

**JUDE 1:14-16**  
**COMING JUDGMENT!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Jude chapter 1 as we continue our in-depth study of the book of Jude.

As we have seen, this book is very applicable to the days we are living in when we see false teachers with their false doctrine spreading through churches very quickly.

Now you may be thinking, *“Not me, I know how to pick out false teachers and their false teaching. They are not going to fool me!”*

We need to be careful because I have seen those who have been grounded in the Word of God be taken in and taken in easily to false teachers with their false doctrine.

You see, these false teachers don't come in and announce themselves as false teachers. They look and they sound like teachers of the truth. They will even quote Bible verses and show you that the Bible is teaching this garbage or that garbage by twisting the Word of God to make it say what they want it to say.

False teachers are subtle, and they come in secretly, in disguise as a Christian you might say, and speak forth these lies.

Let me give you an example of how good they are from Andy Stanley and listen carefully to what he is saying, and he is good, but he is not speaking the truth. In fact, what he is saying is, *“Has God indeed said!”*

We are told,

As North Point Community Church pastor Andy Stanley continues to be embroiled in a series of controversies featuring the revelation of widespread LGBTQ-affirming pastors, church leaders, and sentiment within their churches . . . , Stanley is going through a sermon series where he outlines the fundamentals of the faith that must be believed to be a Jesus follower.

Because Stanley’s approach is to elevate the ‘red letters’ – the direct words of Jesus – above other scriptures, he suggests that the church’s historical misuse of the Bible for ‘harmful nonsense’ stems from treating Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:18 (And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me) as “just another verse in the Bible,” and equating it with *other* scripture.

Stanley argues that the problem lies in the church considering the ‘entire Bible’ as its authority. In his view, it should be Jesus, not the Bible, who is the church’s authority. This line of circular reasoning rarely makes sense, given that the only trustworthy information we have about Jesus is found in the scriptures. He believes this perspective, supposedly held by first-century Judeans, prevented them from misrepresenting Jesus.

[This is what Andy Stanley said]

*Do you know **why the church has been able to leverage the Bible for all kinds of harmful nonsense through the ages?** Do you know why the church and church leaders and Christian people have been able to leverage the Bible for all kinds of harmful things that end up harming other people who claim to be Christians?*

***It’s because this statement, this statement (Matthew 28:18, And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”) has been reduced to just another verse in the Bible, equated with every other statement or verse in our sacred text.***

***And so the Bible, the entire Bible became the church’s authority. But the Bible says ‘Jesus is our ultimate and final authority’. More importantly, Jesus said ‘Jesus is our ultimate authority’.***

*The words of Jesus are the final word because he is our King, right? Now, as Jewish men and women sitting there listening to Jesus, let me tell you what they heard that we don't hear because we aren't Judeans, first century Judeans. Here's what they heard when Jesus said, 'all authority and heaven and earth belongs to me.' Here's what they thought they heard him say, or here's the implication of what he said:*

*'Ladies and gentlemen, Moses was your guy. Torah was your text. But the King has arrived. The shadow caster is here.' So when they saw him, they worshiped him. **They got what we miss. And because they got what we miss, they never misrepresented their King.***

- <https://bit.ly/431ynKx>

As you read that you may be thinking, ***"He is right. We are to follow Jesus! So Pastor Joe, what is wrong with what he is saying?"***

There is a lot wrong with it!

First of all, what is he doing?

He is getting us to doubt God's Word. No, not all of it, just everything that is not red letters or the words that Jesus spoke!

What is the problem with that?

Because all of Scripture is inspired by God and it is profitable to us. Because Jesus is the Word and the Word of God was written through the inspiration of God and thus, from Genesis through revelation we are to read and learn and apply the Word of God to our lives.

And we can spend more time on what he is missing, but you get the point, and it is a big one. Jesus prayed to God the Father the night before He was crucified for our sins, **"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."** John 17:17.

So if Andy Stanley was listening to the Words of Jesus he would have to believe that the Word of God is truth. But he is not listening to the Words of Jesus, but he is taking from the Scriptures what he wants and editing out what he doesn't want!

That is why he supports or can justify his support for LGBTQ and have ***“widespread LGBTQ-affirming pastors, church leaders, and sentiment within their churches.”***

We have seen in our study of Jude so far – ***THE PURPOSE OF JUDE!***

He wanted to warn us, or I should say the Holy Spirit wanted to warn us about these false teachers that were bringing their destructive doctrines into the church!

He wanted us to – ***EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH THAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO US!***

And it is not just any faith, but it is – ***THE FAITH!*** The Gospel message, the truths of God found in the Word of God. I told you that my Word program wanted to edit out ***“THE”*** and just have ***“FAITH.”*** But it is important for us to understand that it is not just any faith! And it is still trying to do that, and it is just like the Devil, he will keep coming after us to water down the message, compromise, to believe in another faith! He will never give up and thus, we should never stop contending for the faith!

Jude also wants us to understand that there were – ***PAST JUDGMENTS*** upon false teachers, apostates, by looking at unbelieving Jews who came out of Egypt, the angels that did not keep their proper domain and Sodom and Gomorrah!

Why is that important?

Because, as we will see this morning, there is a – ***COMING JUDGMENT!***

I do understand that many today, even some Christians ignore this fact, or they just don't believe that God is going to judge anyone. My question is, ***“Have you not read what the Bible has to say?”***

And I do realize that many pastors don't deal with this subject of judgment because they don't deal with the subject of sin!

Others will tell you that God is a God of love, and He would never hold anyone accountable or judge anyone. And God would never, ever send someone to the Lake of Fire for eternity, would He?

Listen to what one person had to say regarding the judgment of God. This woman, Betty Eadie has written several books on near-death experiences and thus, because she had one she is an authority on the subject! Not really, God is, but listen to what she thinks. We are told,

The idea of hell and judgment are nowhere to be found [in Betty Eadie's bestseller, *Embraced by The Light*, on the N.Y. Times bestseller list for more than 40 weeks, including 5 weeks as #1].

In November 1973 Eadie allegedly died after undergoing a hysterectomy, and returned five hours later with the secrets of heaven revealed by Jesus.

Eadie says that Jesus *"never wanted to do or say anything that would offend me"* while she visited heaven.

Indeed, Jesus seems to be relegated to the role of a happy tour guide in heaven, not the Savior of the world who died on the cross.

- Richard Abanes, in *Christianity Today*, March 7, 1994, p. 53.

And people will believe what she has to say, and be comfortable with death, not fearing the judgment of God! That is not of God, but it is a deception from Satan, the father of lies!

But, as Jude will show us this morning, there is coming a judgment for these apostates, these false teachers and that judgment is for all who have rejected Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, not just these men!

I know, many have heard this before about the judgment of God and nothing happened. They hear about it, and they just can't accept it.

Let me say this. During the days of Noah, only eight people believed that God was going to judge the world and the rest of mankind, maybe some eight to ten billion people, laughed and went on doing their own thing. They mocked Noah and what he was saying and the preparations he was making.

They were eating, drinking and given in marriage, having a grand old time, *UNTIL* that first rain drop fell and then, in a sense, they missed the boat! Sorry, but they did!

It doesn't really matter if people believe in the judgment of God, it is going to happen. Let me share this story with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

I once heard of an agnostic farmer who wrote to the editor of his local newspaper, who was a Christian.

He said, *"In defiance of your God I plowed my fields this year on Sunday, I disked and fertilized them on Sunday, I planted them on a Sunday, I cultivated them on Sunday, and I reaped them on Sunday. This October I had the biggest crop I have ever had. How do you explain that?"* The editor replied, *"God does not always settle his accounts in October."*

- Lou Nicholes, Word of Life Fellowship

Praise God that He is gracious and merciful to us, but make no mistake about it, He is a righteous judge, and He will judge this sinful world just as He judged the world during the days of Noah!

As we see wickedness, immorality growing and growing we long for the day when the Lord comes back and sets up His Kingdom on this earth. When He judges sin and righteousness will fill this land.

But just because it hasn't happened yet doesn't mean it won't. It will and I think we are getting closer and closer to the judgment of God coming upon a Christ rejecting world!

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at here in Jude this morning into two main points. They are,

***HERE COMES THE JUDGE – JUDE 1:14-15***

***JUDGMENT FOR WHO – JUDE 1:16***

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Jude chapter 1, beginning in verse 14, and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic –

***COMING JUDGMENT!***

## **JUDE 1**

### **VERSES 14-15**

Here we see Jude quoting from the Book of Enoch, and that is troubling for many!

Why is that troubling?

Because the Book of Enoch is not part of the Bible but part of the Apocrypha.

To get around this problem, Trapp speaks of the early church father, Tertullian and what he had to say about this book. He wrote, ***“Tertullian tells us that the Book of Enoch’s prophecies were preserved by Noah in the ark, and that they continued and were read until the times of the apostles. But because they contained many famous testimonies concerning Jesus Christ, the Jews out of malice suppressed and abolished the whole book.”***

That is possible, but I would not hold on to that one to justify the book of Enoch. Also please understand that what Enoch wrote about is not something new. It did not contradict the Scriptures. It is just the facts.

Again, the book of Enoch is not inspired, it is not part of the Bible, and we need to remember that.

Just remember that this is not some new doctrine that Jude is getting from the Book of Enoch. It is just repeated information, and he is using Enoch as an example of someone who contended for the faith. Once you understand that you will understand why he is speaking of Enoch and what he wrote down.

You can read about Enoch in Genesis chapter 5 and Hebrews 11:5.

And the Scriptures tell us as well as Jude does, that Enoch was the seventh from Adam.

Now think about that for a minute. Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam!

And the reason he is described that way is to identify him from Cain’s son, also named Enoch. (Genesis 4:17, Jude 1:14)

But again, think about this. In that short period of time wickedness filled the earth! In only seven generations! Wickedness can grow very quickly as we are seeing in the days we are living in!

But listen to what it says of Enoch, “**And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.**”

In the midst of all that wickedness, Enoch fellowshiped with God! I will deal more with what happened to Enoch in a minute.

As we get to the New Testament, we see Enoch mentioned in that Great Hall of Faith section in Hebrews chapter 11.

Why is Enoch in this Hall of Faith section?

Listen to what we are told in Hebrews 11:5. Paul tells us that “**By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**”

And The Living Bible puts this verse like this, “**Because of faith Enoch was caught up and transferred to heaven, so that he did not have a glimpse of death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For even before he was taken to heaven, he received testimony [still on record] that he had pleased and been satisfactory to God. [Gen 5:21-24.]**”

And, according to what Jude is saying here, God had given him information regarding the coming judgment, not in his day, but still in the future!

Yes, Enoch knew that judgment was coming in his day, because God spoke to him about it.

How can I be so sure?

Because, when his son was born, he named him Methuselah.

I know, you are thinking, “***Big deal!***”

It is! You see, his name means, “**dying he shall send.**” Do you know what happened in the year that Methuselah died?

The flood came and judgment was brought upon the wicked!

Enoch believed in this coming judgment and by faith, he also believed in a future judgment that was coming!

It is out of this I see Enoch contending for the faith that was entrusted to him. You see, it was not just belief in these things, but he went about preaching this coming judgment to anyone and everyone he could!

And so should we, because the time is late! We should be living holy lives as Enoch was.

Now what happened to Enoch?

God had taken him up or raptured him before the flood came upon the wicked! (Hebrews 11:5)

What I see out of all of this is that Enoch is a type of the church that will be taken off the earth before the judgment of God comes upon a Christ rejecting world, a wicked world!

We see this in the book of Revelation where John is a type of the church and he is taken up into heaven at the close of the church age and then, in Revelation chapters 6-19 we see judgment come.

Keep in mind that the church is not mentioned again in Revelation until we come back with the Lord. So before judgement begins, before the first seal is opened and the Antichrist is revealed, the church is caught up to be with the Lord, we call it the Rapture!

Now we may wonder why it is taking the Lord so long to come back. Wickedness, immorality seems to be growing and growing and man is getting more and more perverse in what they are doing, how can the Lord wait so long?

Let's look at this picture of Enoch and his son Methuselah. We see that Methuselah was the longest living person on the earth that was recorded in the Bible. He lived 969 years and then he died! And when he died the judgment of God came as a flood upon the whole earth!

Why is that?

I believe God is showing us how gracious and merciful he is. In saying that, I think we are seeing the grace and mercy of God upon this world, but understand, that as we are told in Genesis 6:3, **“And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’”**

I believe that as Noah began to build the ark, it took him one hundred and twenty years, and as those days moved forward, the grace and mercy of God were coming to an end for those who rejected him!

And we do see this in the New Testament. Peter tells us in II Peter 3:9, **“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”**

That is the grace and mercy of God, but it too will come to an end for sinful man as Peter goes on to say, **“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night . . .”** II Peter 3:10.

And Jude is telling us that God spoke to Enoch about this future judgment, the one that I believe is coming in our day, a judgment against a Christ rejecting world!

Listen to what Jude tells us about Enoch and what he knew, **“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’”** Jude 1:14-15.

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“It was of these people, moreover, that Enoch in the seventh [generation] from Adam prophesied when he said, Behold, the Lord comes with His myriads of holy ones (ten thousands of His saints) To execute judgment upon all and to convict all the impious (unholy ones) of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed [in such an] ungodly [way], and of all the severe (abusive, jarring) things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”** Jude 1:14-15.

And again, this is not something new that Enoch is saying regarding the last days. In Revelation 19:11-21 we are told of this, **“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.’ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his**

**presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”**

This judgment upon these apostates will also be a judgment upon all of mankind who have rejected Jesus!

So Enoch is speaking of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and as He returns to the earth during the battle of Armageddon with His Bride, the Church, you and me, riding white horses, to establish His Kingdom on this earth!

You see, God’s judgment is going to be poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, we call that the 7-year Tribulation Period and just as the world will be judged, so too will these men, these apostates, these pretenders will be judged, they will not get away with anything!

Now when it says “**ten thousands of His saints**” many don’t see that as a big number. But in the Greek, it is the largest number they had and thus, it is probably indicating that this is an innumerable number of saints that are coming. (Revelation 5:11)

The Lord is coming back for what reason?

Jude tells us, “**To execute judgment.**” He will deal with sin and sinners!

So we have seen – ***HERE COMES THE JUDGE!***

As we read on, and we have talked a little about this, but we will look at – ***JUDGMENT***

***FOR WHO?***

VERSE 16

These apostates are not manifesting the fruit of the Spirit but the works of the flesh.

What is the difference?

Let me show you first of all what the fruit of the spirit looks like.

Paul tells us in Galatians 5:22-26, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”**

The fruit of the Spirit is – *LOVE*, that *AGAPE* love or unconditional love and how is that manifested in our lives?

With joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

You see, the fruit of the Spirit is – *LOVE!*

These other actions are what love, agape love looks like.

And this love can only be manifested in a person’s life if they are in Christ, or they are saved. You can’t manufacture this love in your life, or just try harder. It is a love that God has and is poured out into our lives and then flows through our lives and touches others! And it will only be seen as we crucify the flesh, not build it up, and live in the Spirit!

The works of the flesh are really the opposite of what the fruit of the Spirit is all about. Listen to what Paul says regarding the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21, **“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”**

What is the focus of these works of the flesh?

You really only need one word – ***SELF!***

That truly is what the flesh is focused on, it is – ***SELF-CENTERED!***

But the fruit of the Spirit is focused on – ***OTHERS!***

And look at the ugliness of these things, these works of the flesh. The destruction that the flesh brings into our lives as we walk according to those desires!

And for these apostates, these false teachers, that is what they are all about – ***SELF!*** Jude has talked about that, and we see that clearly here in Jude 1:16, as they are **“... walking according to their own lusts ...”**

They are not walking according to what the Lord has said, but they are doing and saying whatever they want so they can draw people to themselves.

Make no mistake about it, they are smooth talkers who can get you to believe anything and everything and the bottom line is that they are only interested in themselves and promoting their ideas.

They have a program; they have an agenda that they are destroying people’s lives with!

It is just as Paul warned Timothy, **“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.”** II Timothy 4:3-4.

Today we have all kinds of new teachings coming into the church but think about that. If the Word of God is complete and we are not to add to it or take away from it, how can there be new teachings. There can't and yet, the church has opened its doors to these false teachers with their doctrines of demons that they are bringing in!

Just to give you a few of these doctrines of demons, and some of these have been around for a while but you will see the danger in them.

**JESUS WAS JUST A MAN, A VERY GOOD MAN!**

**DO NOT TAKE THE BIBLE TOO LITERALLY!**

**GOD WILL BE GOOD AND ACCEPT EVERYONE IN THE END!**

**GOOD PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN!**

**CHRISTIANS WILL BE HEALTHY AND WEALTHY!**

And we can go on but notice that you will not find these teachings in the Bible even though these apostates will take the Bible and make it say what they want it to say.

What is interesting here in Jude is that he tells us that these apostates murmur, they complain, they walk after their own lusts and use fancy words, big words to promote their ideas!

And again, the reason that they do this is to draw people to themselves and they take advantage of them!

Spurgeon put it like this as he sums this up for us, *“You know the sort of people alluded to here, nothing ever satisfies them. They are discontented even with the gospel. The bread of heaven must be cut into three pieces, and served on dainty napkins, or else they cannot eat it; and very soon their soul hates even this light bread. There is no way by which a Christian man can serve God so as to please them. They will pick holes in every preacher’s coat; and if the great High Priest himself were here, they would find fault with the color of the stones of his breastplate.”*

Very true!

And the reason that these apostates can continue on is because people will search out these apostates and their false doctrine because they no longer want sound doctrine, healthy doctrine.

They would rather hear fairy tales because it fits in with their lifestyle and they are comfortable with them!

And thus, this judgment is for the ungodly, including these apostates who are bringing their false teaching into churches, and printing them in books, getting them on the radio and internet, anywhere and everywhere they can because it will benefit them!

Remember what we read in Jude 1:15, that the Lord is coming back with us, His saints to do what?

To execute judgment on all the ungodly!

Do we see that in the Bible?

You bet we do. In John chapter 5 we are told, **“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son . . . and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.”** John 5:22, 27.

Jesus Christ is coming again in judgment of a Christ rejecting world! You see, He alone has the authority, He alone is worthy to judge the world because He is Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, the sinless One!

Now some don't see this as fair, but God is righteous, there is no darkness in Him at all. And we might not fully understand everything, but we need to understand that God is fair in all that He does!

Listen carefully to what we are told in Psalm 96:13, **“For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.”**

Not only is the Lord coming but He is coming as a righteous judge. And when He judges, it will be according to truth!

Please understand that this is going to happen as we are told in Acts 17:31, **“because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**

That day is quickly approaching as I have said.

And the ungodly will be judged, and one writer put it like this in regard to the Greek word **“ungodly.”** He wrote, ***“It basically means, ‘godless, without fear and reverence of God’.”***

That is why, as you look at the behavior of leaders and in general, the people of this world, you can clearly see that they have no fear of God by what they are doing!

Let me give you this example of not fearing God and we see this in the church, not just the world. This is from a few years back and it is worse today, far worse.

We are told,

Following is a list of examples of churches that claim to be Christian who are adopting unbiblical ideas.

Note: individual churches do not represent denominations.

**Changing the Bible to suit gender-neutral wording.**

This has crept into the church periodically in the last 30 years. Due to pressure from the secular society, some Christian based Bible publishers are offering gender-neutral Bibles. This is sad. Is God's word any less true because it is not gender-neutral? Should Christians change God's word to suit the unbeliever? No and no. . . .

In contemporary culture, homosexuality is gaining ground and acceptance. This should never bleed over into the Christian church. The fact that homosexuality is even in question in some denominations is a definite sign of apostasy since homosexuality clearly contradicts the plain teaching of scripture that homosexuality is a sin: "Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God," (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Unfortunately, too many denominations are listening to the false gospel of the world and becoming secularized. They need to repent and stand on God's word, whether it is popular or not.

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

And there is more, but you can see that this is where we are today. The church is accepting all kinds of sins and immoral behavior!

This article is from 2022 and listen to what has happened, and I think you will understand that these false teachers have deceived many denominations and people with their doctrines of demons.

We are told,

Eleven years ago, I wrote an article titled, *“Does the Word ‘Evangelical’ Mean Anything Anymore?”* I said then:

. . . there are more and more every year who think *“There’s no way to know the truth, so let’s not be dogmatic”* in areas that God has actually revealed in His Word, which people have given their lives to get into our language so we could know what God has said to us. I feel like right now among evangelicals - including authors, musicians, speakers, and pastors - there’s a runaway train of unbiblical and unclear thinking.

We are improvising theology on the fly with little regard for the Scriptures or the historic orthodox Christian faith. We act as if the Christian faith began with us, and we are perfectly free to modify it in light of the latest cultural winds.

To put it bluntly, there is not only more and more false doctrine in churches, there is also more and more of it coming from evangelical pastors and authors and publishers and colleges.

(Of course, more and more people aren’t even part of churches these days, but that’s a different story, though related.)

In conclusion, I asked:

*Is it reasonable to suggest that there is a point where if you no longer believe that the whole Bible is true, and you deny core truths evangelical Christians historically believed, it is misleading and even nonsensical to continue to call yourself an “evangelical Christian”?*

It's been over a decade, but sadly, the trends I saw in 2011, including the decline of biblical knowledge and the erosion of sound doctrine in churches, have only become more obvious.

Every two years, Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research partner together to ***“take the theological temperature”*** of U.S. evangelicals. The 2022 survey reflected very disturbing trends in the American church.

(Christianity Today explains: ***“Respondents were considered evangelical by belief if they strongly agreed in the Bible as the highest authority; the importance of encouraging non-Christians to trust Jesus as their savior; that his death removed the penalty of sin; and that trust in him alone brings salvation.”*** You must keep this in mind as you contemplate the poll results - these are *not* merely self-proclaimed evangelicals, but to have their opinions count, they had to clearly affirm those clear evangelical beliefs. Therefore, while results would vary from church to church, the respondents are generally a fair cross-section of evangelicals.)

Other remarkable findings of the survey: when presented with the statement ***“Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God,”*** 43% of evangelicals surveyed agreed (compared to 30% in 2020).

This means that more than four out of ten people who claim to be evangelicals don't believe in the deity of Jesus Christ! (Of course, it would be seven out of ten based on the responses to that question about Jesus being created.)

And 56% of evangelicals agree with the statement ***“God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.”***

26% of evangelicals (up from 15% in 2020) - affirmed the statement, ***“The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.”***

And 38% agree with “*Religious belief is a matter of personal opinion; it is not about objective truth.*”

The percentages demonstrate that these are no mere fringe ideas; they are already prevalent in U.S. churches and are gaining traction at an alarming rate.

37% think that “*Gender identity is a matter of choice,*” and given the strong trajectory of our culture, and schools in particular, we should expect this number to increase.

One encouraging finding was that 94% of evangelicals agree that “*Sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin.*”

I’m also glad to see 91% of respondents agreed with the statement “*Abortion is a sin.*” (In my opinion, however, many evangelicals do not live consistently with these beliefs, since premarital sex and abortion are more widespread than those figures would suggest. The last study I was aware of found that 25% of women getting abortions indicated they were evangelical Christians.)

The surveyors conclude:

The 2022 State of Theology survey reveals that Americans increasingly reject the divine origin and complete accuracy of the Bible. With no enduring plumb line of absolute truth to conform to, U.S. adults are also increasingly holding to unbiblical worldviews related to human sexuality.

In the evangelical sphere, doctrines including the deity and exclusivity of Jesus Christ, as well as the inspiration and authority of the Bible, are increasingly being rejected.

While positive trends are present, including evangelicals' views on abortion and sex outside of marriage, an inconsistent biblical ethic is also evident, with more evangelicals embracing a secular worldview in the areas of homosexuality and gender identity.

- <https://bit.ly/3prS40i>

Now that is very sad and disheartening. Even with the positive results about premarital sex and abortion and they say they believe what the Bible tells us. The problem with that is we are not seeing this being played out in the lives of Christians! So it doesn't matter what you say you believe, if you are not practicing it. That is hypocrisy!

What can be done to fix this problem?

What can be done so that the truth can go forward, and these lies exposed.

In this same article the writer tells us this. He wrote,

Several years ago, I was asked what I would do differently if I were a pastor today, as I was for fourteen years at two different churches. The answer was easy: if I had it to do over again, I would focus heavily on teaching systematic theology. Our calling is to "teach what accords with sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1).

Over nearly four decades in my church (a church that has always taught and emphasized God's Word), I've seen a noticeable - even startling - reduction in the average person's grasp of biblical truth.

It's possible for someone to hear Bible-based sermons, as we regularly do at my church, while at the same time adopting a worldview that is less and less biblical. This happens because most church people spend little time studying God's truth during the week.

Compare the time spent reading Scripture and great books that teach biblical truth with the amount of time spent watching television and reading social media, both of which often exemplify an anti-Christian worldview.

What chance does one 40-minute sermon a week have, no matter how biblical, when it must try to correct 40 to 70 hours of input that's contrary to Scripture? It's impossible, unless that 40 minutes of Bible teaching is a vehicle to get people into studying and discussing God's Word and reading quality books in their own discretionary time.

In addition to giving people a truly Christian worldview, my biggest hope with the teaching of systematic theology is that it will inspire and motivate them to read books which further cultivate that biblical perspective.

If people in our churches gave up ten hours of television, talk radio, sports radio, political programming, shopping, or you-name-it per week and spent that time reading or listening to God's Word and great Christ-exalting books and videos, it would make a phenomenal difference.

Our young people must be taught systematic theology (age-appropriate of course, which can be done from childhood) to establish a Christian worldview, before going off to college.

That's the only way they will be equipped to answer the challenges to their faith they'll encounter. They would at least have a chance.

As it is now, many go off to college with little more than a few isolated stories they heard in Sunday school, youth group, and in their homes. This meagre knowledge can't begin to stand up against the onslaught of anti-God, anti-Bible, and anti-church doctrine that will overwhelm them (tragically, even at many so-called Christian colleges).

- <https://bit.ly/3prS40i>

In other words, we are in a battle for the truth and thus, as Jude has been admonishing us, we must “**... contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**”

Jude 1:3.

Why is this such a big deal?

Because “**... 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 licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.**” Jude 1:4.

And Jude wants us to know that judgment is coming upon these apostates, these false teachers and all those who have rejected Jesus Christ. They will not get away with anything and in the end, they will spend eternity apart from Christ in the Lake of Fire, outer darkness!

I do understand that people laugh at this idea of judgment as I have said. But let me show you that God is not mocked.

In a book entitled *Down to Earth*, John Lawrence tells the story of a city that dared God to show Himself and paid a terrible price.

It seems that the city of Messina, Sicily, was home to many wicked, irreligious people.

On December 25, 1908, a newspaper published in Messina printed a parody against God, daring Him to make Himself known by sending an earthquake.

Three days later, on December 28, the city and its surrounding district was devastated by a terrible quake that killed 84,000 people.

We see all that ungodliness, all the wickedness that is going on and now growing even in churches, and please understand, this is rebellion against what God has said and God is not going to be mocked!

Remember what Peter said in I Peter 4:17-18, **“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’”**

Yes, God will use judgment, persecution to purify us, to make us more like Him. But please understand that this is done with the idea of building up, it is done in a positive way even though the situation may be difficult.

Now as Peter compares the judgment of the godly with the ungodly, they don't compare, it is like apples and oranges.

Thus, it is far better to suffer now, enduring through these tough times with joy because God is working in us to bring us to glory.

But for the ungodly, it doesn't even compare, the judgment for them is eternal, it will never end.

Paul in Hebrews 12:27-29 tells us, **“Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”**

Fire can purify as it does with gold, and that is what God is doing in our lives.

Fire can also destroy and for the unsaved, their righteousness will be burned up for it is like filthy rags before a holy and righteous God, it will not be able to stand His judgment!

And Paul tells us that God is going to shake everything that can be shaken and only that which is of Him will stand!

As we have seen – ***HERE COMES THE JUDGE!*** And I believe Jesus is standing at the door preparing to receive His Bride, the Church and then pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world!

And like I have said in regard to – ***JUDGMENT FOR WHO?*** Jude tells us, **“to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him. These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.”**  
 Jude 1:15-16.

Let me close with this story. We are told,

Recently a young man in suburban Chicago tried to escape during his trial, as he'd seen done many times on television.

While being led out of the courtroom, he burst free, ran across a walkway, and tried to leap through a window. The bulletproof glass didn't break, and the man bounced off, landing on the floor where he promptly was rearrested, this time in worse trouble than ever.

David Jeremiah observes, “There's no escaping judgment; and there's no escaping God's judgment except through the grace and pardon of Jesus Christ. He is our Advocate, our Barrister [lawyer] and our Defense Attorney (1 John 2:1).

The prophet Zechariah once had a vision in which he saw Israel's high priest Joshua standing before the Lord, dressed in filthy rags and being accused by Satan. The Lord removed the man's filthy garments and clothed him with rich robes and a clean turban, all of grace.

You see – ***YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUMBLE!*** And we will look at that next week as we finish our study of Jude!

The judgment that we deserve has been suspended permanently. Our Advocate provides robes of righteousness as our shame, guilt and judgment are washed away by His blood.”

- Today in the Word, October 1997, p. 25

Judgment is coming for the apostates, these false teachers, all who have rejected Christ but if you come to Christ, that judgment for your sin was paid by Jesus and to receive life you must repent of your sins and ask Him to be Lord and Savior of your life!

The warning has been given and as we will see next time, the defense against these false teachers that we must prepare for and stand strong against them!