

JUDE 1:8-13
CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS!
PART 2

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Jude as we continue our in-depth study of the book of Jude.

As we have seen in our study of Jude, he is writing to people who were being swayed by the false teachers, apostates who have come into the church and brought their doctrines of demons into the church.

Thus, Jude calls for them to earnestly contend for the faith that has been entrusted to them. Not to give in to their false teaching but stand up and stand against these things because they are deadly teachings that are trying to take you away from God!

And what we are seeing today is that we don't want to earnestly contend for the faith but just get along. Let me be clear on this. You don't get along with apostates, false teachers who are spreading their doctrines of demons!

How bad is it?

Let me show you and keep in mind that we are currently in part 2 of our study on –

CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS!

In part 1 of our study, we looked at four main points that related to – ***THEY ARE . . .***

DREAMERS – and we saw how they had visions and added to and took away from the Word of God. In other words, these dreams that these false teachers are having come from the imagination of their own hearts and they end up being nothing more than doctrines of demons! Don't embrace these false teachers, put them out!

Remember the warning that Paul gave in Galatians 1:6-9, **“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.”**

In other words, don't listen to them and don't be around them because they are heading for destruction with their teachings!

The next point was – ***THEY ARE . . .***

DEFILING THE FLESH – Since they don't adhere to the Word of God they tend to indulge in immoral sexual activity! In fact, since they don't know God, they are not guided by God, but they are driven by the flesh!

Next, we saw that – ***THEY ARE . . .***

REJECTING AUTHORITY – Since these false teachers don't know God, they end up doing what is right in their own eyes! And the authority we must follow is God's authority, what He has shown us in His Word!

And lastly, we looked at how – ***THEY ARE . . .***

SPEAKING EVIL OF DIGNITARIES – Since these false teachers are not following God but their own desires, they basically say whatever they want! And Jude compares these false teachers with Michael the archangel who respected the authority of the Devil, not siding with the Devil, and gave it to the Lord to handle the situation. He did not speak evil against the Devil!

This morning, as we continue to look at these – ***CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS***, we will be looking at the second point – ***THEY HAVE . . .***

And I have broken this section down into the following points – ***THEY HAVE . . .***

GONE THE WAY OF CAIN – JUDE 1:11a

RUN GREEDILY IN THE ERROR OF BALAAM FOR PROFIT – JUDE 1:11b

PERISHED IN THE REBELLION OF KORAH – JUDE 1:11c

What is interesting is Jude gives us these one-liners expecting us to know the events that transpired here! Which means we need to know the Word of God, dig into the Word of God, study the Word of God so we can understand what God has for us, how we are to live out our faith!

And what Jude is showing us here from the Old Testament, is three examples of men who ended up rebelling against God's authority and suffered for it. They may have thought they would get away with it, but they didn't!

Regarding the coming judgment, including these false teachers, these apostates, one writer said,

Our society has become well-insulated from the reality of hell. In fact, preachers don't preach about it; writers don't write about it; evangelists don't even necessarily warn about it. The culture thinks everyone is basically good and life after death is either happy and full of pleasure, or it doesn't exist.

Hell is neither politically correct, socially acceptable, or even evangelical these days. We have become so comfortable with the absence of hell from our evangelism that our superficial gospel has no threats, no warnings about eternal torment and eternal suffering.

But on the other hand, the Bible is very clear on the reality of hell, very clear on the reality of eternal punishment, very clear on the reality of eternal darkness. Scripture tells us that human history ends with God's judgment on all the ungodly. . . .

The severest diatribes [criticisms] given in the New Testament are against false teachers, those who lead people astray in the name of God, in the name of Christ. Nothing is going to compare to the suffering of the spiritual phonies, the spiritual fakers, the false prophets, the false teachers, the Christian conmen, the liberals, the spiritual fakes in priestly garb, the gospel-denying theologians; theirs is the worst hell of all.

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

So this should be a wake-up call for us to not go after them, follow them, but reject their false teaching because their judgment is fast approaching.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Jude chapter 1 starting in verse 8, and we will read through these verses and then pick up on the verse we will be focusing on this morning, Jude 1:11 as we look at this topic – ***THEY HAVE . . .***

JUDE 1:8-13**VERSE 11**

When the Bible says “**Woe**” it is not good, it speaks of grief!

And usually this is a warning of judgment from God!

In fact, the *Dictionary of Bible Themes* categorizes the uses of the word “**woe**” in the Bible like this,

“Woe as an exclamation of judgment on others.”

“Woe as an exclamation of misfortune on oneself.”

“Woe as an exclamation of sadness over others.”

“Woe may give way to forgiveness, comfort, and deliverance.”

- Manser, M., ed., Zondervan, 1999

One writer goes on to give us a little more insight into this word. He wrote,

In His castigation of the false Jewish leaders, Jesus repeatedly used two words, **woe**, and **hypocrites**” (emphasis is the author’s).

But Jesus used **Woe** against the scribes and Pharisees not as an exclamation but as a declaration, a divine pronouncement of judgment from God. . . . As was already noted, it was not His desire that they be condemned but rather that they repent and come to salvation.

But He knew that if they did not repent and believe they were doomed to hell under God’s righteous and just wrath. When God utters **Woe** against evil men He sets divine judgment in motion”

- John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 16-23*, p. 375

That means what Jude is speaking of here, for these apostates, is that judgment is coming. And to show us that this is certain, Jude gives us three examples of men and their destructive ways, what happened to them.

First Jude talks about “**the way of Cain.**”

You remember the story in Genesis chapter 4. Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord, and Cain brought from the fruit of the land while Abel brought a sheep from his flock.

Keep in mind that Cain’s profession dealt with agriculture, and Abel’s profession was with livestock.

Neither were wrong with the profession they were involved in, even though some like to make a big deal out of this.

Both these labors were just part of the curse, working hard for a living.

Besides working hard for a living, they also took some time to worship the Lord and bring unto Him a sacrifice.

Cain brought an offering from the fruit of the ground and Abel brought the first born from his flock.

And God rejected Cain’s sacrifice, but accepted Abel’s, why?

Some feel that it is because God required a blood sacrifice before Him, even though He did accept grain sacrifices.

I think there is another issue here that is just as important.

You see, the word used for “**offering**” in the Hebrew is *MINCHAH* and it speaks of any type of offering, not just a blood offering.

Then what is going on here? Why did God reject Cain’s sacrifice and accept Abel’s?

I think Hebrews 11:4 gives us some insight to what is going on here.

We are told, **“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”**

In other words, Abel’s sacrifice was done out of love, to please God, while Cain’s was done out of duty, there was a lack of love.

Abel had faith, Cain did not.

Again, Paul tells us in Hebrews 11:6, **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”**

How did they know that Abel’s sacrifice was accepted by God and Cain’s was rejected by God? There had to be something that showed them this because Cain was well aware that his sacrifice was not accepted by God, but Abel’s was!

It could be that fire came down from heaven and consumed Abel’s sacrifice, while Cain’s just sat there.

We do see this in the Scriptures. Remember Elijah’s encounter with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. He challenged them to see whose God would accept their sacrifice and Elijah let these prophets go first.

They were at it all day, yelling, screaming at their god to respond, and Elijah had enough, and he mocks them, which makes them cut themselves and yell even more, but nothing happened.

Then Elijah comes forward, has the sacrifice covered with water three times and calls upon the Lord and in I Kings 18:38 we are told, **“Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.”**

It is possible that is what we see here going on, but we are not told that for sure.

Obviously there was something that alerted them to whose sacrifice was accepted and whose was not. (See also Judges 6:21, I Chronicles 21:26, II Chronicles 7:1)

And we are told in Genesis 4:5 that Cain was **“very angry”** and the idea here is that he was burning with anger!

Because of Cain’s disobedience, his countenance fell, he was depressed. His pride was hurt, he was angry, and it affected his whole life.

Abel’s sacrifice was accepted because it was done in faith, according to God’s Word.

Cain’s sacrifice was not, it was rejected because it was done according to his own ideas and efforts, his heart was not right with God!

Cain’s offering was done in unbelief, his heart was not right with God, and it ended up with the murder of his brother Abel because of his jealousy!

For Cain it was just a religious activity and nothing more. There was no relationship with God, just rituals and God did not accept his offering and He will not accept anyone’s offering that is done in unbelief.

Think about the number of people out there who try to approach God doing it their own way. They feel it is fine and they are not going to listen to any other way, they are right. But there is only one way to approach God and that is through Jesus Christ and that is done by faith. Something that Cain did not have. He was not a believer but just a religious person!

Let me share with you what unbelief looks like and when you listen to this story, you will see how it plays out in the lives of people today. It is just like it did with Cain.

We are told,

A number of years ago there appeared in the *New Yorker* magazine an account of a Long Island resident who ordered an extremely sensitive barometer from a respected company, Abercrombie and Fitch.

When the instrument arrived at his home he was disappointed to discover that the indicating needle appeared to be stuck pointing to the sector marked “Hurricane.”

After shaking the barometer vigorously several times – never a good idea with a sensitive mechanism – and never getting the point to move, the new owner wrote a scathing letter to the store, and, on the following morning, on the way to his office in New York City, mailed it.

That evening he returned to Long Island to find not only the barometer missing but his house as well!

The needle of the instrument had been pointed correctly.

The month was September, the year was 1938, the day of the terrible hurricane that almost leveled Long Island.

- Charles Swindoll, *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes*, p. 593

That is unbelief. All the information was there for Cain to believe in the living God. His father and mother, Adam and Eve fellowshiped with God before sin entered the world through Adam. So those stories of who God is and what He desires was taught to both Cain and Able.

Able believed and we see here that Cain did not and thus, judgment came upon him for his unbelief.

In Psalm 78:22 we see this played out for us as we are told, **“Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation.”**

Yes, judgment comes to those who don't believe!

And I do understand that as Christians hard times may come in this life, but the one who has faith in Christ will never know the eternal woe of God's judgment.

That is what is ahead for these false teachers, these apostates and Jude is warning them and warning us!

THE WAY OF CAIN IS UNBELIEF!

VERSE 11b

Next Jude speaks of the error of Balaam, and you can read of his story in Numbers chapters 22-25 and 31.

Balaam was a for profit prophet that was hired by the King of Moab, Balak, to curse the children of Israel.

What is interesting to me is that God told Balaam not to go, but he wanted the money, he wanted the profit and God allowed him to go but to say what He would put in his mouth.

Which he did do, speaking forth four blessings upon the children of Israel instead of cursing them.

Obviously the King of Moab, Balak, was not happy. He hired Balak to curse the children of Israel, not to bless them!

And since Balak did not get what he wanted from Balam, the King of Moab was not going to pay him for blessing Israel, since he wanted them cursed because he was afraid of them.

Now, the question is, ***“What would this prophet do since he is losing money?”***

I believe that he told the King of Moab how to get God to curse the children of Israel.

Let me show you what I mean.

In Numbers 25:1-3 we are told, **“Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel.”**

How did this plan play out? Listen carefully.

The women of Moab came before the men of Israel and seduced them, enticed them to sin!

They were all dressed up, wearing their short little skirts; make-up to the hilt and the men of Israel fell for it.

Keep in mind that many of the pagan religious practices were centered around sexual immorality and thus, as they got the children of Israel to have sexual relations with them, it was based on the worship of their gods!

Since Balaam could not curse the children of Israel, he got the children of Israel to move away from the blessings of God and by doing so they were cursing themselves!

Was God angry at the children of Israel for what they did?

You bet He was. In this rebellion we see twenty-four thousand Jews die in this plague!
(Numbers 25:9)

You see, God wanted those who were sinning, the leaders to be hung and placed for all to see as a warning so others will not go down that same path.

All those who joined themselves to the Moabite women, these leaders were to be killed.

And notice that here in Numbers 25:3 we are told that they joined themselves to Baal of Peor!

The word “**joined**” is a Hebrew word that speaks of being fastened or linked together.

What is my point?

My point is this. Light and darkness can't mix. You can't be joined to this world and still serve the Lord!

God was not pleased with that back then and He is not pleased with it today!

Paul puts it like this in I Corinthians 6:15-20, **“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For ‘the two,’ He says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”**

What have you joined yourself to? I pray it is the Lord!

Now, the big question is this. *“Who gave Balak, the King of Moab this plan?”*

I believe it was Balaam for we are told in Numbers 31:16, **“Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord.”**

And in Revelation 2:14 Jesus tells us in His letter to the church in Pergamos, **“But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.”**

In other words, Balaam told Balak, ***“Look, I can’t curse these people, God won’t let me! But you can get them to curse themselves by having them turn from the Lord!”***

And guess what, it worked then, and it still works today. May we not fall prey to these devilish schemes but learn the lesson God is showing us!

And the reason that Balaam did this was to make some money, make a profit and he did.

Here in Jude, that phrase **“run greedily”** literally means ***“to be poured out”*** or ***“to stampede toward.”***

And these false teachers, these apostates are stampeding forward into what?

Jude says that they are stampeding forward into the **“error of Balaam for profit.”**

Their life is consumed, they are passionate, not about the people, not about teaching the Word of God correctly, but they are focused on being a – ***FOR PROFIT PROPHET*** you might say! They are interested in how much money they can make and that was the problem for Balaam!

This error is wandering away from the truths of God found in the Word of God and doing what you want for your gain, and it is a dangerous path to be on, this lust for money and in the process, they are deceiving people to give!

Let me also say this. Being rich is not a sin. What is a sin is the love of money and we see many of these prosperity teachers love money!

I will just share with you what the net worth of some of these pastors, and you can see where your donations are going to if you support them.

Kenneth Copeland - \$760 million!

Benny Hinn - \$42 million!

Jesse Duplantis - \$55 million!

Joel Osteen - \$40 million!

Creflo Dollar - \$27 million!

And Jude is calling them out here and saying that one of the characteristics of any false teacher is that they are greedy for money, and they say that they are serving God, like Balaam did, but they are serving God in order to get rich!

Christianity is a moneymaker today and look at the people that are getting rich off of God, and many don't even know Him!

The love of money brings about all kinds of evil!

Notice what Paul said to Timothy in I Timothy 6:10, **“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”**

And Peter warned us, and this is from The Living Bible, **“Many will follow their evil teaching that there is nothing wrong with sexual sin. And because of them Christ and his way will be scoffed at. These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago and their destruction is on the way.”**

That nails it. They will tell you anything to get you to give them your money and they are doing very well with this evil they are perpetrating upon people.

I like the way that William MacDonald summed this up for us. He wrote,

The error of Balaam is the desire to become personally wealthy by making a business out of the service of God. . . . Like Balaam, the false teachers of today are suave and convincing. They can speak out of both corners of their mouths at once. They suppress the truth in order to increase their income. The principal point is that they are greedy, seeking to make the house of God a house of merchandise.

- William MacDonald

Exactly!

Now maybe you are thinking that I am being too critical of these false teachers and their need for greed but let me ask you this. How did this all end for Balaam?

It did not end well for Balaam.

How do I know that?

Because it is what the Bible tells us!

I believe at this point Balaam was paid for his counsel, but he only enjoyed it for a short time.

In Numbers 31:7-8 we are told, **“And they warred against the Midianites, just as the Lord commanded Moses, and they killed all the males. They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed - Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.”**

Balaam was killed!

Yes, there is pleasure in sin, if there wasn't no one would fall into it. But that pleasure is short lived and in the end is death as we see here with Balaam! He did not get to enjoy the money he made going against God!

The way of greed, trying to profit off of God and you will not get away with it!

That is what is ahead for these false teachers, these apostates and Jude is warning them and warning us!

THE WAY OF CAIN WAS GREED! HE WAS A FOR PROFIT PROPHET!

VERSE 11c

The rebellion of Korah is found in Numbers chapter 16.

Keep in mind that Korah was the “*ringleader*” in a rebellion that also included Dathan and Abiram, as well as 250 others who joined with them.

And in Numbers 16:1-3 we are told, “**Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, ‘You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?’**”

Now, why was Korah so upset, he was a Kohathite?

Because he was not content, he was not satisfied in what God had called him to do!

What menial task did the Kohathites have?

They were to carry and be in charge of taking care of the holy things of God – the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of Showbread, the Seven-Branched Oil Burning Lamp and-so-on.

They were responsible for carrying these when the camp moved and setting them up again.

Yes, they were not priests, but they had a God ordained role and now Korah was not satisfied, and he got others to become dissatisfied!

First of all, Moses did not place himself in this position, God did.

And the issue is jealousy, discontentment and it is not pretty, and it has lead them to a place of rebellion against authority!

In other words, they didn't like the position that God had given them in serving Him and attempted to usurp the position that God gave to Moses and Aaron.

So they rebelled against them and tried to get the rest of the children of Israel to follow along with them.

How often do we see people try to usurp the authority that has been given to others because they want it?

When people do that, when they reject this authority and speak evil of those in leadership positions, you are walking in the rebellion of Korah.

And folks, all those who followed Korah in this rebellion were destroyed by God in His judgment! They did not get away with anything.

I am always amused at those that want to be a pastor, because many of them have no clue what it is all about. They want the position, they want authority, but they are unwilling to serve!

But they sure will cause all kinds of trouble trying to usurp that position from another. Be careful, God did not approve of it then and He still doesn't.

Be satisfied in where God has placed you and serve Him faithfully!

How does this apply to these false teachers, these apostates that Jude is speaking of?

I think the idea here is that they are rebelling against those who are coming against them for their false teaching. They don't like it, and thus, they attack them just like the children of Israel attacked and rebelled against the prophets that God had sent to them to warn them to get right with God or judgment was coming.

Let me show you what I mean.

And make no mistake about it, false teachers are proud, they are arrogant, they despise authority.

Case in point, Benny Hinn who I can say is a false prophet, a false teacher and when anyone challenges what he is saying he attacks back.

Listen to what he has to say to those who come against him. And we have not heard a lot from him lately but listen to his justification.

This is what he has said,

You wonderful people of God, quit attacking men of God by name! Somebody's attacking me because of something I'm teaching! ***Let me tell you something brother, you watch it!*** . . . I don't mind if they attack Benny and the way he is and the way he walks, but don't attack this man of God [Paul Crouch]. There is a group here in California that thinks they are the judgment seat of Christ! They judge everything you do. Listen here, fella, let me tell you something: you're not my judge; Jesus is my judge! You walk around with your stiff lip and collar on your neck – dear God in Heaven I wish I could just – ooh!

They call it a ministry, my foot! You know, *I've looked for one verse in the Bible – I just can't seem to find it – one verse that says, "If you don't like 'em, kill 'em!" I really wish I could find it!* But there's nowhere in the Bible where it says it! . . .

Sometimes I wish God would give me a Holy Ghost machine gun! I'd blow your head off!

- "Praise the Lord" Program on TBN, Nov. 9, 1990

Now please understand that those who are coming after this false teacher are not saying that they are the ones in authority. What they are saying and what I say is that the Word of God is the final authority in all that we say and do. Thus, if it goes against the Word of God, then it is not of God and that needs to be called out.

Now, just a few of his false prophecies that people don't hold him accountable for but continue to send in their money to support him.

On TBN's Praise the Lord program Benny Hinn had a prophecy from God that if your loved one dies, instead of taking them to the mortician, the funeral home, prop them up in front of the television and turn on TBN and God will raise them from the dead. I guess you have to be brain dead to watch it! How foolish and where is the accountability in making a prophecy like that?

But that is not the first or last time that Benny Hinn has prophesied falsely. Way back in 1989 he prophesied to his congregation at the Orlando Christian Center in Florida what he was seeing for the decade of the 1990's.

"The Lord also tells me to tell you in mid 90's – about '94 or '95, no later than that – God will destroy the homosexual community of America . . . He will destroy it with fire."

“The Spirit of God tells me – an earthquake will hit the east coast of America and destroy much in the 90’s.”

So you can see that example of what a false prophet looks like, what they say and what they do and it is not of God! Sorry, I don’t mean to offend anyone but when you claim to be a prophet of God and you are wrong, you are not a prophet of God! I think you can all understand that!

Now let me touch on this because many will read this and see that rebellion is wrong and thus, their conclusion is that we are to obey the government.

That is true, to a point, we are to obey the government!

We can read of that in Romans 13:1-7 as Paul tells us, **“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”** (I Peter 2:13-17)

Paul is reminding us that since governments have authority from God, we are bound to obey them.

Does that mean we have to do everything that the government tells us?

That is a great question and I had to deal with this issue with the whole COVID issue.

As we started out and we saw the devastation that COVID was bringing, the governor shut down many businesses, including churches.

And we obeyed what the government was saying.

And when it was time to come back, we did.

But people still had a problem with me and what I did. They felt that I was not following what the governor said by making people wear a mask to church. I felt that people are adults, and they can do what they want, for the most part. Either way I was fine.

And here was what it did for me. When they opened up the bars and they were all gathering together, the church was to be open and fellowship as well!

They said bars need to be open because they are there to help people!

No, churches need to be open because they are there to truly help people!

I am not sure what the big deal was here but for some, they were mad at me. But keep in mind that God has called us to come together and fellowship, worship Him and hear from Him as a body of believers. So when the government says that we can't, God says that we can and we need to!

Will shutdowns happen again?

I think so because they understand that the church of Jesus Christ is a powerful force, and they are trying to divide and conquer, and they did it with COVID and they are doing it with social issues as well!

Please understand, like I have said, the only reason we may go against what they are saying and disobey them is when they order us to do something in contradiction to God's law.

Then, we are commanded to obey God before man (as in Acts 4:19). For instance, if they told a woman she has to have an abortion. You obey God and not the government!

Another example is if the government says that we can't share the Gospel any longer. Then we obey God before man.

If the government says that we can't teach from the Bible any longer, or that we can't say that homosexuality is a sin. Then we obey God before man.

One writer put it like this in regard to the exceptions in obeying the government. He wrote,

Now, there are, of course, exceptions. When Nebuchadnezzar had built that huge idol and had commanded that everyone at the sound of the music, bow down and worship that idol, though Nebuchadnezzar later was brought to understand and to know that he only reigned at God's caprice [whim]. That it is God who rules over the affairs of man and set into the powers those that he will.

Yet Nebuchadnezzar had given the command that at the sound of the music, everyone was to bow and to worship this beast or this image that he had set up in the plain of Dura. And when the three Hebrew children refused to bow, they were brought before Nebuchadnezzar. He chastised them for their failure to bow. He said I'll give you one more opportunity. And if you don't bow, then you will be thrown into the burning, fiery furnace.

And they said, Oh, king, we are not even careful how we answer you because the God that we serve is able to deliver us from your burning fiery furnace and if He doesn't we still won't bow.

There was an open defiance to the decree that was made by Nebuchadnezzar, because to obey that decree would violate their own conscience before God. Bowing to an idol when that was strictly prohibited in the Scriptures.

So if laws are made that would violate my Spiritual consciousness or my Spiritual conscience, and to obey that law would cause me to violate my principles, now Paul wrote this to the church.

Yet Paul himself, ultimately was slain by Rome. And the refusal was to declare Caesar as lord. During the times of the great persecutions in the early church, anyone could escape death by martyrdom by simply confessing that Caesar is lord, and the sentence would be commuted. But thousands, millions of early Christians, went to death rather than to acquiesce to the Roman government and to declare Caesar is lord.

- Source Unknown

And Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his famous *“letter from the Birmingham jail”* rightly declared, *“One has not only a legal, but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God.”* He went on to explain, *“An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law [the law of God].”*

This really wasn't a big issue years ago because our national laws lined up with God's divine laws that are found in the Word of God. But now, things have changed. They want to take away your children if you don't allow them to change their sexual orientation like they want to. So what are you going to do? Obey God!

One Christian columnist commented on this,

“We no longer base our laws on the bedrock of God’s law, which has forfeited His blessing and protection on our nation. As a result, our economy is hanging by a thread (with insurmountable national debt), our families are breaking, our churches are ducking for cover with the threat of government overreach, and we are now joined with Iran and other God-hating regimes that are dedicated to wiping freedom off the globe.

The words of the prophet, Jeremiah, sting us with an eerie similarity:

“‘Why is the land ruined, laid waste like a desert, so that no one passes through?’ The Lord said, ‘Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice nor walked according to it, but have walked after the stubbornness of their heart . . .’” (Jeremiah 9:13-14a).

We have abandoned the God of the Bible, the very God of our founding. Our spiritual foundation has been compromised.

George Washington said, “It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible.”

When we reject God’s law by removing His influence from every vestige of society, how can we rightly govern ourselves?

The answer is: We can’t, and we’re not.”

Exactly and thus, we obey God!

And please understand that this attack is not about this immorality coming forth or that one.

I know that may be shocking but listen carefully.

The attack is against what we believe, our faith in God and His Word.

The day after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage a leading gay activist came out and said the following, *“This was never about legalizing gay marriage - not really. This is about silencing Christians through whatever means possible and removing Christianity from America. What’s at stake is the entire culture war.”*

He said the decision is an *“expression of hostility toward people who take their Christianity seriously.”*

The battle lines are drawn, and we must stand up for what is right and to be a light in a nation that is getting darker and darker!

I think that was important for us to understand as we deal with this issue of rebellion.

The end for this rebellion is given to us in Numbers 16:31-35 where we are told, **“Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them [Korah, Dathan, Abiram], and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, ‘Lest the earth swallow us up also!’ And a fire came out from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.”**

That is what is ahead for these false teachers, these apostates and Jude is warning them and warning us!

THE WAY OF KORAH WAS REBELLION – REBELLION AGAINST THE AUTHORITY OF GOD!

As we take all of this in, you may be wondering, *“Okay pastor Joe. I see what you are saying. These false teachers have gone the way of Cain in unbelief. They have run greedily with the error of Balaam for profit. And they perished in the rebellion of Korah. So what are we to do about all of this?”*

That is a great question.

We need to remember what Jude has told us, **“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Jude 1:3-4.

May we do that!