

“CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH - PART 3” (Jude 1:6-7)

Pastor Mark Johnson

INTRO: Jude exhorts his audience (us!) to contend earnestly for the faith (v. 3) because of the infiltration of false teachers [apostates] in the church and culture (v. 4).

Apostates - those who are promoting religious beliefs contrary to the true faith, while often pretending to accept and profess the true faith. The primary characteristic of apostates is denying Jesus is Lord (v. 4)!

EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS APOSTATES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES (vv. 5-7).

1. **The Backslidden Israelites (v. 5)** – even though they started well, they were destroyed by God because of sin and unbelief – failing to fulfill destiny (Numbers 13-14).
2. **The Fallen Angels (v. 6)** – rebelled against God and are incarcerated, waiting for their final judgment (Gen. 6:1-4; Rev. 12:1-9; 2Pet. 2:4; Matt. 25:41; 2Cor. 10:12-14).
3. **Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 7; 2Pet. 2:6-9; Genesis 19).**
 - A. Sexual immorality resulted in city destruction.
 - B. Homosexuality was prevalent.
 - C. Scriptures on heterosexuality and homosexuality (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:24; Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26-27; 1Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 16:17-20; 2Pet. 2:7-8).
 - D. Sin is in the action, not the attraction.
 - E. God is more than willing to forgive and restore!

CONCLUSION:

1. It's not how you start, but how you finish – persevere! Contend Earnestly for the Faith!
2. Learn to be satisfied with the generous boundaries of your God-assigned domain & authority.
3. God eventually judges sin and unbelief!
4. Rejecting God's ways for your ways never turns out good!
5. God is more than willing to forgive and restore!

Next week we will begin looking at some of the characteristics of the modern apostates that Jude's audience were facing and that we are facing today, and how we can effectively contend for the faith (vv. 8-16).