

## Jude 1-5 “The Perversion of God’s Grace”

10.11.17

Over the last several months we’ve looked at the three little epistles written by the Apostle John, as we’ve studied 1 John, 2 John and 3 John and we’ve talked extensively about the fact that the theme of those epistles could be summed up in one word: Truth. John was adamant that the Truth not be crushed by the false teachers of the day, and as we’ll see with Jude, he is concerned with no less.

### Jude 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup> Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. <sup>3</sup> Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. <sup>4</sup> For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. <sup>5</sup> Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

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Tonight we will begin our study of the powerful little book of Jude that was written by the half brother of Jesus. Tonight we’re going to attempt to wrap our minds around who Jude is and why he wrote this book and why it applies to us today. To begin let’s be reminded that Jude is indeed the half-brother of Jesus. Why “half-brother?” Because God was Jesus’ father, not Joseph.

### Matthew 13:55

Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

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Where’s Jude? I see a “Judas.” Yeah, that’s him. Judas is the Greek name and Jude is the Hebrew name. Yes, Jude is the half-brother of Jesus and the full brother of James, who would lead the church in Jerusalem after Jesus ascended to heaven. We have a NT book by James as well, of course.

Now, I want you to notice something in verse 1. Jude was so humble, he wouldn’t say he was the half-brother of Jesus... Instead he called himself a “doulos” -a bondservant, a slave.

### Jude 1:1

<sup>1</sup> Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

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But, you know what’s interesting, even though Jude grew up with Jesus in the same house, he didn’t believe until after the resurrection. John 7:5 sums up this sentiment:

### John 7:5

<sup>5</sup> For not even his brothers believed in him.

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Listen, Jude didn’t get a pass into heaven just because he was Jesus’ brother. No, something happened after the resurrection. Jesus had just ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives just above the Garden of Gethsemane, 40 days after his resurrection.

### **Acts 1:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

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You see, Mary and his brothers (better translation: brothers and sisters) had to receive Jesus by faith too. There are no exemptions. Parents, please take note that just because your kids are growing up in your godly home, it doesn't mean they receive Jesus by osmosis and they can't ride on your coattails into heaven. They must receive Jesus on their own. They must own their own faith.

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Look back at verse 1. Did you see how Jude described being part of the family of God? (Notice the word: kept.)

### **Jude 1:1**

<sup>1</sup> Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

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Kept for Jesus. Isn't that a cool statement? We're kept for Jesus by God! Talk about security and protection! And how are we kept? In "mercy, peace and love."

### **Jude 1:2**

<sup>2</sup> May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

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Now, Jude is writing to primarily Jewish audience (and we'll see this with the many OT examples coming up where he'll make his point that these false teachers will get their due).

Now, we don't know exactly where this letter was distributed, but it was likely to the churches in Asia Minor. Again, like we saw in 1, 2, 3 John, the people are under severe persecution, because this letter was written in the mid-60's AD. Nero was on the throne in Rome there was severe persecution. So, Jude was going to write to these people to encourage them in their salvation, but felt he couldn't!

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### **Jude 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

What is: "Common Salvation?" It's the salvation that we all enjoy. We all get the same salvation (we'll talk about this on Sunday) We get heaven and we get Jesus. Yes, there are rewards we earn, but the salvation we get is "common" to all. But, Jude couldn't write about this. It was necessary that he appealed (begged) them to **CONTEND FOR THE FAITH** against these false teachers.

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### **Jude 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

It's interesting, the Apostle Peter had predicted these false teachers would come and Jude says, "They're here!" Look down at verses 17-18 as Jude notes this prophecy.

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### **Jude 1:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions."

That's found here:

### **2 Peter 3:3**

<sup>3</sup> knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

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Scoffers...those who mock. We have them today don't we? They mock Christians at every turn because we hold up the teachings of the Bible and the absolutes of God's Word and they hate us for it. It calls them to an accountability and they don't want accountability. They want to follow their own sinful desires...ungodly passions. So, what do we do...cower in a corner? No! We **contend for the faith**.

"Contend" is a military term and it's the Greek word: e-PAG-ōh-Nizomai-it means to agonize in battle. It only appears here in the New Testament. It's as if Jude is saying, as saints of God, we better pick up our trumpets and sound the alarm: People are trying to destroy the Faith. The word is also used for athletic settings...athletes straining to the finish line.



No, the Christian life is not lived in a rocking chair or sitting on a pillow. No! We're straining for Christ...striving to get the truth of who He really is to people. But, listen. As we contend, we don't have to be contentious. I heard a man say this last week, "Sharing the Gospel today must be done using a velvet covered brick." That's where we share the Gospel in gentleness and respect.



**The Gospel is a brick, because it shatters us. It shatters our self-righteousness and anything in our lives that we might use to save ourselves. The brick destroys our glass of pride and we ultimately lie broken before Jesus and only He can fix us.**

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**These false teachers were full of pride and they had crept into the church. Look back at verse 4.**

### **Jude 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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They “crept” in. One commentator said they were “the creeps, who crept in.” They faked being Christians. They pretended to be ministers of the Gospel, like the men in 2 John... posing as itinerant preachers, yet they were Satan’s counterfeits. The Apostle Paul dealt with these kinds of false teachers in Galatia:

### **Galatians 2:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—<sup>5</sup> to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

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I like that last phrase, “**so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.**” You see, that’s what we’re trying to do here folks. We’re trying to get the Gospel to the next generation and preserve the truth of Jesus Christ. It reminds me of this scene from a movie...anyone know what this is?



That’s Rey from the movie *Rogue One* of the Star Wars movies trying to get the plans for how to destroy the Death Star, which was being used by Darth Vader to destroy the Galactic Republic. They got it out, just in time as Darth Vader was breathing down their necks. They got the disk through a door just in time.

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And now a new movie is coming out at Christmas called: *The Last Jedi*. And it’s in this upcoming movie that I believe we’ll see the culmination of this scene from Rogue One...



I believe Luke will train Rey and that will be fantastic to see.

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Now of course, all of this is fiction, but our young people understand it and the thing I love about Star Wars is that it has tied together my generation to my children’s generation.

So, here’s the point...just as that disk had to be passed on and the training had to be passed on...and that’s true of our faith in Jesus. We have to contend for the faith, by training and teaching and equipping and passing on the faith.

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You see, personally, I understand the role I play in trying to pass along the faith of Jesus to my granddaughters. These little ladies...



As much as I loved seeing their faces light up with wonder and joy on “It’s a Small World” at Disney... I want them to come to know Jesus. I’ve got to pass along the faith to them (of course, Josh and Katy will), but as you get older, there is a deep sense of YOUR SPOT IN TIME on this earth. What will be said of me? Have I made a mark? Created a godly legacy?

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Sometimes I’ll go over to the Prayer Chapel to pray or even walk around the outside of the building and pray and I did that this week and I took this picture.



Do you see the date on that? 1875. This church was founded just 10 years after the end of the Civil War. Think about that. This church has been here for 142 years and the question that came to my mind was: “Kevin, if the Lord doesn’t come back for another 100 years, what, if anything will be said about you and Mt. Pleasant under your leadership? Will the church be known as a people who proclaimed the orthodox truth of Scripture or will we give in to the false teaching of our day?”

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Remember the job of the church is to faithfully proclaim the truth of who Jesus is. But, that truth is being perverted today, just like it was in Jude’s day.

#### **Jude 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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## What is perversion? The Dictionary definition is:

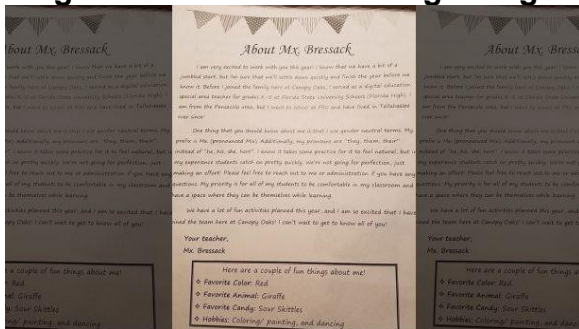
### Perversion

1. the alteration of something from its original course, meaning, or state, to a distortion or corruption of what was first intended.
  2. sexual behavior or desire that is considered abnormal or unacceptable.
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**Are we seeing the alteration of things from their original course or meaning in our culture? Are we seeing distortions of what was first intended? How about the definition of marriage? How about the definition of a baby versus a blob of tissue? How about the national anthem? How about how you are to address a female teacher in the classroom? This is Canopy Elementary School in Tallahassee, Florida.**



**A school teacher there sent home this letter with her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at the beginning of the school year. Notice the top of the letter.**



**The teacher said she preferred to be called Ms. Bressack (pronounced Mix), instead of Miss. She said she would use gender-neutral terms in the classroom. She said, that she would teach the use of pronouns such as: “they, them, their” instead of “he, his, she, hers.” She said, “I know it takes some practice for it to feel natural, but in my experience, students catch on pretty quickly.”**

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Well, it didn't catch on, because the parents in Leon County wouldn't stand for this radical agenda to change that which has been the normal course of addressing boys and girls to this confusing distortion for those children.

As the phone calls and emails poured into the Tallahassee school office of Leon County, eventually the parents determination paid off and the School District announced that “Ms. Bressack would be transferred to an adult basic education program effective immediately.” The School Superintendent Rocky Hanna said: “Given the complexity of this issue, we both agreed a different environment would be best for [her] educational career and for the young students at Canopy Oaks.”

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Listen church family, this is a modern-day example of that which is a perversion of what Jesus taught about how God made them male and female and this lady is bringing her confusion into the classroom she's passing on this confusion to her students who are as young as 8 and 9 years old. Thankfully the Superintendent had a backbone and the parents spoke up.

You see, more moms and dads need to start speaking up about what is right and wrong and truth. Listen, every day, there's another Canopy Oaks in the news, trying to force this kind of dangerous, progressive, liberal, indoctrination on students, and these are just the ones we hear about. We are called to be salt and light and it's time for more Christian parents to run for their local school boards and it's time that Christians run for county commissioner and as mayors, because if we don't, we'll see the false teaching take hold and destroy and pervert that which was once true.

Listen, today's headlines about the "MX Bressack's" of the world WILL BECOME tomorrow's policies in government and they will become the law of the land. If you don't believe it, just look at the decisions coming out of so many of our liberal courts. The only way to stop headlines like this one out of FL is for moms and dads to get involved in local government today *before* bad decisions and bad laws are made! We must contend for the faith!

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Look at verse 5 and we'll see how Jude reminds them of something he's already told them...

**Jude 1:5**

<sup>5</sup> Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

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Jesus saved a people out of Egypt? What? He meant God, right? No. He meant Jesus and that's the point! **Jude was making this point as an affront to the false doctrine that Jesus wasn't divine.**

**Jude was saying that Jesus has always existed with God. Yes, He came as a baby to this earth in the incarnation, but He has always existed with God and so, it was He that SAVED A PEOPLE out of the land of Egypt AND it was JESUS who destroyed those who did not believe.**

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**Remember that? Moses came down with the Ten Commandments and they were worshipping the golden calf...**



**Let me just say there was a lot of sexual perversion taking place in what they were doing and God punished them for their unbelief and returning to the worship of the false gods of Egypt. And thus, all those 20 year old and older died out for their unbelief.**

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**Listen, these false teachers will die out too. And so will the sexual revolution that has happened in America. It will eventually implode on itself and all of this confusion and perversion will ultimately be destroyed by the truth of God. God's plans will not be thwarted.**

Church, we have to contend for the faith...strain for the truth, pass on the baton of faith to our children, fight and train to the end. I want people to look back on our time on this earth as a church and say, "Those folks of 2017...they stood for that which was right and true...they contended for the faith!" ☺