proud to be a part of it. I want to do all I can to serve God in the Lighthouse Baptist Church. I am not looking for a way out. My name is not out there on some website as a "pastor looking for a church." I have no prepared résumé anywhere. I'm not looking for a way out. I am looking for a way to do more for God where I am.

Jude said that the apostate teachers and influences would be like wandering stars. Because apostates are not saved, they have a destination reserved for them. **(Jude 1:13) "...wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."**

We who are true Christians need to avoid the wandering ways of these apostate teachers. We need to be steadfast. We need to be like the fixed stars in the sky, that stay in the same place, shining year after year after year just like God intended for them to do.

## Chapter Nineteen

### ENOCH, THE CONTENDER

**(Jude 1:14-15) "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, {15} To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."**



After describing in great detail and by many illustrations the nature and character of apostates, Jude introduced one great contender of the ancient past: Enoch. Enoch was the first recorded preacher in the Bible. He was the great-grandfather of Noah. He lived in the wild days preceding the Flood, yet he walked with God.

His name is interesting. "Enoch" signifies "narrow." Enoch was a *narrow-minded preacher*. He lived on the straight and narrow way, not the broad way that leads to destruction. A preacher's mind ought to be as narrow as a page of his King James Bible.

Enoch's name comes from a root word which is also translated "train up" in Proverbs 22:6. Enoch was trained up to be a contender for the faith. This should be our goal for our children. We need to train up some contenders for the faith. The goal of Christian parents should not be to rear children with a superficial Christianity, but to train up children who will be active adults that serve the Lord faithfully.

Consider some thoughts concerning Enoch, the contender.

## I. ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD WHEN THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS WALKING AWAY FROM GOD.

Jude identifies Enoch as **“the seventh from Adam.”** He was descended from Enoch through the Godly line of Seth. Counting Adam as the first, and Enoch was the seventh. Seven is always a special number in the Bible.

Enoch lived in the days of the original spirit of antichrist. The term “antichrist” was used only by the Apostle John. It means both *“like Christ”* and *“against Christ.”* In the Tribulation, there will be a man called THE Antichrist, or the Beast. But John said that there are *“many antichrists”* already in the world.

- **(1 John 2:18) "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."**

Later, he identified *“that spirit of antichrist”* and said that it was *already* in the world.

- **(1 John 4:3) "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."**

Revelation gives us the number of *“the beast.”* **(Rev 13:18) "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six."** This number is 666, which has been abused by Hollywood and the occult for years. This mark will not be issued until the Tribulation period. Christians need not worry about accidentally taking the mark of the beast – we will be taken out at the Rapture, before this mark is used among the people of the world.

Dr. Bryan Sharp points out in his study of the Revelation that the first 666 mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 4, in the

descendents of Cain. The fifth person in Cain's lineage was Lamech. Lamech was the second recorded murderer and the first recorded bigamist. He was anti-God and mocked God's judgment for his sins. Up to Lamech, only one person in each generation is mentioned. After Lamech, it branches out three ways. For the sixth generation, three men are listed:

1. Jabal. **(Gen 4:20) "And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle."** Jabal was the father of the housing and agricultural industries.
2. Jubal. **(Gen 4:21) "And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ."** Jubal was the father of the entertainment industry.
3. Tubalcain. **(Gen 4:22) "And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah."** Tubalcain was the father of the manufacturing industry, and apparently the education industry ("an instructor").

In the Pre-Flood world, these three men were industry leaders. They led or controlled the housing industry, the agricultural industry, the entertainment industry, and manufacturing industry, and the educational industry. These three men may have been the three most powerful men in the world. They were the original 666, and were marked by the spirit of antichrist. Under the leadership of these three sons, the world pulled further and father away from the Lord:

- **(Gen 6:1-7) "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, {2} That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. {3} And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. {4} There were giants in the earth in those days; and also**

after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown. {5} And God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. {6} And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. {7} And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them."

The world became so wicked that God decided to destroy the earth by a Flood, which He did in the days of Noah. However, it started back in the days of Enoch. Enoch had to *earnestly contend* with that crowd of apostates.

Let's look at the life and character of Enoch. He is first mentioned in Genesis chapter five:

- (Gen 5:21-23) "And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: {22} And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: {23} And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:"

It seems that the birth of Methusaleh was a turning point in the life of Enoch. I know that the birth of my first child was a turning point in my life. After Methuselah was born, Enoch began walking with God, and he walked with God for 300 years. That is 100 times the average Christian's term of service to the Lord. Most people do not stay in one church or in one ministry more than 3 years.

Enoch walked with God for *three centuries*. He didn't hit 250 and say, "Well, it's time for someone else to do it. Let someone else volunteer. Let someone else do this job. It's time for me to quit." No, he kept walking with God. He kept on preaching and kept

on standing with the Lord as everyone else kept going further and further away.

- **(Gen 5:24) "And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him."**

Paul tells us what occurred in the Book of Hebrews:

- **(Heb 11:5-6) "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. {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."**

He was translated from earth to heaven without dying. Before his translation, he had earned a testimony as a man that pleased God. How did he please God? He walked with God by faith.

Enoch was a contender for the faith. He walked with God when the rest of the world was walking away from God. Too many Christians are in lock-step with the world. They stay just the same distance away, but they aren't walking with God. They are getting more and more worldly, as the world gets more and more churchy.

In these times, we are going to have to decide whom we wish to please.

- **(Gal 1:10) "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."**
- **(John 12:43) "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."**

Contenders make the decision to please God. They walk by faith. They stand for the truth, without compromise.

## II. ENOCH PREACHED THE TRUTH WITHOUT COMPROMISE.

Enoch contended for the faith by preaching against the ungodliness of his time. His sermon, revealed by God and recorded by Jude, was no sermonette for Christianettes smoking cigarettes:

- **(Jude 1:14-15) "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, {15} To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."**

Enoch's sermon had three main points and *no* jokes:

### 1. He preached about the Second Coming of Christ.

Adam was told of Christ's first coming – the seed of the woman. Enoch knew of His Second Coming. "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." Thank God for the glorious message, "Behold, the Lord cometh!"

- **(Rev 1:7) "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."**

Enoch said that He would come with "ten thousands of his saints." Jude was not trying to limit the number of the saints to the thousands. It is merely an Old Testament expression denoting a great, indefinite number. Webster's 1828 Dictionary gives us this definition of "thousand" – "2. Proverbially, denoting a great number indefinitely. It is a thousand chances to one that you succeed."

Who are the saints? **(Psa 50:5) "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."** The saints are those that have been born



again. They have been sanctified through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and entered into God's covenant based on the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

In these days, we need more preaching about the Second Coming of the Lord. Time is short. People must not delay their decision concerning salvation. It is time for God's children to wake up and get busy, for the Lord's coming "draweth nigh."

## **2. Enoch preached about judgment to come.**

Did you notice that Jude said the Lord is going to "execute judgment upon *all*?" That means everyone – saved and lost.

The saved will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ for their obedience, opportunities, and obligations. They will be judged as sons, stewards, and servants. They will be judged according to the stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures. Their actions and inactions will all be brought to light and brought to judgment.

The unsaved will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. They will be judged as sinners, condemned already because of their sins.

Jude said that the Lord is going to "convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds." He is going to convince them that they are ungodly and deserving of hell. They won't admit that now, but they will then. This is why Paul said that **"...every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Rom 3:19)**. No one will be arguing or denying the truth on that day. Billions of sinners will stand silently, convinced that God is just and right.

What we need more of today is preaching concerning responsibility, accountability, and judgment to come. The

only way to be ready for God's judgment is to be under the blood of Jesus Christ. That cancels our appointment at the Great White Throne, because Jesus was judged for our sins.

Preaching on judgment causes men to grow convicted about their sins and souls. **(Acts 24:24-25)** **"And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. {25} And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."** Felix did not get saved, but he trembled under conviction as Paul preached on "judgment to come." Let us get back to preaching on judgment and hell!

### **3. Enoch preached about the ungodliness of the world around him.**

- **(Jude 1:15)** **"To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."**

He used the word "ungodly" four times. That must have been his favorite word. Ungodly means "wicked, sinful, contrary to God's commandments." He spoke of their ungodly deeds. He preached about their "hard speeches" against God.

We need preaching against sin. It doesn't matter how bad things are. The light of God's Word can change men's minds and hearts, but only when it is preached and taught courageously. Many seminaries and so-called Bible Colleges are teaching their pastoral students to preach against sin, but not to *name* it. No wonder we have such namby-pamby, convictionless preaching these days. We

need some preachers to go to Enoch Bible College and Paul Seminary.

In Romans 1:29-32, four short verses, Paul specifically *named* 23 sins. In Galatians 5, he specifically *named* 17 sinful works of the flesh. In 2 Timothy 3:2-5, he *named* 19 sinful characteristics of men in the last days.

Folks today get uncomfortable when I start naming individual sins. But there are things going on in our society that are wrong and ungodly. Liquor drinking. Using drugs, including marijuana. Shacking up and fornicating. Unscriptural divorces on demand. Pornography. Abortion. Adultery. You better believe that this preacher is going to cry, "Ungodly!"

If the Bible is against it, we should be against it. If the Bible is for it, we should be for it. We should expect our preachers to boldly and courageously stand against evil and ungodliness!

We need some men of God like Enoch today, in these last days. We need Christians who will walk with God when everyone else is walking away from God. While others are waxing cold in their devotion and service, we should be warming up and getting more fervent in our love for God. While others are compromising, let us hold fast to our Bible convictions. Let us expect and encourage strong, Bible preaching about the Second Coming, judgment to come, and against the ungodliness around us.

**"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 John 4:3**

## Chapter Twenty

### THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

**(Jude 1:16-19) "These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. {17} But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; {18} How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. {19} These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit."**



We have come now to the final words concerning apostate teachers and influences in the church. Verse 16 tells that that we are dealing with the same crowd that Enoch dealt with. These folks change names, faces, and locations, but their mode of operation is the same. Their character is the same, wherever they are. They operate by the same principles, led by the same spirit of antichrist.

In our text verses, we find the root of the problem. All that we have studied is caused by one root problem. Everything else is fruit. Cutting off fruit won't solve the problem when the problem is in the roots.

In this chapter, we are going to identify the root problem, but first we are going to look at seven more fruits often found in the lives of apostates and troublemakers in the church. Remember that Jesus said, **(Mat 7:20) "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."**

## I. THE FRUIT OF UNGODLY BEHAVIOUR.

### 1. They are murmurers.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary gives us this definition of "murmur:" *"to grumble; to complain; to utter complaints in a low, half articulated voice."* It is a **cowardly** kind of grumbling, revealing discontent.

Seventeen times, the Bible refers to the children of Israel murmuring during the Exodus and Wilderness Wanderings. They murmured against Moses, against Aaron, and against the Lord. Each time, it brought God's judgment.

When murmuring starts, trouble is not far behind. Some folks will get discontented in the church, or upset about something, and then they start murmuring. They don't go to the man in charge. They don't come out in the open. They just find someone to grumble with, and it spreads throughout the church. Quite often, they try to get someone else to do their talking for them. "You say this. It needs to be said." Then, they hide in the background. They are cowards.

➤ **(John 6:43) "Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves."**

If something needs to be said, have the courage to say it to their face, with a right spirit. Murmuring causes trouble in churches. Stay away from murmurers.

### 2. They are complainers.

Complainers refer to fault-finders. Webster's Dictionary gives us this definition for "complain:" *"to utter expressions of censure or resentment; to murmur; to find fault."*

If someone is complaining, they are finding fault in their circumstances or whatever it is they are complaining about. Often, our complaints are centered on people. Israel

complained about Moses and their circumstances. It displeased the Lord.

- (Num 11:1) "**And *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard *it*; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed *them that were* in the uttermost parts of the camp.**"

It is easy to complain. It is easy to find fault. It doesn't take any special talents, intelligence, ability, or character to find faults in others. It takes more maturity and character to overlook faults and find the good in people.

Troublemakers in the church often start trouble by looking at moles in the eyes of others, while they have 2x4's sticking out of their own eyes. They criticize and find fault with others, when their own lives are sorely lacking.

### **3. They speak "great swelling words."**

- (Jude 1:16) "**...and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.**"

Like politicians, many of these folks can really talk. The problem is that their words are just full of hot air. A lot of folks can give a good, religious speech. But their speeches do not match the Bible, and often their lives do not match the Bible or their speech.

### **4. They are mockers.**

The Dictionary defines "mock" as "to deride; to laugh at; to ridicule; to treat with scorn or contempt." These folks mock the Lord Jesus Christ and those that sincerely follow Him.

A lot of folks are mocking Christians today. They laugh at us and at our Bible. They laugh at us for believing in Creation.

They ridicule us and scorn us, just like they scorn God and His Word.

### 5. They separate from sincere believers.

- (Jude 1:19) **"These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit."**

This is not referring to the separation of the believer from sin or the world. God Himself tells His children to **"come out from among them, and be ye separate"** (2 Cor. 6:17).

Jude is referring to those who claim to be Christians and yet separate themselves from the fellowship of sincere, Bible-believing churches. John referenced such people: **(1 John 2:19) "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."**

Don't be surprised if people sometimes leave a church and go back into the world, or go to find some watered-down, worldly church. Some people don't want real Biblical Christianity. So, they separate themselves and find churches where worldliness is acceptable, where their egos are petted, where their worldly teenagers fit in with other worldly teenagers, where the preaching is lukewarm and there isn't much expected. Such people often have a very pious and snooty attitude towards the church they leave, when their motives and actions are entirely out of line with the Word of God.

### 6. They are sensual.

Sensual relates to the natural man and the desires of the flesh. These folks are looking to satisfy the desires of their fallen nature while still feeling like they are religious. Many churches cater to the sensuality of man's fallen nature.



## 7. They have not the Spirit of God.

- (Jude 1:19) "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit."

This means that they have not been born again. (Rom 8:9) "...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

This is why they are living in the flesh. They have not been born again, and therefore they are still spiritually dead in trespasses and sins – no matter how religious they might be.

## II. THE ROOT OF UNGODLY BEHAVIOUR.

This root is mentioned twice.

- (Jude 1:16) "These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts..."
- (Jude 1:18) "How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts."

The root of all this trouble is that these people are walking after their own ungodly lusts. ***Lust is an unsatisfied desire that can never be satisfied.*** It is a desire and wanting for what we cannot have or should not have. These people have chosen to live in pursuit of their lusts instead of obedience to the will of God. They hate the Bible because the Bible is against their lust. These mockers and scoffers laugh at us and at our Bibles simply because they are want to live ungodly lives without feeling conviction, guilt, or remorse. It really is that simple.

Take the example of **Bertrand Russell**. He was a philosopher and mathematician. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1950. His theories and writings have had great influence throughout the world.<sup>38</sup>

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Bertrand Russell was also a professed atheist that mocked religion in general and Christianity in particular. He even wrote a book entitled, *Why I am not a Christian*. He said, "I say quite deliberately that the Christian religion, as organized in its churches, has been and still is the principal enemy of moral progress in the world."

Of course, Russell's convictions didn't go as deep as those of millions of Christians. Russell said, "I would *never* die for my beliefs because I might be wrong." Of course, the idea that he could be wrong about the Lord Jesus Christ never crossed his mind.

Russell spent his whole life scoffing at Christ and mocking Christianity? Because of his **"great swelling words"** and because he had **"men's persons in admiration, because of advantage,"** his influence led many away from Christ and the Bible.

Why did Russell despise Christianity and the Bible so much? Sir Isaac Newton, who was far superior to Russell in intelligence and importance, loved the Bible and believed it. Newton read his Bible every day, and wrote serious commentaries. He never found any flaws in the Bible that shook his faith. What was Russell's problem?

Well, the problem with Russell was that he was pursuing his own ungodly lusts, which set him against the Word of God. Russell had a confusing upbringing. His father was an atheist and permitted his wife to carry on an affair in his own home with the children's tutor.

The fruit doesn't fall far from the tree, and Russell continued his family's sexual perversions in his own adult life. He married and then divorced his first wife, while carrying on simultaneous affairs with a number of women. Before the divorce, he had another woman 6 months pregnant, whom he married 6 days after the divorce was finalized. Later, he had an affair with the wife of T.S. Eliot. His own adulterous wife had two children by an American journalist. They later divorced, and Russell married a third wife, who just happens to have been the governess of his children. She

later divorced him, and he married a fourth wife. Russell was also a proponent of the homosexual agenda, and at least one of his women was also a lesbian.<sup>39</sup>

This man hated God because God hated his sin. He did not want any feelings of guilt ruining his “good times.” He did not find flaws in the Bible – the Bible found flaws in him. And he hated God because of it. Instead of worrying about righteousness or judgment to come, Russell simply reasoned his guilt away, and convinced himself that if the Bible was not true, he had nothing to worry about.

Many today have the same problem with the Word of God. The root of the problem is their own ungodly lust.

The fruit we have been discussing identifies the trees of apostasy. But it is the root of ungodly lust that is causing the fruit to grow. That ungodly lust will keep men from being saved. It will lead them further and further away from God. It may cause them to lead others astray. Ultimately, it will lead to destruction and perdition.

**"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."**

**1 John 2:19**

## Chapter Twenty-One

### CONTENDERS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**(Jude 1:20-23) "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, {21} Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. {22} And of some have compassion, making a difference: {23} And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."**



Back in verse 3, Jude challenged us to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. We are to make our stand and engage this fight for the faith. We are to stand for the Word of God and the doctrines that it teaches. In verses 4-19, the bulk of the epistle, Jude describes the crowd that is in the other corner of this contest. He describes the nature and character of these "ungodly men" who creep in unawares. In verses 14 and 15, he described the great contender of the Pre-Flood world, Enoch, and how he stood and preached about judgment and sin and the Second Coming of Christ to that ungodly generation. He was a contender for the faith.

In the final verses of Jude, the focus turns from the apostates to the true believers that are to be contending for the faith. Verses 20-23 list our responsibilities as true Christians in these last days. Practicing these commandments will help us to stay out of the apostasy and to stay on track for the Lord.

There is a careful balance between verse 3 and verse 22. In verse 3, we are to earnestly contend or battle for the faith. In verse 22, we are to have compassion and make a difference. There is a balance in these two statements.

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Some Christians are determined to contend for the faith. They know their doctrines and they know what is right concerning the faith. They are ready to make a stand. Sometimes, they go overboard in contending and become contentious. The problem is that they aren't doing anything to make a difference in the lives of others. They do not win souls, give to missions, teach a Sunday School class, work a bus route, preach in jails or missions, or bring people to church.

Some Christians truly want to make a difference. They care about people and they want to help other folks to know the Lord or deal with their problems. But they do not contend for the faith. Anything goes for these folks. They will yoke up with any apostate group. They are often out of church themselves. They want to make a difference, but they aren't contending for the faith. Because of this, they do not really make a difference.

We need to have both sides of the equation. **We need a balance between contending for the faith and the compassion that makes a difference in people's lives.** We need to stand strong on the King James Bible and its doctrines. We need to take a strong stand against the ungodliness of our time. We need to stand for personal holiness and separation from sin. We ALSO need to be out soul-winning. We also need to run buses and bring children to Sunday School. We also need to send out the missionaries, and hand out gospel tracts, and preach in the jails, and visit in the homes of the poor. We are to earnestly contend for the faith AND have compassion AND pull some out of the fires of hell.

In this chapter, let's talk about some necessary training exercises that we are going to need to practice if we are going to be contenders that make a difference. True contenders have to be in great spiritual shape.

### I. YOU MUST BUILD YOURSELF UP IN THE FAITH.

- **(Jude 1:20) "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"**

Weak, anemic, worldly, apathetic Christians are not going to be contenders or difference-makers – and if they do make a difference, it is a negative one. To be a difference-maker, you are going to have to get into spiritual shape.

Spiritually, many Christians are way out of shape. They have no edge left. They have no stamina, no energy, no drive, no strength. How are they going to make a difference? They don't even want to go soulwinning any more if they can get out of it. They know just enough in their heads to get by and play the part of good fundamental Baptists, but they have no spiritual punch, nothing in the tank anymore. Why? They stopped the continual process of building up themselves in the faith.

How can you help other people with their burdens when you can't even handle your own burdens? How can you help other people with their problems, when you have a nervous breakdown every time something goes wrong in your own life? If your faith is lily-livered and feeble, how are you going to make a difference?

No, you've got to be spiritual strong and capable if you are going to make a difference. This requires action and diligence to build up yourselves in your faith. Consider what Peter wrote:

- **(2 Pet 1:5-8) "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; {6} And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; {7} And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. {8} For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

These are the seven areas that we are to be constantly building up in our lives:

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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1. Virtue – excellent living.
2. Knowledge. Learn your Bibles. Learn the truth.
3. Temperance – self-control.
4. Patience – endurance.
5. Godliness – reflecting God's nature through our character.
6. Brotherly kindness. This refers to your attitude and behavior towards other believers.
7. Charity – God's love at work in my life.

These seven things need to be in you and abound if you want to be fruitful for the Lord. The serious contender must be diligent in his spiritual exercises.

### II. YOU MUST SPEND TIME IN PRAYER.

- **(Jude 1:20) "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"**

Prayer is part of our spiritual arsenal – the weapon that is most overlooked in Ephesians chapter six, the great spiritual warfare chapter. We have only two offensive weapons: the sword of the Spirit and prayer.

- **(Eph 6:18-20) "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; {19} And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, {20} For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."**

I can wage war in my prayer closet. I can be involved in numerous battlefields when I spend time praying for others. Prayer can be a smart bomb that I can send right down their chimney and



into their living room. People may not listen to me preach, but they cannot stop my prayers.

Prayer is a weapon with unimaginable potential, yet it is usually unused or under-used in our spiritual lives. How much more could be done and accomplished if we would learn to spend more time “praying in the Holy Ghost?”

*“Praying in the Holy Ghost”* means praying as a Spirit-filled Christian. **(Rom 8:26-27) "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. {27} And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."**

He wants to help us pray. We are too often like robots praying a rosary. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and guide us as we pray. Fleshly prayers do not go anyway. Spirit-filled praying **“availeth much” (James 5:16).**

### **III. YOU MUST KEEP YOURSELF IN THE LOVE OF GOD.**

- **(Jude 1:21) "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."**

I don't believe that this means to stay in love with God. I don't think that it refers to my love for God. I believe this refers to God's love for us.

We need to stay focused on God's love for us and His love for others. People that are real difference-makers are consumed with the love of God. They realize that God loves them with an everlasting love. But they go beyond that. They realize that God loves that little bus kid, or that down-and-outer, or that guy in prison, or that bum under the bridge. They become consumed with the love of God towards mankind!

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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Here are three ways to keep yourself in the love of God:

1. Think about God's love.

As you go into your class, think about God's love. As you knock on the door, think about God's love. As you make that visit, think about God's love. As you preach the gospel, think about God's love. As you prepare your lesson, think about God's love. In the front of my preaching Bible is a note that reads, "Dear James, I love these people. Do you? Signed, Jesus." It would transform our ministries if we thought more about the great love of God towards mankind.

2. Sing about God's love. Many of our hymns deal with the love of God.
3. Talk about God's love.

Tell people that God loves them. Tell your class, your children, your people that God loves them. Tell lost sinners that God loves them. Speak much of the love of God for mankind.

If we will get *consumed* with the love of God, it will spill over on those we are trying to help. That love will make a difference.

### IV. YOU MUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON ETERNITY.

- **(Jude 1:21)** "...looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

We are to have our eyes on Jesus, looking forward to eternal life.

- **(Heb 12:2)** "Looking unto Jesus..."
- **(2 Cor 4:18)** "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things

**which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."**

- **(Col 3:2) "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."**

You won't make a difference with your eyes and affections on this world. You aren't going to make a difference if you are selfish with your time or money. When we get our eyes on eternity and our affection set on things above, it will change our priorities, and we will be in a position to make a difference.

## **V. YOU MUST HAVE COMPASSION FOR OTHERS.**

- **(Jude 1:22) "And of some have compassion, making a difference:"**

Compassion literally means "to suffer with" or to feel someone's pain. It means to truly care enough to **do** something about it. When Jesus had compassion, it resulted in action on their behalf: **(Mat 14:14) "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick."**

Compassion is never merely words. It is always action. It is one thing to say, "I care." It is another thing to do something about it.

- **(1 John 3:17-18) "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? {18} My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."**

Is your life marked by genuine compassion? Do you truly care about the needs of others?

## **V. WE HAVE TO GO AFTER LOST SINNERS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.**

- **(Jude 1:23) "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."**

This is the main reason that some will never make a difference – it is not comfortable, easy, or convenient. You have to go into the fire and pull them out. Soul-winners have to face some unpleasant situations. No one wants to go near fire, but firemen have to do so. Soulwinners have to learn to go after sinners where they are.

According to Jude 1:23, lost people are as good as in hell already. From God's perspective, they are already in "the fire." Just as the redeemed are already sitting together **"in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6)**, the lost are already as good as dead and in hell. We must be willing to go through some unpleasant situations to pull them out of the fire!

Some people will be reached through compassion. They are tender hearted, or needy, and some Christian compassion and a gospel witness will make the difference. However, some folks will **not** be reached with compassion. They are hard-hearted and sometimes hardheaded. Nebuchadnezzar wasn't won over by compassion. God had to break him down. Before that, Daniel spoke boldly to him and told him he needed to repent or God would judge him. He didn't listen. He got to boasting and God took away his mind for 7 years. When God was done, Nebuchadnezzar was ready to give Him all the glory!

Sometimes people have to be saved with fear. You have to hang them over hell until they wake up and realize their need for Christ. Some folks need to hear a loud, in-your-face sermon. Some folks need to hear that if they don't get saved they are going to burn in hell forever. The preaching of the cross may not affect them, but preaching about hell will. Save them with fear. I don't mean any form of manipulation or scare tactics. I mean show them what the Bible says. Be firm and get them to think. I have often taken people to verses in the Bible and seen them change their minds about getting saved. One verse I have used quite often is:

- **(Heb 2:3) "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;"**

After showing one man the plan of salvation, he remained unaffected and unconcerned. He said, "I will do that some other time." I quickly took him to Hebrews 2:3 and showed him that he was neglecting salvation, and that there was no escape other than through Christ. I showed him how he was rejecting God's only way of escape. The light came on in his eyes as he realized what he was doing. After that, I was able to lead him to the Lord and he was saved.

Our responsibilities as Christians in an apostate age are balanced in these two expressions: **"earnestly contend for the faith"** and **"making a difference."** We need to stand strong, but we also need to be active in making a difference in the lives of others. In order to do either, we must practice the formula that Jude gives us.

**“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, (21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (22) And of some have compassion, making a difference: (23) And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”**

**Jude 1:20-23**

## Chapter Twenty-two

### THE CONTENDER'S CROWN

**(Jude 1:24-25) "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, {25} To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen."**



In our time, we are seeing a tragic shift away from the Bible. The mainline Protestant denominations have lost their distinctives and are drawing ever closer to a reunion with Mother Rome (incidentally, Baptists are not Protestants. We were never a part of the Roman Catholic Church). So many have gone to the contemporary service format that it is hard to tell one denomination from the other. The sad thing is that so many Baptist churches have also given up their distinctives in order to compete in the "church marketplace."

Lighthouse Baptist Church is going to be distinctively different. You don't have to come to a 6 am service to hear the old hymns and enjoy an old-fashioned service. That is what we have *every* service. The sad thing is that so many young adults visit here that have NEVER been in a church service that didn't have rock music and a worldly atmosphere. They do not know the hymns, except for a verse of two of Amazing Grace. They think that *we* are strange.

In our day, the only groups that seem to be growing by leaps in bounds are the *Catholics*, the *cults*, the *Charismatics*, and the *compromisers*. The mainline denominations are dying, and have

## Grievous Wolves & Wandering Stars

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been dying for the last sixty years. The Catholic Church is as strong as ever. The Mormon Church is growing. 65,000 young men serve as Mormon missionaries every year around the world. There were 2.9 million Mormons in 1970 and nearly 11 million in 2000, with more than half outside the United States and just 15% in Utah. This was the fastest-growing religion in the United States in the 1990s and became the nation's fifth largest denomination in 2003.<sup>40</sup>

These are all signs of the times in which we live. These are the last of the last days. Does that mean that we should fold up and quit trying? Of course not. We are to **occupy** until He comes. If someone is called to the ministry, he or she should get with it and get into the ministry as soon as possible. If God has called a man to a mission field, he ought to get his training and get to the field. We have too many wishy-washy so-called preachers these days that are dragging their feet while the cults are running circles around us.

I don't know what others are going to do, but I am going to earnestly contend for the faith, and make my stand for the Word of God. I for one am looking to start *more* classes, run *more* buses, start *more* ministries, knock *more* doors, and try harder. I for one am going to preach harder and straighter and lift up my voice against what I see happening inside and outside the church. This is no time to fold up and give in. This is our time to stand and shine in the darkness for the Lord Jesus Christ!

According to verses 20-21, we are to continue building ourselves up in the faith, continue praying, stay in the love of God, and keep our eyes on Jesus Christ, no matter how dark things get. According to verse 22, we are to be making a difference in the lives of others. According to verse 23, we are to be pulling people out of the fires of hell. The Book of Jude is not designed to discourage us, but to encourage us and strengthen us so that we will stand and contend for the faith as we strive to make a difference in the lives of others.

The Book of Jude ends on a wonderful, positive note in verses



24 and 25. These verses direct our attention to the future and the Judgment Seat of Christ. There, crowns will be given to those who earnestly contended and were found faithful. To get that crown, we have to fight a good fight, all the way to the end:

- **(2 Tim 4:7-8) "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: {8} Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."**

Quitters do not get the crown of righteousness, the contender's crown. This crown is only for those who are **"faithful unto death."** To these, Jesus said, **"I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).**

Consider three thoughts that will encourage us as we stay in the fight and strive to finish our course:

## **I. WE SHOULD REJOICE IN OUR ETERNAL SECURITY.**

- **(Jude 1:24) "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"**

Thank God for the clear Bible doctrine of eternal security! The Bible teaches that once a person is saved, they are saved forever, and cannot lose the salvation that God has given them by grace. So many denominations deny the doctrine of eternal security. They are always talking about "falling away" or "falling from grace." But Jude said, **"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling..."**

The only question is, "Who is able?" Am I able to keep myself from falling? Am I able to achieve sinless perfection so that I never lose what God has given me? No, I am not able.

Is *the church* able? Does the church have power to keep me saved as long as I attend faithfully? No – the Bible never gives the

church the authority or power to save anyone or keep anyone saved.

Who is able to keep me from falling? The Lord Jesus Christ is able. **“Unto him that is able.”** My belief in eternal security is based on HIS ability to keep me from falling!

Look what else Jude said: **“...and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...”**

He isn't just going to keep me from falling. He is going to present me ***faultless*** before the presence of His glory in heaven. *Faultless*. How is that possible, when I still have many faults? The answer is that I have been justified by the blood of Jesus Christ. I am covered by the perfect, imputed righteousness of Christ. As far as God is concerned, I stand before Him faultless, because of the imputed righteousness of Christ.

The difference in those of us who believe in eternal security and those who do not is in who we are trusting. My belief in eternal security is based on the ability of Jesus Christ to wash away ALL my sins, keep me from falling, and present me faultless before His throne. My faith is 100% in Jesus Christ for salvation.

Those who deny eternal security are not trusting in Christ 100%. In their mind, at least some of their salvation is of their own doing. Their motto is, “Jesus paid *most*,” while we believe, “Jesus paid it ALL.” They believe that Jesus made the down payment, and they have to keep up the installments, or their salvation will get repossessed. They do not believe that the blood of Jesus Christ was sufficient for all their sins – past, present, and future.

Let me give you just four simple, Biblical reasons why I believe in eternal security:

### **1. The sufficiency of the cross.**

Either Jesus' death for our sins was sufficient or it wasn't. If it wasn't, then I've got to make up the difference

with baptism, or church membership, or perseverance to the end. But if His death was sufficient, then it is finished! Thank God, His death on the cross was sufficient. He died for ALL my sins.

## 2. The plain statements of Jesus.

- (John 10:27-29) "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: {28} And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. {29} My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand."
- (John 5:24) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

## 3. The nature of the new birth.

When I got saved, I was translated from a child of the devil into a child of God. (Gal 3:26) "**For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**" Jesus did not say that we had to be "born again and again and again." We get born again once, and we are children of God forever.

Furthermore, God sealed that birth with an instant adoption. (Gal 4:5-6) "**To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. {6} And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**"

Adoption gave a child the full right of the first-born son. (Rom 8:17) "**And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.**"

Abraham had eight sons. Ishmael was his son by Hagar. Isaac was his son by Sarah. After Sarah's death, Abraham

married Keturah and had six sons by her. There were eight natural sons of Abraham, but only one heir. **(Gen 25:5-6)** **"And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. {6} But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country."**

Only Isaac was given the right of the right of the first-born son. He was the only heir of Abraham, though Ishmael was born first. My adoption places me in that permanent position as an heir of God and a joint-heir of Jesus Christ! This is why I have a permanent inheritance waiting for me in heaven. **(1 Pet 1:4-5)** **"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."**

Adoption was also *permanent*. In Biblical times and in our American law, a natural-born child may be disowned, but an adopted child can NEVER be disowned. God has given me permanent assurance that I am His child forever!

#### 4. The earnest of the Holy Spirit.

- **(2 Cor 1:22)** **"Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."**

When I got saved, the Holy Spirit moved into my body. He did so for many reasons, but one of those reasons is to give us assurance that we are saved forever. He is **"...the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory"** (Eph 1:14).

He is the "earnest" or down payment. A down payment is money is put up front to guarantee that we are going to meet our obligations or commitments. If I sign a one-year

lease with a \$500 earnest, and I decide to bail out on my lease after six months, then I will lose the \$500 earnest money.

If God does not take me to heaven, He will lose the Holy Spirit. That is not going to happen. The presence of the Holy Spirit is yet another assurance that once I am saved, I am saved forever!

When this truth is learned, it brings great peace to the heart and mind of the saved. It brings joy and gratitude and a desire to serve the Lord. As we contend and battle, let us rejoice in the fact that Jesus Christ, the captain of our salvation, will carry us safely through the presence of His glory!

## **II. WE SHOULD LOOK FORWARD TO OUR ETERNAL HOME.**

- **(Jude 1:24) "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"**

We should never forget where we are going. One of these days, I am going to be presented at the throne of God, in the presence of His glory. Paul used this thought to encourage the Corinthians not to faint:

- **(2 Cor 4:14-18) "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. {15} For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. {16} For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. {17} For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; {18} While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things**

**which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal."**

Don't faint in the battle! Keep on contending! Our light, temporary affliction is not going to matter when we stand in the presence of His glory! The only way it will matter then is that it will work for us a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!"

Jude said that it would be with "exceeding joy." We've all seen someone light up with real joy. Their whole face lights up. They don't care how they look. All self-consciousness is gone. It might be at the birth of a baby, or a wedding, or at a reunion after a long absence. They just beam with true joy.

In heaven, the joy going to exceed any joy felt down here. When we finally see Jesus, and we realize that the battle is over and that we have arrived at our eternal destination, the joy we feel is going to exceed any joy or pleasure or happiness that we ever felt at any time in our lives. For the first time, we will experience **"fulness of joy." (Psa 16:11) "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore."**

### **III. WE SHOULD GIVE ALL THE GLORY TO OUR ETERNAL SAVIOUR.**

- (Jude 1:25) "To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen."
- 1. All the glory is His.
- 2. All the majesty is His.
- 3. All the dominions are His.
- 4. All the power is His.

Do all for *His* glory, and *give* Him the glory:

- (1 Cor 1:30-31) "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: {31} That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."
- (Gal 6:14) "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."
- (1 Cor 10:31) "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
- (1 Cor 6:20) "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Are you a contender for the faith? Are you striving to make a difference in the lives of others? Let us be faithful in the fight, until we can say as Paul did, **(2 Tim 4:7-8) "I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: {8} Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."**

1. Rejoice in your eternal security.
2. Look forward to your eternal home.
3. Give all the glory to your eternal Saviour.

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>4</sup> "Believers flock to see statue 'weep' blood tears." James Hattori. November 28, 2005. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10237371/>

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid. Page 16.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. Pages 39-41.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. Pages 12-13.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. Page 13.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. Page 13.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. Page 18.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. Page 18.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. Page 64.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. Pages 18-20.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. Page 25.

<sup>29</sup> Sword of the Lord magazine. Volume LXXIII, No. 9. May 4, 2007.



<sup>30</sup> This essay was printed in the February 15, 1987 issue of the homosexual newspaper *Gay Community News* by Michael Swift, and was reprinted in the 15-21 February 1987 Congressional Record.

<sup>31</sup> Julie Nemecek. "Soulfence, Willow Creek and Me."

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<sup>32</sup> *Sword of the Lord* magazine. January 2008.

<sup>33</sup> Dobson, Dr. James (2005). "Marriage Under Fire".

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