

The 5th Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 5, 2023
“Contend For the Faith: A Study Through the Book of Jude
~ The Rules of Engagement”
Jude 1:1-13

INTRODUCTION

“Although I was very eager to write to you concerning 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.” (Jude 1:3)

“For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

contend = *epagonizomai* =

Cultivating a wartime mentality: The 3 “C’s”

#1. _____.

“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, who are beloved in God the Father and kept safe for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.” (Jude 1:1-2)

Before he leads us into the trenches of spiritual conflict, Jude wants us to clearly understand our true _____, in order to _____ us prepare us for battle.

Calling = _____, _____, sovereign work of the Holy Spirit who, through the preaching of the _____, draws people into union with Jesus Christ, works new _____ into their hearts, enlightens their understandings, inclines their _____, and gives them the gift of saving faith.

“Those whom God has predestined He also called and those whom He called He also justified and those whom He justified He also glorified.” (Romans 8:30)

Calling is not about us—it’s all about God’s _____.

God in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, summons those who were once _____ in their trespasses and sin, to step alive out of the grave of their natural condition into the new _____ that they’re called to be in Christ.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...” (Ephesians 2:4)

When we were called to new life through the Gospel, we were placed directly in the path of the _____ of God, whose very nature is love.

If you’re a believer, you are the _____ that the Father has prepared for the Son.

Despite everything that God’s done for us in Christ, despite who are are in Him, we still need _____—everyday.

We can’t march to war if _____ or _____ grip our heart.

Jude wants us to begin by looking back, and grounding our _____ in the sovereign call and the perfect love and keeping of Almighty God. Then he wants us to look forward, clinging to God for _____—more resources, fresh help, new mercy, more peace, deeper love.

#2. _____.

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (Jude 1:4)

The enemy’s two lines of attack: a _____ assault and a _____ assault.

Although these two things typically go together, Jude puts _____ compromise first. This is because it’s so easy to _____ from the path and reject God’s truth when we’re driven by a desire to make room for, or _____, sin. Or when we _____ Jesus in our own image so that He won’t demand more of us than we’re prepared to give.

These false teachers were perverting the grace of God by insisting on _____ holiness.

A general rule of thumb: whenever you spot a theological error, look for a _____ because very often that’s the real driver for the decay of truth in the church or in an individual’s life

Without moral _____ we can easily fall. This often begins when

there is a _____ between the truth we profess and how we live. “...the Gospel trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age.” (Titus 2:11-12)

#3. _____.

Character = the inner _____ that make up and distinguish us individuals. It’s about who we are _____ on the inside, and not just what we say and do on the outside. Character, or lack there of, can say a lot about an individual.

“A tree is known by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad.” (Matthew 12:3)

“These people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones...” (Jude 1:8)

“...these are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; loudmouth boasters showing favouritism to gain advantage.” (Jude 1:16)

We can see three key characteristics of these false teachers in these two verses:

- They _____ authority.
- They are filled with _____.
- They are _____ moral failures.

Over and over again, Jude is saying that although these false teachers think they _____ better than God, they’re really governed by pride; they reject God’s authority, and are locked in moral failure.

What we say about ourselves matters. However, who we are and how we _____ matters more. Saying you follow Jesus is one thing. What matters, however, is actually following Him in all the _____ of your life. It’s a matter of _____, and it’s all about character.

CONCLUSION

The harsh truth is: A Christian who doesn’t struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil is a Christian who has fallen either into sin or _____. A Christian who has no conflict is Christian who has _____ from the battle.

According to Jude there are three things that we can do to respond to this spiritual reality.

- Acknowledge the _____ of this spiritual conflict that we’re engaged in.
- Seek, with God’s help, to live _____ lives. A mere _____ of faith isn’t enough—we need to live the life or we’ll remain as _____ to the darkness as we ever were.
- _____. Remember our calling. Remember God’s love for us. Remember the keeping, preserving power of the Holy Spirit. And remember there’s always _____ mercy, peace, and love available to us as we head into the fight.

“The battle belongs to the Lord!” (1 Samuel 17:47)

ADDITIONAL NOTES