

**JUDE 1:3-4**  
**FAITH THREATENED FROM WITHIN!**  
**PART 3**

Please turn in your Bible this morning to Jude chapter 1, since there is only one chapter, and we are currently doing an in-depth study of Jude.

This morning we are in part 3 of our 4-part study on contending for the faith that has been entrusted to us. In other words, this faith that has been given to us is unchanging. What was spoken by Jude and the rest of the writers of the Bible is for us as much as it was for the people of their day. It is unchanging!

Now for some of you, you may be feeling, ***“Why are we going through all of this. I know the Bible, I know what I believe and thus, this is a waste of time for me!”***

Be careful with that kind of thinking. Because, as I have said before, I have seen people who I thought were grounded in the Word of God be swayed by false teachers with their false doctrine!

In fact, with some of them, when they deviated from the truths of God found in the Word of God, it blew me away and it truly saddened me to see how easily people can be swayed by these false teachers with their false doctrine.

That is one of the reasons why we are digging into this.

The other reason is that we need to stand up for what we believe in. We need to stand up for the truths of God found in the Word of God and not be a Casper milk toast! In other words, we are not to be timid, we are not to be passive, we are not to be unassertive in what we say we believe!

In part 1 of our study, we looked at – *FAITH ONCE DELIVERED!*

And we saw, like I have said, that this faith, the Gospel message is unchanging. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We are not saved by good works, not even just a little good works.

You see, how we live out our faith, by doing good, shows that we are saved, it does not save us. Jesus saves us!

That is Paul’s point in Ephesians 2:8-9 where he wrote, “**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**”

And if you don’t get that, let me turn up the volume and listen to what The Amplified Bible has to say regarding these verses. “**For it is by free grace (God’s unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ’s salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law’s demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]**”

I think that is very clear.

Last time, in part 2 of our study, we looked at – ***FAITH TO CONTEND FOR!***

And we saw how this faith that has been entrusted to us we must contend for. We are not to compromise what we believe to make people feel better about living in sin. We are to proclaim the Gospel message with boldness and not water it down. And, of course, we are to do this in love but what has happened is that we think that to love people we have to make them feel good about the way that they are living. Not at all. The whole reason that everyone needs a Savior is because they need to be saved from their sin – ***EVERYONE!***

This morning, in part 3 of our study, we will be looking at – ***FAITH THREATENED FROM WITHIN!***

And let me say this, there is a big threat against our faith, not from those outside the church, but from within!

I do understand why the unsaved come against us, but when those who profess to be Christians, and I am not sure they are, come against the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is heartbreaking because the world is looking at this and they don't know what to believe!

And the danger here is that if the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been changed, then what people are believing in for their salvation is vanity, it is empty, and they will end up in hell believing they are heading for heaven. That is why it is so dangerous!

Let me ask you this question.

Do you know the difference between first degree murder and second degree murder?

It is just one word – ***PREMEDITATION!***

What that means is that if you plan to kill someone and carry through with that plan, you deliberately kill someone, it is more serious of a crime, it is first degree murder.

With second degree murder you may commit the crime in the heat of the moment, but you did not go out looking to kill that person, there was no intent on your part.

Now both are bad and with this watering down, changing the Gospel message, it is premeditated murder because you have sent a person to hell by what you have told them! That is how dangerous this is. The Scriptures are clear on what the Gospel message is all about, how we are saved, and you premeditated this false teaching and you are killing the people you are sharing this with!

I guess you can call it – ***THE GOSPEL RESET!***

Listen to this article from May 22, 2022, not that long ago and I think the trend for the church in general is downward, it is getting worse. We are told.

A new poll finds that just 4% of executive pastors have a biblical worldview. Has the church now become compromised?

For many years, I have stated that a major reason America is so messed up is that much of the ***American Church*** is also messed up. And a major reason that so much of the American Church is messed up is that so many Christian leaders are also messed up. The domino effect is quite real.

Church leaders greatly influence their followers, for better or for worse. And since Christian believers are called to be the ***salt of the earth*** and the ***light of the world***, if we are not fulfilling our moral and spiritual duties, this will have a deleterious effect on the nation.

And how, exactly, do Church leaders influence their followers? They do it by their message and by their example. If they are preaching rightly and living rightly, they will produce healthy congregants. If their preaching is unbiblical and their lifestyle is compromised, they will produce unhealthy congregants.

To be sure, America is not as influenced by the pulpit as it was in 1873, when Charles Finney preached, *“If the public press lacks moral discrimination . . . If the church is degenerate and worldly . . . If the world loses its interest in religion . . . If Satan rules in our halls of legislation . . . If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our government are ready to fall away, the pulpit is responsible for it.” . . .*

As I wrote in 2017,

*“We have believed that we should blend in and not rock the boat, showing the non-believers around us that we’re no different than they are. But while it’s important to be contributing members of the society, and while we’re called to be peacemakers not troublemakers, we are also called to swim against the tide and go against the grain. We are called to show the world a better way.*

*Sadly, many Christian leaders have put more emphasis on discovering what’s trending in society than learning what’s on God’s heart. In their quest to become relevant, they have become irrelevant.”*

- <https://bit.ly/40UBrHl>

Again, the reason we are taking our time in this portion of Scripture is because in the days we are living in we are seeing this apostasy growing in the church and we need to be able to stand strong against it. The Bible has warned us, the bigger question is – ***ARE WE***

***LISTENING!***

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in Jude chapter 1, beginning in verse 3 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic – ***FAITH THREATENED FROM WITHIN!***

**JUDE 1****VERSES 3-4**

What was bothering Jude so much that he had to write about it?

Not only were believers not contending for the faith that has been entrusted to them, but many have allowed false teachers with their false doctrine to come right into the church and proclaim their doctrines of demons!

Now that may seem harsh, and it is. But if the teaching is not from God, then where is it from? It is a doctrine of demons; those are the only two choices you have.

And these were not pagans or unsaved people that came into the church, they claimed to be Christians, at least that is what they claimed! In reality, they were – ***PRETENDERS!***

And they rose up from the ranks of the church into positions where they can now teach people their false doctrines.

What were they focusing on?

First, we see that they turned “**. . . the grace of our God into licentiousness . . .**” Jude 1:4.

And then, the grace of God is so rich and deep that you can do whatever you want, and God will forgive you. In fact, the more you sin the more of God’s grace is put on display!

What is the point here?

It is this. They took the wonderful gift of grace, and they turned it into immoral living. In other words, you can do whatever you want because it is all under grace! Foolishness!

And the outcome, as man does what is in his own heart, is that it leads to an immoral lifestyle, sexual promiscuity! You could indulge in anything you wanted because the reality is, it is the spirit that was important not the flesh.

That is Gnosticism and it is something that John dealt with in his epistles.

What do the Scriptures say in regard to doing anything you want because it truly is the spirit that is important and not the flesh, and the reality is, it is all under grace!

Paul wrote in Romans 6:1-2, **“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”**

Paul is speaking of habitual sin, and should we continue in that so that grace may abound!

And Paul says, *“Of course not!” “Perish the thought!” “God forbid!”* Or to put it in our vernacular, *“What are you, nuts?”*

Paul says we have, **“died to sin”** and it is in the past tense meaning a specific point when that occurred, and it speaks of the day we were saved, it was then that we were dead to sin, or should be!

Keep in mind that we were once dead in sins, (Ephesians 2:1), but now we are dead to sin. In other words, sin no longer has power over us; it is not the lord of our life. It doesn't mean that sin is gone, it is not extinct, we just are not slaves to it, under its power! We are surrendered to the Holy Spirit and by His power we are not in bondage to sin any longer!

And what we are seeing today is that what the Bible says about immoral living is being replaced with love! In other words, don't worry about what sin you are doing, God is love and that is all that matters.

The problem with that is Jude tells us, as well as many other places in the Bible, that “... who long ago were marked out for this condemnation . . .” Jude 1:4.

In other words, if that is the game you want to play, look out because God will judge you for your sins!

And let me be clear on this, and I shared these words with you before. Charles Spurgeon put it like this, and it is vital we understand this. He wrote, “*The Church does not determine what the Bible teaches, it is the Bible that determines what the Church must teach.*”

If you lose that perspective, then what will happen is that anything and everything will go. There is no foundation to build your life upon except what you feel is right and what you feel is wrong, and that is not the way we are to live out our faith, not at all!

Let me share these thoughts with you about what has happened in Europe and what is rapidly happening in America today. We are told,

There are numerous reasons for the decline of Christianity in Europe. Two world wars have scarred the minds of many Europeans: People wondered where God was.

Other factors are at work.

One of the most interesting observations I have heard came from a Lutheran bishop in Sweden. At a dinner in Lund, I asked her how things were in her diocese. She said people attended bingo nights during the week in far greater numbers than worship services on Sunday.

I asked why.



She suggested that the socialism of the Swedish government was a significant reason. The government had taken over the role that used to belong to the church. Instead of the church bringing meals to the ill or cleaning their house or providing a ride to the doctor, the government provided all of these services. The church had lost its role in society. Whatever the causes for the decline of Christianity in Europe, the reality of its decline is undeniable.

- <https://bit.ly/3nhxpuK>

In other words, the church has become lazy and is interested in what it can get instead of what it can give!

And I have even seen that here in our little town. I rarely get asked about what we teach here at Calvary when someone calls to ask for information. The big questions are: ***Do you have single people in your church? What kind of programs do you have? How long is your service?***

Years ago I had one grandparent say why they left the church and it was basically because we don't have all the bells and whistles that other churches have for the children even though they know that some of the teaching at this other church was wrong!

There is the danger, not just for the adults but for the children as they are being taught things that ***just might not be Biblical!***

Now please understand that these false teachers with their false doctrine is not something that is new. It has been around since the church got its start in Acts and today, I see it growing more and more as we move towards the return of the Lord and the start of the Tribulation Period!

Remember in Acts chapter 20, we see Paul stop at Miletus and there he meets with the Ephesian elders and one of the things that he said to them was, **“Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”** Acts 20:26-27.

Why did Paul feel that he was not guilty?

Because he shared with them **“the whole counsel of God.”** In other words, he gave to them the Gospel message, he gave to them the Word of God and he did not water it down or compromise what the Bible said to make people comfortable, not offend them. He spoke the truths of God found in the Word of God.

Now consider this. If we tell people what they want to hear, not what God has spoken once and for all (see Hebrews 1:1-2), can we like Paul say, ***“I am innocent of the blood of all men”?***

We have to remember that the things of God, the Word of God is more important than the temporal success in building a ministerial career or being popular!

It is from this point we see Paul admonish them and warn them of what they would face in ministry and what they were to do to combat these things.

In Acts 20:28-32 Paul said this, **“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”**

To these pastors, Paul wants them to understand that the people, the sheep that have been entrusted to them, they need to take care of them, watch over them because Jesus purchased them with the shedding of His blood!

Why this warning? Why did Paul want them to understand that these people did not just come but they were purchased by God and thus, they needed to care for them!

The reason is simple. Paul says that when he goes **“savage wolves”** are going to come in and not only from outside the church, but from within the church itself these wolves will rise up. How will we know them? He says that you will know them by not only what they teach, but their desire is to draw people to themselves and not the Lord!

And here is the big problem that I have spoken of, but it bears repeating. Many today are preaching another Gospel and as one writer shows us, these false gospels are not worth dying for!

- The gospel of moral reform? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of save yourself through good works? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of social action and improvement? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of religious traditions? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of merely having spiritual conversations? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of mystical mumbo-jumbo? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel seeking the church of true hipness? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of self-esteem? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of ecological salvation? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of political correctness? Not worth dying for.
- The gospel of emergent church feel-goodism? Not worth dying for.

- <http://enduringword.com/commentaries/4420.htm>

We put our lives on the line for the Gospel of Jesus Christ! I think Spurgeon sums it up for us what the true Gospel does in the lives of those who not only believe it, but it affects their lives so much that they live it and share it.

He wrote, *“Yet there used to be a gospel in the world which consisted of facts which Christians never questioned. There was once in the church a gospel which believers hugged to their hearts as if it were their soul’s life. There used to be a gospel in the world, which provoked enthusiasm and commanded sacrifice. Tens of thousands have met together to hear this gospel at peril of their lives. Men, to the teeth of tyrants, have proclaimed it, and have suffered the loss of all things, and gone to prison and to death for it, singing psalms all the while. Is there not such a gospel remaining?”*

That is a great question, and like I have shared with you, only the true Gospel of Jesus Christ is worth living and dying for! All the other false gospels are worthless, and they truly are not worth living for and they are not worth dying for!

Many are confused today about the Gospel. What is the Gospel?

Listen closely because Paul gives us a summation of it for us as he wrote in I Corinthians 15:1-4, **“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”**

That is what Paul delivered to the people and it should be what we are giving to them!

But here come these wolves in to devour the sheep with their false doctrine and we as a body of believers need to rise up and fight against these false doctrines that are coming into the church! And they are truly flooding in as people are not contending for *the faith* much anymore!

Notice that as these wolves in sheep’s clothing will come into the church, they will be allowed into the church to teach **“perverse things.”**

The Greek word is, **DIASTREPHO**, (dee-as-tref'-o) and the idea here is to twist God's Word, to twist God's truth for their own perverted ways, to get them to follow them or drag them away.

And isn't that exactly what Satan does! He twists the Word of God so that he makes it say what he wants to keep people out of heaven and to keep them ineffective in their walk with the Lord!

I want to take a few minutes just to share with you how false teaching by false teachers are leading people away from the truths of God found in the Word of God!

The Bible Project has produced numerous videos on biblical subjects, some of them quite good. These can be found on YouTube and the videos are used by many churches, particularly in youth ministries. Tim Mackie has many sermons on YouTube as well. It can be stated that Mackie and Bible Project have millions of followers. . . .

Transcribed portions from the above video:

- 36:10 [These] gods hate you and they're going to kill you or send plague on your flocks or something like that, and so what you need to do is kill this animal so that it can die instead of the gods killing you.
- 36:30 And once the god has their pound of flesh then they'll leave you alone and be happy with you. And what we do is read that story onto the story of what's happening here, and then we bring Jesus into it and what we end up with is a story that says, God's perfect he's holy and he's perfect, you're not so God has to kill you, he has to kill you. He needs His pound of flesh to, in the name of His justice, and so he's gonna kill you because he's angry at you.
- 37:05 But instead he's gonna kill Jesus and he takes out his anger on Jesus and then he allows you after you die to go to the good place and not the bad place, you can sing forever the praises of the God who didn't kill you. How you guys doing? Now some of you, I'm creating a caricature, but for some of us, you might think like, yeah, isn't that the story of Christianity, isn't that what Christians believe?

Mackie then says:

- 37:56 If you read the character of God in the Old Testament you'd be able to spot what I just said to you as a total distortion and perversion of God's character and of the good news and of the meaning of atonement.

Such a twisted understanding of the Scriptures. What Mackie is doing here is presenting a “social” atonement, not Penal Atonement. This can be further seen by what he says next in the video where he describes “atonement” as being more related to how we as people hurt the world when we aren't nice to each other. Whether he realizes it or not, he is rejecting biblical atonement.

What Mackie doesn't say about the atonement is as bad as what he does say. He does not acknowledge in this sermon (that he said was a sermon on the definition of atonement) that Jesus is God in the flesh and was a perfect sinless sacrificial lamb whose blood was shed for the atoning of sin.

And for a sermon on atonement, he neglects to include the Scripture that says: “without shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22). Rather than saying any of these things, instead, he says, Jesus is “going to be the human that you and I are all created and called to be but perpetually failed to be” (44:36)

Mackie's position on the Penal Substitutionary Atonement is right in line with author/theologian N.T. Wright. Three of Wright's books are on Tim Mackie's Recommended List, and Wright has been interviewed by Mackie several times. In his review of Wright's book, *The Day the Revolution Began*, T. C. Moore notes: Wright bluntly critiques popular notions of the meaning of Jesus's Cross as “pagan”- particular portrayals that center around the idea of an angry God demanding the blood sacrifice of an innocent human victim.

- <https://bit.ly/3LKX604>

Tim Mackie and his Bible Project videos has millions of followers and if he is denying the blood atonement and people are believing that lie, then are they saved? I don't believe they are for Paul said, "**And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**" Hebrews 9:22. (See also Leviticus 17:11)

And there are many more Scriptures that speak of the blood of Jesus Christ being shed to cleanse us from our sins. I will give you just a few because a bloodless Gospel is an empty and worthless Gospel!

First of all, in I John 1:7 we are told, "**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**"

Listen again to what he said, "**. . . the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**" And in the Greek, it speaks of a continual cleansing.

We need that because we do sin but understand that John is not speaking of our salvation here, but again, our fellowship.

You see, the blood of Christ has cleansed us from all our sins in a positional sense.

But if we ignore our sins, it can hinder our relationship with God, a practical sense.

But what about our salvation? Does the blood of Christ save us?

You bet it does! We are told in Colossians 1:19-20, "**For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.**"



Sin has caused us to be at war with God, but Jesus came and paid in full the penalty for our sins and thus, we are no longer at war with God, but we can have peace through the shed blood of Jesus Christ!

And in Ephesians 1:7 Paul once again speaks of our redemption through the shed blood of Christ as he wrote, ***“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”***

And one more dealing with our salvation and that is found in Romans 5:9 as Paul wrote, **“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”**

There are pastors, like Andy Stanley who has a huge church and following and yet, what he says about the Bible is troubling. Now you may not think this is a big deal, but it is. Let me ask you this question. How do you know anything about Jesus apart from the Bible?

Now some of you may say that you have experienced God and that is how you know Him.

You mean to tell me that your experience is more accurate than the Word of God? It is not and experiences can be misleading. The Word of God is truth, and we can trust it from Genesis through Revelation. In fact, Jesus believed the Word of God was truth and He rebuked the Jewish religious leaders for not knowing it!

Listen to what Andy Stanley said. We are told,

The recent now-deleted tweet by Andy Stanley, son of famed pastor emeritus of the First Baptist Church, Atlanta, reads:

***“The Christian faith doesn’t rise and fall on the accuracy of 66 ancient documents. It rises and falls on the identity of a single individual: Jesus of Nazareth.”***

Stanley’s tweet was taken from a sermon he preached on March 6 at Browns Bridge Church in Cumming, Georgia.

When first reading the tweet on social media, I was saddened and sickened. This kind of statement was all too familiar to me. I had often heard it made by the moderates and liberals who were in control of the Southern Baptist Convention back in the ‘80s. I had defended the faith against this kind of approach to the Scriptures in the Baptist Associations where I had served — a time when my support for the Bible as divine and totally without error was in the minority and marginalized. . . .

Unfortunately, Stanley’s view of the Bible is not uncommon today in many seminaries and various mainline denominations that were once faithful. It holds if one argues for the highest view of Scripture as the Church did in the past, then one is in danger of a form of idolatry, elevating the Bible above Jesus, and therefore, guilty of the sin of Bible worship. In other words, you can make the Bible even more important than Jesus. You can give the Bible a prominence the Lord himself didn’t give it.

This is a seductive and harmful argument for those who may not know any better. It's really a departure from the doctrine handed down by the Church, which has always maintained Christ, the Living Word, so identified himself with the Written Word, the Holy Scriptures, that no teacher can diminish the authority of one without also equally diminishing the authority of the other.

No one ever held a higher view of Scripture than Jesus did. In fact, over and again, Jesus encouraged everyone to judge his entire person and work by what the Scriptures said. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared he didn't come to oppose or supersede the Scriptures, but to fulfill them exactly - completely - to fulfill every "jot and tittle" (Mt. 5:17-20).

- <https://bit.ly/3LKdyO7>

Not only that, but again, listen to what Andy Stanley believes and is teaching millions of people to believe. We are told,

In 2016, he said, "If you don't go to a large church, you are so stinking selfish . . . and don't care about your kids" ("Andy Stanley's Problem with the Bible," [deliveredbygrace.com](http://deliveredbygrace.com), Mar. 31, 2016). . . .

Stanley holds a "tolerant" view of homosexuality. He says he has no intention of pushing a Christian agenda on other people (*The New Rules for Love, Sex and Dating*). He says that churches should not make people feel like they have to leave "because they're gay" ("Dr. Charles Stanley and Son Andy," *The Gospel Herald*, Apr. 23, 2015).

In a sermon entitled “When Gracie Met Truthy,” April 15, 2012, Stanley described a couple in his church who divorced when the wife discovered that her husband was in a sexual relationship with another man, and instead of disciplining the man, the church allowed the homosexual couple to move to another “campus” of North Point Church and work together as a “host” team. That’s not biblical grace; it is 2 Timothy 4:3-4 “after their own lusts” apostasy.

Stanley minimizes the importance of the virgin birth. “Stanley’s December 3, 2016, sermon may be the most controversial yet. In his sermon, Stanley minimized the importance - if not the reality - of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. ‘A lot of people don’t believe it, and I understand that,’ Stanley said.

He added, ‘Maybe the thought is they had to come up with some kind of myth about the birth of Jesus to give him street cred later on. Maybe that’s where that came from’ (*Baptist News Global*, ‘Virgin Birth Debate Interrupts Regular ‘War on Christmas’ Program,’ 12-21-16).

Stanley then noted that it is interesting that only two of the four gospels mention the virgin birth, and said ‘Christianity doesn’t hinge on the truth or even the stories around the birth of Jesus . . . It really hinges on the resurrection of Jesus.’

Earlier this year, Stanley minimized the importance of the role Scripture plays in the life of the believer, and minimizing the importance of the virgin birth of Christ is simply the next step in this downward trajectory. . . .

Stanley consistently disparages the Bible.

In 2009, he said that preaching through the Bible verse-by-verse “isn’t how you grow people. . . . No one in the Scripture modeled that. There’s not one example of that” (*The Exchange with Ed Stetzer*, Mar. 5, 2009). . . .

In 2014, Stanley said, “Don’t say the Bible says. Say the author’s name who wrote the Bible” (Stanley, *Deep and Wide*). . . .

In 2016, in a series “Who Needs God?” Stanley said, “If the Bible is the foundation of our faith, it’s all or nothing. Christianity becomes a ‘fragile house of cards’ religion. Christianity becomes a fragile house of cards that comes tumbling down when we discover that perhaps the walls of Jericho didn’t. . . . What your students have discovered, and if you read broadly you’ve discovered, it is next to impossible to defend the entire Bible. But if your Christianity hangs by the thread of proving that everything in the Bible is true, you may be able to hang onto it, but your kids and your grandkids and the next generation will not.”

- <https://bit.ly/3mp2BTT>

Now you may be thinking that I am going overboard on this. Really, what is the big deal about what he said. We are to worship Jesus, and do we really need to hold onto the Bible as if it is God?

We don’t hold the Bible as a God, but we do hold the Bible as the Word of God.

How does God view the Bible?

We don’t have to guess. In Psalm 138:2 we are told, “**I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**”

This is a very important statement considering the days we are living in. Many today teach and believe that the Word of God is dry, that we need a “*new thing*” to bring back spiritual revival, that the Word of God is not enough for our complex lives. They don’t believe it is truth!

Many people mock those who treasure God’s Word.

And yet David is saying that God places His Word above His name.

What does that mean?

That means that God's name, which speaks of His character, the sum-total of all that He is, that God holds His Word above all that He is!

Think about it. You can tell a person's character by how faithful they are to their word. In other words, God's Word is as good as He is. There is an old saying that a man is as good as his word. Well, God is as good as His Word. His character is behind what He has said.

Thus, God shows us by doing what He says. Let us never place the Word of God second to anything, for it is the Word of God that leads us to the giver of life, Jesus Christ. It strengthens us, gives us hope, it corrects us, and so on.

It is as Paul tells Timothy, "**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" II Timothy 3:16-17.

Now what happens when people, when church leaders, when churches begin to water down or downplay the Word of God?

One writer put it like this in regard to false teachers with their false doctrine and how they can get their teachings into the church. He wrote,

False teachers arise when the church begins to embrace the worldly culture around it. As a result, congregations no longer desire to "endure [hold to] sound [healthy] doctrine."

God-centered worship and preaching is replaced by man-centered antics and entertainment.

A biblical emphasis on sin, repentance, and holiness is replaced by an emphasis on self-esteem and felt needs.

People look for teachers who proclaim only pleasant, positive ideas “in accordance to their own desires” because they want “to have their ears tickled.”

As a result, these popular teachers (whom “they will accumulate for themselves”) will “turn” the minds of the people from the truth, leaving them vulnerable to Satan’s deceptive influence.

- John MacArthur

And that is exactly what we see in the church today! People tossed to and fro by the winds of doctrine that come blowing into the church! Paul talked about this in Ephesians 2:1-3 as he is admonishing the Ephesians not to allow that false teaching into their lives. He wrote, “**And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**”

Here is the picture that Paul is painting for us. He is telling us that outside of Christ people meander through life according to the course of this world or the world’s system of values apart from God.

And isn’t that exactly what we see in the world today as people try to satisfy their fleshly desires?

Of course it is!

In fact, the word “**desires**” implies that they are seeking after these things with great diligence, it is a willful act on their part and because of their sin the wrath of God will come upon their lives!

Apart from Christ, people are . . .

*Following the course of this world – whichever way the wind is blowing, they go!*

*The Prince of the power of the air – Satan – is directing their lives!*

And following Satan causes people to . . .

*Lust after the flesh!*

*Fulfill the desires of the flesh!*

*Fulfill the desires of the mind!*

*Be children of wrath!*

But here comes the problem. The church has opened its doors to the world’s influence and instead of following the Lord and His Word, they are following the course of this world and they are being tossed to and fro by the winds of doctrine that blow through the church! Instead of teaching and living by a Biblical Worldview, they are teaching and living by a Secular Worldview!

We also have the Pope telling us that there is no Hell!

Let’s think about that. According to the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope is to be the representative of Christ on this earth and yet, what he is teaching goes against what Jesus taught!

Now that may shock some but when you are teaching things that go against the Scriptures, you are not speaking for Jesus, you are not His representative!

Jesus spoke more about Hell than anyone in the Bible because it is a real place, and He doesn’t want anyone to go there!



So to deny there is a hell, then why do we need a Savior? What is this Savior going to save us from if there is no Hell? If there is no sin then we are not separated from God and thus, again, why do we need a Savior, a Bridge-builder?

Again, you move away from the Word of God, and you will come up with a salvation that is based on what you want it to be and not the reality of what our salvation is based upon.

Also, liberalism is not only entering the political landscape, but we also see it flooding into the church as well.

And with this liberal Christianity we see a justification by works, not the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

In other words, you have to be a nice person, avoid sin, and by doing this you will make yourself acceptable before God or considered a righteous person before God, you are justified.

It is interesting that this justification is by works and not by grace and I will let you in on a little secret. No one has entered the presence of God by his good works, because his good works are like filthy rags before God. Our good works don't negate the bad we have done and thus, we are not perfect and because of that we can't come before God!

The gospel or good news for a liberal is the discovery of his own potentialities, and he is perfectly confident that he can make it on his own without any help from anybody, including God.

What that means is that he does not need Jesus Christ as a Savior. He needs no Savior because he is quite able to cope, thank you. He may or may not think that *you* are okay, but he has no doubt that you *may be* okay and that he *is* okay. Give him the light and he will find his own way. This is the gospel of self-esteem.

And for those who are not receiving the Gospel of Jesus Christ, what the Bible says, listen to the warning that Paul gave to the Galatians and to those who are moving in this direction.

In Galatians 1:6-9 we are told, **“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”**

As you read this you can clearly see that Paul is amazed, he is astounded, he is bewildered that they have turned away from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and embracing a false gospel, a false Jesus! You see, by doing this they were turning away from Jesus!

And please understand that Paul didn't marvel that false teachers were teaching a false gospel, that is just what they do. No, he marveled that the Galatians, who he had personally taught the truth, were turning so quickly from that truth and buying into these lies.

This is the pain of every pastor. Believers who believe these lies of these false teachers!

Here Paul is speaking of these Judaizers who came in and recognized Jesus as the Messiah. They spoke of His sacrificial death. They not only believed on the Gospel message, but they tried to improve upon it by mixing the Law with Grace and adding anything to Grace only destroys it, as I have said.

Paul tells us in Romans 11:6, and this is from The Amplified Bible, **“But if it is by grace (His unmerited favor and graciousness), it is no longer conditioned on works or anything men have done. Otherwise, grace would no longer be grace [it would be meaningless].”**

I don't think that could be any clearer, and yet, when the deceivers come, they deceive the people! And the reason they are deceived is because they ignore what the Word of God has to say, and they listen to the words of men!

And what Paul wrote here in Galatians is for anyone who brings in a false gospel, leading people away from God, the God of the Bible - ***LET THEM BE ACCURSED!***

One writer gives us this insight into these destructive, dangerous teachings.

He tells us, ***"The most destructive dangers to the church have never been atheism, pagan religions, or cults that openly deny Scripture, but rather supposedly Christian movements that accept so much biblical truth that their unscriptural doctrines seem relatively insignificant and harmless. But a single drop of poison in a large container can make all the water lethal. And a single false idea that in any way undercuts God's grace poisons the whole system of belief."*** (John MacArthur)

Paul, in warning the Corinthians, said back in II Corinthians 11:3-4, **"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted - you may well put up with it!"**

And yet today, we see Christians embrace so much unbiblical doctrine. May we be warned for there are different Gospels out there, other Jesus' out there that people are trying to get us to follow – but the truth of God's Word exposes their lies, their deceptions – may we not forget that, may we not be deceived!

Interestingly enough, in Galatians 1:7, the word **"trouble"** carries with it the idea of, ***"to make seasick as when one is tossed to and fro by waves on the sea."***

That is exactly what false doctrine does, especially those who feel we need to keep the Law to be saved. It tosses you in and out of salvation, up and down emotionally until you are spiritually and emotionally sick! Again, be careful, be warned!

The Bible is very clear that in the last days there will be great deception and I think we can clearly see that today!

This call of Jude to contend for the faith in his day is for our day as well. There are so many new ideas, new teachings, new trends, new movements that are not Biblical, but worldly and satanic.

What are we to do?

Yes, contend for the faith! But how can we be equipped to contend for the faith that has been entrusted to us? You see, there will always be the *PRETENDERS* of the faith out there, so how do we stand against this onslaught that is coming against us?

In Jude 1:20 we are told, **“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”** The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit.”** The Living Bible says of this verse, **“But you, dear friends, must build up your lives ever more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.”**

There it is! Be in the Word of God and believe what the Word of God is telling you and not what others are telling you. And apply the Word of God to your life. Live what you say you believe. And by the power of God’s Spirit working in us – ***WE CAN EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH THAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO US!***