

JUDE 1:8-13
CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS!
PART 3

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Jude as we continue our in-depth study of this fascinating and timely book!

Why is this a timely book for the days that we are living in?

Because Jude is speaking of false teachers, apostates that have crept into the church and they are bringing these doctrines of demons to the people and the people are receiving these teachings!

We see Paul speak of this in II Timothy 4:2-5 as he wrote to Timothy, **“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”**

You see, they are looking for teachers who will tickle their ears with fairy tales and not the truths of God found in the Word of God. And Paul is calling for Timothy not to give into what they want but give them what they need – ***THE WORD OF GOD!***

And Jude is warning the people of his day as well as our day **“... to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”** Jude 1:3.

We are in a battle for the truth and with social media out of control, there is so much false teaching out there and people are embracing it. We also see these false teachers welcomed into many churches to spread their false doctrine.

It is a battle out there and we must contend for ***THE FAITH***, not just any kind of faith, but the faith that God has entrusted to us, the faith that is found in the Word of God – ***THE BIBLE!***

We are currently in part 3 of our study on the – ***CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS!***

In our first study we saw that - ***THEY ARE . . .***

DREAMERS – In other words, they had visions and added to and took away from the Word of God. 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!

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!

In part 2 of our study, we saw that – ***THEY HAVE . . .***

GONE THE WAY OF CAIN - 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. The way of Cain is unbelief!

RUN GREEDILY IN 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!

PERISHED IN THE REBELLION OF KORAH – Korah was the “***ringleader***” in a rebellion that also included Dathan and Abiram, as well as 250 others who joined with them against Moses and Aaron. The way of Korah was rebellion against the authority of God!

And here in part 3 of our study on the – ***CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS*** we will be looking at – ***THEY ARE . . .***

And we will be looking at five main points in our study this morning.

And yes, Jude is spending a lot of time on this issue, just as I am, because it is so important for us to understand so we are not taken in by the lies of these false teachers. Let me explain it like this. We are told,

It’s important, then, to have our eyes open to this deception. How is it that so many modern promises sound true but in the end lead to our deception, or even our destruction?

A long, long time ago, the English Puritan Thomas Brooks wrote:

“Now the best way to deliver poor souls from being deluded and destroyed by these messengers of Satan is, to discover them in their colours, that so, being known, poor souls may shun them, and fly from them as from hell itself.”

In other words, the best thing to do is to expose the lies, examine how they work, explore why they’re so compelling, and explain how to overcome them with the truth. We must

“discover them in their colours.”

- Jared C. Wilson, *The Gospel According to Satan: Eight lies about God that Sound Like the Truth*

And the way we can know them is by knowing the truth and the truth will set you free from the errors that they are teaching.

And you can spend a lifetime studying false teaching and it will never end because there is always something new that will come into play.

Let me show you what I mean about what false teaching has come into our city, Manitowoc, as well as many other cities.

And please understand I am not speaking about those that are not saved, but those who believe that they are saved. This came out June 11, 2023 in the Hearld Times Reporter in their ***Opinion*** section for Pride Month.

This article was written by The Rev. Daniel Borchers from the United Church of Christ, chaplain at Froedtert Holy Family Memorial Hospital and it was endorsed by several different Christian pastors from the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Plymouth, Manitowoc and Two Rivers, St. James Episcopal Church, the First Presbyterian Church in Manitowoc as well as retired pastors!

The title of this article is as follows – ***MANITOWOC-AREA CLERGY SUPPORT PRIDE MONTH IN LETTER TO THE EDITOR.***

“Our love is inclusive, welcoming and faithful,” the faith leaders write.

We faith leaders wanted to share words of support for and celebrate with the LGBTQIA+ community in Manitowoc and beyond as Pride Month is upon us.

Manitowoc has been blessed by the presence of LGBTQIA+ folks as family, friends, neighbors, and members of our faith communities and our community leadership.

We want to make our support clear. We believe that God made us each, Imago Dei, in the image of God. We believe that when the image of God is denied in our LGBTQIA+ siblings, whether by law, policy or hatred, the Imago Dei is diminished in all of us.

We celebrate the full lives of all people, inclusive of all genders, orientations and expressions. In our congregations, we support the full communion, marriage and ordination of LGBTQIA+ Christians. In our community life, we embrace and advocate for the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ in all aspects of our community, including our public schools.

We strive to interpret our sacred texts boldly through the lens of God’s unending grace and abundant love for the world. Love is at the very heart of our faith, as Jesus himself invites us to “Love one another.” Our love is inclusive, welcoming and faithful.

To be inclusive: is to love and not judge, to welcome and not reject, to be open to new ways and not shackled by the ways of the past. We celebrate Manitowoc’s growth toward being a more inclusive, expansive and embracing community.

We hold our LGBTQIA+ siblings in prayer and pray for them, for their families, and for our community this month and beyond. May God ever guide and bless our journey toward justice, inclusivity, and hope in Manitowoc and beyond.

- Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter, June 11, 2023

In other words, if you don't accept this kind of immoral lifestyle, you are hateful and intolerant, not like they are, loving towards anyone that embraces any kind of lifestyle.

My response to that article was simple,

The Opinion piece – ***“Manitowoc-area clergy support Pride Month in letter to the editor”*** saddens me as a pastor here in Manitowoc for 28 years now!

I will deal with this one point that they make regarding the support of LGBTQIA+. They wrote, ***“To be inclusive: is to love and not judge, to welcome and not reject, to be open to new ways and not shackled by the ways of the past.”***

In saying that, do they mean anything and everything goes? Does that mean you can't judge anything anyone does as being wrong? That would make no sense. They are judging what is right and what is wrong.

It doesn't matter what I think or what anyone thinks, as a Christian, we must go by what God has spoken in His Word. And God is very clear that this lifestyle is a sin, and it is not approved by God, and thus we must obey God rather than what we may want to do.

The bottom line is this. If you truly love someone, you will tell them the truth. But if you don't, you will let them continue in a lifestyle that is wrong.

For me as a Christian, I love people, but it doesn't mean I agree with what they are doing.
I must speak the truth and share with them the love that Jesus has for them!

Therefore, God's love is rich, and it is deep, but He is also a righteous judge!

- Joe Guglielmo, Pastor of Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc

I want to be clear on that. We can't live our lives based on feelings but upon the Word of God and that is what Jude is speaking of as he calls for us to earnestly contend for the faith that has been entrusted to us!

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Jude chapter 1 and we are going to read through verses 8 through 13 and we will then focus on verses 12 and 13 here in Jude. And let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word, and we look at this topic of the – ***CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS*** and see that – ***THEY ARE . . .***

JUDE 1

VERSES 12-13

The first of five points that Jude brings out regarding these apostates or false teachers is that ***THEY ARE . . . SPOTS IN YOUR LOVE FEASTS!***

Let me deal with this issue of spots first and then we will look at these love feasts and what that is all about.

If you remember in the Old Testament God forbid any animal being offered to Him that had a ***spot*** or ***blemish*** on it.

And what that meant was simple.

A *spot* was an acquired injury. Maybe the animal was attacked by another animal, or it fell down a hill and had all kinds of scars on it after the incident. You could not offer an animal with a *spot* to the Lord!

And a *blemish* was something that the animal was born with, some kind of birth defect or physical problem. You could not offer an animal with a *blemish* to the Lord!

And we see that with our Savior, that He could not have any *spot* or *blemish* if He was going to be offered to God for the sins of the world. Peter picked up on that in I Peter 1:18-19 as he wrote, **“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”**

But what about these **“spots”** at these love feasts, what is that all about?

I believe, spiritually speaking, that these apostates, these false teachers were bringing defilement into the local church, among God’s people!

Think of it like cancer. You can have just a small spot of cancer but before too long that cancer will spread and affect the entire body.

That is the idea here. Remember what Paul said in Galatians 5:9, **“A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”** (I Corinthians 5:6)

That is the same thought. You let a little sin in, you let a little false teaching into the church or into your life and it will affect the entire body!

And yet, today in the church many don’t want to deal with these things, and they accept them and as that leaven begins to grow, it affects the entire body to the point where Jesus is not even allowed into the church by what they are saying and what they are doing!

So that is the spot that they brought into the church, but where did they specifically bring these things?

They brought them into these *AGAPE* feasts or love feasts. We would call them potlucks today, but these Christians would gather together and share a meal with each other. It usually revolved around the church service.

But for these apostates, their focus was only upon themselves, they didn't care about anyone else.

We see that same attitude in the church in Corinth back in I Corinthians 11:17-22, where we are told, **“Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.”**

And because of their behavior, many at the church of Corinth were sick and some even died!

I also see this as spoiling fellowship. And what I mean by that is when we come into church with selfish attitudes, where it is all about me and take care of me and bless me and not about how we can bless others, that will spoil fellowship and hurt the body of Christ.

Think about the church in Corinth. What a blessing this was to the poor, to be able to gather together and eat a meal. And yet, for those who had much, they would cut into line, they would make sure they had plenty to eat and the poor, probably slaves, did not have much left over to eat. And Paul calls them on that!

And in the end, these love feasts stopped because they were corrupted by these false teachers who came in and were spots at these feasts!

One writer summed it up like this for us. He wrote,

Originally, the love feast was intended to be a regular church gathering for the purpose of mutual instruction, encouragement, confrontation, and care. Believers would gather to worship, hear the teaching of Scripture, celebrate Communion, and then share their common love in a meal.

However, the love feast eventually became so corrupted and abused, due to the defiling influence of false teachers, that it passed from the scene. Lacking a functioning conscience or sense of conviction, and being adept hypocrites, the apostates were able to feast with believers “without fear” . . .

The fact that their actions do terrible damage to others is of no concern to them.

*While the love feast was designed for believers to care for one another, the false teachers were guilty of caring only for themselves. The word rendered “caring” is from *poimainō*, “to shepherd,” indicating that the apostates shepherded no one but themselves. Their only interest was self-interest and self-gratification - at the expense of anyone else.*

- Source Unknown

Now some translations put this verse like this, *“These are hidden reefs (or rocks) at your love feasts.”*

What is the point?

Think of it like this, as one pastor wrote, *“Jude’s description of apostates as hidden reefs graphically depicts the unseen danger they pose. Reefs are undersea coral formations usually located close to the shore. They are potentially harmful to ships because they can rip open the bottoms of their hulls, causing the vessels to sink. Like those hidden reefs, the apostates embedded themselves under the surface . . . of the early church, from where they tore into unsuspecting people with their lies and wickedness.”*

Exactly. Just as hidden reefs were a danger to boats, these apostates are a danger to the church.

You see, your boat could hit a hidden reef and put a hole in it and before long, you and your boat are sunk!

That is so true in our lives as well. There are these false teachers, who sound very good, and before you know it you strike their reef or false teaching, and you too are sunk!

False teachers are self-serving, it is all about them and not about the Lord and not about anyone else. Thus, they will spread their false doctrine without any concern at all. The more it makes for them, the more that they will continue on with this false teaching!

Jude tells us, in this first point - ***THEY ARE . . . SPOTS IN YOUR LOVE FEASTS!***

The second point that Jude brings out is that ***THEY ARE . . . CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER CARRIED ABOUT BY THE WINDS!***

Think about this for a minute. In the Middle East there are a lot of dessert areas and thus, it is very dry. So rain is very important for them.

Now, if you woke up one morning and you saw a cloud in the sky, you might get excited. You may be thinking, “*Maybe it is going to rain today!*”

But if there is no rain or if the clouds have no water, that means that they can’t bring any rain. And what that will leave behind is a barren and very dry land!

Yes, make no mistake about it, there was hope for rain, but that hope was dashed upon the rocks because the clouds were – *EMPTY!*

What does that mean?

What that means is that these men were like that, they talked a lot but there was nothing that was refreshing, nothing that was life giving. The message that they gave was empty!

I like the way that Warren Wiersbe sums it up like this for us. He wrote,

Clouds that promise rain, but fail to produce, are a disappointment to the farmer whose crops desperately need water.

The apostates look Like men who can give spiritual help, and they boast of their abilities, but they are unable to produce. “Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift [a gift he does not give] is Like clouds and wind without rain” (Prov 25:14).

They promise liberty, but they can only give bondage (2 Peter 2:19).

The Word of God is sometimes compared to the rain and the dew. “My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew” (Deut 32:2). Isa 55:10 compares God’s Word to the rain and snow from heaven that bring fruit on the earth. Like the clouds in the sky, the false teachers may be prominent and even attractive; but if they cannot bring rain, they are useless.

And I think that is the idea here. That this is speaking of the Word of God.

You see, only God's Word is living and powerful and can bring the refreshment we need into our lives, that life sustaining water.

Warren Wiersbe summed up these verses here in Isaiah 55:10-11 but let me read them to you so you can see the picture we have here in Jude. We are told, "**For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**"

The rain of God's Word brings forth life just like rain from clouds bring forth life on this earth!

What is interesting here in Jude is that the phrase "**without water**" is also used in Matthew 12:43.

Listen to what we are told, "**When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.**"

That word "**dry**" in the Greek is ANUDROS, (an'-oo-dros) and it is the same word used here by Jude for "**without water**".

And the point that Jesus is making here in Matthew chapter 12 is that these evil spirits, these demons are wandering around dry barren places looking for rest and they will take up residence in a person's heart!

Now you may be thinking, "***Pastor Joe, what in the world does that have to do with what Jude is speaking of here?***"

That is a great question.

Let me ask you this. What do false teachers do?

Like these demonic beings, they will wander here and there, from church to church looking for a place to take up residence and bring forth their doctrines of demons!

Like it or not, agree with it or not, that is the pastor's responsibility, to teach the sheep that have been entrusted to him through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Bible, the things of God so that they are not taken in by the winds of doctrine that will, not might, they will blow through the church!

That is Paul's point in Ephesians 4:11-16, where he wrote, "**And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**"

Do you see my responsibility here?

It is to equip you for the work of the ministry, as I have said!

And yet, today, an area that is lacking in many churches is the teaching of God's Word, the building up of God's people.

What's the big deal?

The big deal is this.

Paul is saying that untaught Christians and those who don't put the effort into their walk to cultivate a deep relationship with Jesus through prayer and the reading of the Word will remain spiritual children.

The manifestation of that is they are spiritually unstable and susceptible to any and all kinds of winds of doctrine that come blowing through the church by cleaver wolves who lie in wait to deceive them. And today, there are many out there and they are deceiving many!

Warren Wiersbe put it like this,

There are religious quacks waiting to kidnap God's children and get them into their false cults, but the maturing believer recognizes false doctrine and stays clear of it.

The cultists do not try to win lost souls to Christ. They do not establish rescue missions in the slum areas of our cities, because they have no good news for the man on skid row.

Instead, these false teachers try to capture immature Christians, and for this reason, most of the membership of the false cults comes from local churches, particularly churches that do not feed their people the Word of God.

- Warren Wiersbe

How true that is, and I have seen it over the years and now, more frequently and I never thought it would happen to believers like this, but it is. Be steadfast in the faith!

You see, these believers, instead of being stable, those that don't grow in the Lord are unstable. And they are prey to these false teachers.

Again, I have seen it with people, Christians that I thought knew the Word of God and yet, here comes a false teacher and they cling to the teaching. I had one person mad at me because I told him the CD he wanted me to listen regarding a teacher that this person thought was right on, I told him that I was not going to listen to it because I heard this false teacher before and there is no need for me to hear it again. But that is how good these false teachers are!

How do they get away with this, these false teachers?

Let me show you what Paul tells us regarding how they get away with this, how good they are at doing this.

Here in Ephesians Paul uses the Greek word, KLUDONIZOMAI, (kloo-do-nid'-zom-ah-ee) for “**tossed to and fro**” and it is the same Greek word Luke uses in Luke 8:24 as he is describing the stormy Sea of Galilee.

And men come in and they use “**trickery**” or KUBEIA, (koobi-ah) in the Greek, which is a word that illustrates the idea of a person who has skill in manipulating the dice.

He is a master of deception.

Thus, immature Christians hoist up their sails and as these men blow their false doctrine through the church, they are taken away, they go whichever way the wind is blowing them, they have no real direction.

God’s desire is that we would grow and not be tossed around like this!

You see, sound doctrine, healthy doctrine, if taken in and applied to your life will keep you from being tossed to and fro by these false winds of doctrine that are blowing through the church today!

Yes, they speak with big words, use Greek and Hebrew but in the end, the words that they speak are empty, there is no life-giving water that is found in them and the person who receives these things becomes spiritually dry because - ***THEY ARE . . . CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER CARRIED ABOUT BY THE WINDS!***

The third point that Jude brings out is that – ***THEY ARE . . . LATE AUTUMN TREES WITHOUT FRUIT TWICE DEAD, PULLED UP BY THE ROOTS!***

Let's look at apples for instance with this illustration that Jude is making here. We know that in late autumn, the trees in an orchard are full of good fruit, apples, that are ready to be harvested and enjoyed. The food that is produced is nutritious and life-sustaining.

But the fruit that is produced by these apostates, these false prophets are dead, they are rotten, there are no nutrients in them that will help us to grow. And they are not just dead, but they are **“twice dead”** which tells me that they are not good!

Not only that but apostates are **“twice dead”** in the sense that they are spiritually dead and someday will be judged and **“uprooted”** (removed) from the earth thru physical death.

Remember what Jesus said about false prophets in Matthew 7:15-20, **“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”**

Make no mistake about it, there are false prophets out there that are deceiving the sheep. These are ravenous wolves that are dressed like sheep, and they are trying to keep people out of the Kingdom of God, and they are trying to weaken the sheep with their false doctrines that is flooding into the church!

And notice the warning that Jesus is giving to us. **BEWARE** of them!

How can we recognize them?

By the fruit they are producing, the teachings they are bringing forth! It is called discernment and it is something that is lacking in the church today!

Let me give you an example of this in the Old Testament.

During the days of Jeremiah, as today, there were false prophets. In Jeremiah 23:16-17 we read, **“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, “The LORD has said, ‘You shall have peace’; and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’”**

We need to heed the warning of Jesus and not follow after these false prophets. We need to be fruit inspectors or as Jesus said, **“Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”**

Matthew 7:20. We needed to be rooted and ground in the Word of God!

The reason that this is important is because these apostates offer us counterfeit fruit that looks so good, looks so nutritious, but in reality, it has no value to us.

One of the big pushes today is that there is no Rapture spoken of in the Bible, there is, but that is what they are saying. And what does that do? It takes away our hope in the return of Jesus for His bride, the Church before the Tribulation Period starts!

And yet, Paul tells us that we are to be “**looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**” Titus 2:13.

Thus, we see that their false teaching takes this hope away from us!

Make no mistake about it, these men had no real fruit in their lives because they were not attached to the giver and the sustainer of life, Jesus Christ!

They, in a sense, were like a Judas branch! They looked real, but they were not!

As we have seen - ***THEY ARE . . . LATE AUTUMN TREES WITHOUT FRUIT TWICE DEAD, PULLED UP BY THE ROOTS!***

The fourth point that Jude makes regarding these apostates, these false teachers, is that ***THEY ARE . . . RAGING WATERS OF THE SEA, FOAMING UP THEIR OWN SHAME!***

I am sure we have all seen what waves do when they hit the shoreline. The dirt and sand is churned up, the garbage, and the waters become murky!

We see that here in Manitowoc when the waves are crashing onto the shore, Lake Michigan can make some big waves. And all those waves make the water brown as it kicks up the dirt and sand. The water becomes very mirky!

What is the point that Jude is making here?

Simply put, these crashing waves that produce all this dirt and debris are like these men. In other words, lots of churning but what is left is dirt, debris, things are very murky and unclear when they get done with their false teaching!

Warren Wiersbe tells us,

I personally do not enjoy being in or on the ocean (I am not a good swimmer).

However, I do enjoy sitting by the ocean and contemplating its grandeur and power.

But I certainly would not want to be either in or on the ocean in a storm! There is great power in those waves, as many a mariner has discovered.

But Jude compared the apostates to “raging waves of the sea” not because of their power, but because of their pride and arrogant speech. “Their mouth speaketh great swelling words” (Jude 16).

Like the swelling of the sea, they make a lot of noise, but what do they produce?

Have you ever walked along the beach the morning after a storm and seen the ugly refuse that has been deposited on the shore?

The true teacher, of the Word bring up the treasures of the deep, but the false teachers produce only refuse. And what they boast about, they really ought to be ashamed of!

- Warren Wiersbe, the Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 1028

One pastor and author put it this way, *“The fruit of these men was like the foam or scum at the seashore. Jude has in mind the ugly shoreline after a storm has washed up all sorts of driftwood, seaweed, and debris.”*

Let me share this with you, it is from several years back, but it is from Leonard Sweet, who is supposed to be a Christian but is into New Age material, as you will see. This is what he said,

“The first of these five untheorized observations is that New Light embodiment means to be ‘in connection’ and ‘in-formation’ with other Christians. Deeper feeling and higher relating go together. The church is fundamentally one being, one person, a comm-union whose cells are connected to one another within the information network called the Christ consciousness. New Lights offer up themselves as the cosmions of a mind-of-Christ consciousness. As a cosmion incarnating the cells of a new body, New Lights will function as transitional vessels through which transforming energy can renew the divine image in the world, moving postmodern from one state of embodiment to another.”

I am sorry, but I am not sure what he is talking about, but with the whole Christ consciousness, that is New Age mumbo jumbo! And there is nothing in it that is drawing me closer to Christ. In fact, the waters of faith end up being muddied by this garbage!

It is as Isaiah 57:20-21, **“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. ‘There is no peace,’ Says my God, ‘for the wicked.’”**

And truly there is no peace for those who listen and adhere to these false teachings. Their faith is muddied up as I have said. When these apostates get done with their false teaching, there is nothing but a lot of foam and nothing of value to take with you.

I do understand that some feel about these false teachers that they do say things that are true, they say things that can help us. Let me be clear on this. Satan can do the same and you would not listen to him, would you? I hope not.

Others would say, “*Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater!*” Same idea, some good may be gleaned from them. The problem is there is no baby in the bathwater and thus, throw this garbage out, don’t take it in.

So here we see that ***THEY ARE . . . RAGING WATERS OF THE SEA, FOAMING UP THEIR OWN SHAME!***

And the fifth and last point that Jude makes regarding these apostates, these false teachers, is that - ***THEY ARE . . . WANDERING STARS FOR WHOM IS RESERVED THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOREVER!***

As you will see as we go through this last point, Jude sums up what they are like and where they are headed, and it is not good for these apostates, these false teachers!

The point Jude makes here is that they are like “wandering stars” and it speaks of some kind of luminous body.

Keep in mind that Jude is not speaking of fixed stars, like the North Star that sailors used to plot their course and guide them to their destination!

He is speaking of what we might call a shooting star!

And a shooting star is just a small meteor that enters the earth’s atmosphere and is set on fire for a short time, that luminous body in the sky you might say, and then it quickly burns out and is turned to ashes!

And Jude nails that point here with these false teachers, these apostates. They come on the scene, they are popular, everyone is paying for their propaganda, their garbage and they are the latest and greatest and then they are gone. They are like a shooting star!

Let me show you what I mean. This was back in 2018 and we are told,

The sudden resignation of Willow Creek Community Church's top leaders following sexual harassment allegations against Rev. Bill Hybels, their founding pastor, has shaken evangelicals far from the church's base in the Chicago suburbs.

There are few bigger names in the evangelical world than Mr. Hybels, and few churches more influential than Willow Creek. Christians worldwide looked to it as a model of smart leadership.

“When a falling star, a literal star falls out the sky, everyone looks at it, notices it, gasps,” said the Rev. Jack Graham, of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Tex., who said he worried that people would view the scandal as evidence that all evangelicals were hypocrites. *“Yet there are millions and millions of galaxies of stars that stay in their place and keep shining.” . . .*

The considerations now are far more complex than in the '80s and '90s when showboating televangelists like Jimmy Swaggart were ensnared in sex scandals and the lesson drawn was simple: Pastors should not succumb to temptation. . . .

Willow Creek occupies a separate sphere from the Trump-supporting wing of the evangelical world. The church is seen as more moderate theologically and politically. Mr. Hybels intended Willow Creek to attract secular Americans seeking a spiritual connection, and it has grown to 25,000 members at eight sites near Chicago.

Unlike most conservative evangelical churches, Willow allows women to hold top leadership positions. In fact, its lead pastor who stepped down on Wednesday night was the Rev. Heather Larson, a woman.

And yes, this can happen, but the point here is that the format for this church was not to talk about sin, not to do deep in Bible study, but to get the unchurched into the church and that watered down message affected the leadership as well, as we can see.

They started out with a bang, but now they have fizzled out! It is a warning!

We see it with celebrities that say they are saved, and they are shining bright and before long, they too fade away.

And the other thing we need to remember is that these false teachers, and I am not saying Bill Hybels was not saved, but these false teachers, these apostates provide no fixed point for Christians that will help guide them in their destination to heaven.

They are wandering here and wandering there and so are those who follow them!

As we have seen Paul spoke of this in his letter to the Ephesians, we must be grounded in the Word of God, or we will be tossed to and fro by the winds of doctrine that blow into the church and into our own lives!

Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 11:1, “**Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.**”

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**PATTERN YOURSELVES after me [follow my example], as I imitate and follow Christ (the Messiah).**”

And The Living Bible says, “**And you should follow my example, just as I follow Christ’s.**”

But for these false teachers, these apostates, you can’t follow them because they are like a wandering star. They have no life of stability, no commitment to Christ and thus, they will go here, and they will go there but they will never lead you to where you want to go or where you really need to go, to Jesus!

And what happens is that these men will shine brightly for a time, and they will fade away until the next one comes on the scene, and it happens again and again!

I love the Fourth of July fireworks! The best ones that I have seen were in Colorado many years ago, they were spectacular!

As it gets dark out, they start shooting off the fireworks and they are beautiful. Everyone goes ooh and ahh. There are all kinds of cheering and then, within a few seconds, the light of those fireworks burns out and the sky is dark again, until the next one goes off and this too is repeated over and over again.

Much excitement but it is short-lived!

Folks, we need to follow the bright and morning star, Jesus Christ, He will lead us home! His light will never go out!

And notice the end of the line for these apostates if they don't turn to Christ - "**blackness of darkness forever.**"

Do you think Jude is trying to make a point here?

Of course he is and he speaks of blackness and darkness and this will last forever, it is eternal for them.

I know that there are those who believe hell is not eternal, but what do you think this darkness that is forever is all about?

It is – ***ETERNAL!***

You see, unless they repent of their sins and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they will die in their sins, and they will spend their eternity in the Lake of Fire!

In Matthew 25:30 we are told, "**And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

And in Mark 9:48 we are told, “**where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’**”

What does that mean?

The worm speaks of maggots that feed on garbage and dead things. Thus, these maggots will eternally feed upon the eternal bodies of those who have rejected Jesus.

The fire burning continually speaks of their eternal bodies being used for fuel for this fire to consume.

It is not a pretty picture, nor is it meant to be. It is a reality outside of Christ not only for these apostates, these false teachers, but anyone who has rejected Jesus as their Lord and Savior!

Now why the blackness, the darkness?

Maybe because outside of Christ, outside of God there is no light at all, it is *PITCH BLACK!*

It is as Jesus said in Matthew 8:12, “**But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**”

Not a pretty picture nor is it intended to be. It is just the reality of where people will go apart from Christ!

Don't follow these apostates, these false teachers because - *THEY ARE . . .*

WANDERING STARS FOR WHOM IS RESERVED THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOREVER!

You wonder how anyone can follow them, but as we see in Jude 1:16, “**. . . they mouth great swelling words, flatter people to gain advantage.**”

Warren Wiersbe sums this up for us like this. He wrote,

The false teachers also use “great swelling words” to impress ignorant people.

Peter called their speeches “great swelling words of vanity” (2 Peter 2:18).

They impress people with their vocabularies and oratory, but what they say is just so much “hot air.”

They also use flattery to manipulate their listeners. They “bow and scrape” and pay compliments to others, if it is to their advantage.

Knowing these things, we are amazed that anybody would listen to these apostates and follow them; but many people are doing it today!

There is something in fallen human nature that loves a lie and is willing to follow it, no matter where it may lead. But the success of the apostates is only temporary, for their judgment is coming.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 1029

Thus, may we earnestly contend for the faith that has been entrusted to us and not taken in by these imposters, these apostates! In other words, “**Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**” Jude 1:21.