



Go for God!

The Epistle of JUDE (v1-7) ***“Contend For The Faith!”***

> **Date written:** A.D. 68

Author: Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, brother of James.

Theme: Jude writes to us regarding our common salvation and how we are to earnestly contend for the faith! He establishes through the Holy Spirit an arena of spiritual battle whereas we knock out the false teachers with the right hand of truth by maintaining that Jesus is the Christ, then a left hook of godly salvation, finally an upper cut of sound biblical doctrine. Technical knockouts will be declared against these heretics because of their false teachings on grace, sin, Christ, sex, authority (divine & human), Christian unity and “last things.”

- Jude points toward the judgment that will come upon perverts and apostates, while persuading his readers to wage a vigorous ***“defense of the faith”*** by intensifying spiritual disciplines for themselves (v20-21), plus evangelistic concern for others. (v22-23).

> **Two prominent evils plagued the Church in the late apostolic and post-apostolic times:**

(1) ***ANTINOMIANISM*** - The *antinomians* claimed grace had liberated them from moral law. They reasoned that, since grace can forgive any sin, it does not really matter what one does, for grace will abound the more where there is great sin (cf. Rom. 3:8; 6:1,15). In this way the heretics turned the grace of God into an excuse for bold immoralities (4,18-19). Across the centuries antinomians have repeatedly arisen within the Church. And “there are still many,” writes William Barclay, “who in their heart of hearts trade upon God’s forgiveness, and who make the grace of God an excuse to sin.”

(2) ***GNOSTICISM*** - *Gnosticism* took a bewildering variety of forms, but basically it teaches salvation through knowledge (gnosis) instead of through a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Its underlying assumption was that the universe is dualistic, composed of matter (which is inherently evil) and of spirit (which is essentially and absolutely good). Consequently Gnosticism could not accept incarnation of Christ. The Gnostics therefore denied the unity of the Godhead and the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only Mediator of creation, revelation, redemption, and judgment. For them sin had no real “moral seriousness,” and hence there was no real necessity for the atoning work of Christ as the only way to pardon and purity.

> ***Let’s look at Jude’s three C’s for combat:***

#1 - The Call (v1-2)

- ***“bondservant”*** - *doulos* - a **willing** servant

- ***“called”*** - *kletos* - those who were called in the sense of being invited, for instance, to a banquet. The call to **repentance** and an **act of faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

- ***“mercy, peace & love be multiplied”*** - “Love” here is *agape*, that divine love which God is and which is shed abroad in the heart of the **yielded** saint.

#2 - The Contenders (v3-4)

(v3) ***“contend”*** - an athletic term, we get our English word agonize. This reveals an Olympic athlete training to the limits, strength and stamina.

> **How does the church contend for the faith?**

- **First, Biblical Leadership** - Ephesians 4:11-16

- **Second, study the Apostles doctrine**- Acts 2:42

- **Third, develop Good Doctrine**- 1 Timothy 3:16-4:6

- **Fourth, declare Sound Doctrine**- 2 Timothy 4:1-8

(v4) **Watch out for the Pretenders!** - Their character: ***“ungodly, lewd, denial of the Lord Jesus Christ”***

Warren Wiersbe writes, “How could false brethren get into true assemblies of the saints? *The soldiers had gone to sleep at the post!* The spiritual leaders in the churches had grown complacent and careless. This explains why Jude had to “blow the trumpet” to wake them up. Our Lord and His Apostles all warned that false teachers would arise, yet the churches did not heed the warnings. Sad to say, some churches are not heeding the warnings today.”

#3 - The Conflict (v5-7)

(v5) The knockout punch - “**UNBELIEF**” (Numbers Ch. 13 & 14)- Champions - Joshua & Caleb, “***Victory through faith!***”

(v6) The knockout punch - “**REBELLION**” (Genesis Ch. 6; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 Peter 3:19-20) – Champion – Noah, “***Preacher of Righteousness***”

(v7) The knockout punch - “**LUST**” (Genesis Ch. 19; 2 Peter 2:7-8)- Champion - Lot, “***Righteous Lot***”

- Paul said at the end of his life- “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*” - 2 Tim 4:7-8