

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Jude v10-13.**
- B. Jude begins his letter in a very positive tone. He speaks of mercy, peace, and love (v2).
- C. He then tells his readers that his original plan was to write to them concerning their common salvation... what a great subject! But alas there were more urgent things at hand.
- D. Jude asks the brethren to contend earnestly for the faith (3). This body of doctrine has been once and for all delivered. God has given His written revelation to man--no more is to come. Therefore, we should preach and defend the truth that God has given us.
- E. The reason for this defense is clear cut--false teachers have crept into their fellowship, unnoticed. And their error is no small matter, they are denying Jesus Christ!

I. GET READY FOR THE FIGHT!

- A. There are people who want to destroy everything that God stands for!
- B. These people are organized, ready, educated, and skilled in what they believe. We, as God's people cannot stand idly by and allow their heresy to go unchallenged.
- C. That's why Jude said to "contend earnestly for the faith." The word *contend* means to fight, wrestle or struggle for. We must mobilize for action!
- D. I would never purposefully get into a fight that I was not ready for! This is why Paul spoke of being "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:6). And for Peter to tell us "to be ready to make a defense for the hope that lies within us" (1Pet. 3:15).
- E. Peter's remarks are that of a lawyer, who prepares a brief, who knows the arguments that he wants to make, and knows the arguments the other side will make.
- F. If we are going to be ready to contend for the faith, we need to know what the Word of God says, and what the false teachers are saying.

II. WHAT FALSE TEACHERS ARE LIKE.

- A. See Jude v8, 10. Jude mentions three characteristics of false teachers:
 - 1. They defile the flesh (they are basically carnal, and do not care for spiritual things).
 - 2. They reject authority (because they want to be in authority over others).
 - 3. They revile angelic majesties (have no scruples with whom they deal).
- B. See Jude v12. Here Jude gives a 6-fold description of false teachers. They are:
 - 1. Hidden reefs (boating on Lake Shelbyville).
 - 2. Shepherds feeding themselves (not caring for the sheep).
 - 3. Clouds without water, driven by the wind (useless, and unpredictable).
 - 4. Autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead (without reward, root and fruit dead).
 - 5. Wild waves of the sea (dangers and unpredictable).
 - 6. Wandering stars (unreliable and misleading).
- C. And if that description couldn't get any worse, look at verses 16,19! They are:
 - 1. Grumblers.
 - 2. Fault finders.
 - 3. Lustful.
 - 4. Arrogant.
 - 5. Flatterers, seeking their own advantage.
 - 6. Divisive.
 - 7. Worldly minded.
 - 8. Devoid of (or w/o) the Spirit.
- D. False teachers have their reward coming (13d)!

III. WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS.

- A. Jude does not leave his readers, or us, unprepared. He makes four very powerful suggestions by which we can deal with false teachers and the heresy they espouse.

B. Four things to do:

1. Build yourself up in the most holy faith (v20).
Make 1998 the year of Bible study in your life. Be able to do 1Pet. 3:15.
2. Pray in the Holy Spirit (v20).
Get serious with prayer so that your innermost words and thoughts will have to come from the HS (Rom. 8:26-27).
3. Keep yourselves in the love of God (v21).
Don't let failure; set-backs, problems, trials, and tribulations get you down. There are going to come (everybody suffers), but keep your thinking to where you always know that God loves you. When I know I am loved that takes the pressure off.
4. Wait anxiously for the Lord, Jesus Christ (v21).
Paul pressed on for the upward call (Phil. 3:14), not for material wealth, etc. The crown of life comes to those who have "loved His appearing" (2Tim. 4:8).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Jude ends his letter saying that it is possible to save some.
- B. Let's be patient one w/another, hating the sin but not the sinner.
- C. May we contend earnestly for the faith!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.