

“CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH - PART 6” (Jude 1:12-16)

Pastor Mark Johnson

INTRO: Jude exhorts believers to contend for the faith (v. 3) because of the infiltration of false teachers [apostates] in the church (v. 4). Jude then gives us three examples of previous apostates and their consequences (vv. 5-7) followed by eight characteristics of these contemporary apostates (vv. 8-11).

TWO PRIMARY LESSONS IN JUDE:

1. It's not how you start, but how you finish – Persevere!
2. Sin & unbelief have consequences that will be realized!

More Characteristics of Contemporary Apostates (vv. 12-16)

FIVE ILLUSTRATIONS FROM NATURE (vv. 12-13):

1. Spots [hidden Rocks] (v. 12a).

A. They participate irreverently and selfishly in religious functions, endangering their sacredness (1Cor. 11:17-30).

2. Clouds (v. 12b).

- A. They're visible, but with no substance – no refreshing.
B. Controlled by ever-changing external forces – unstable.

3. Trees (v. 12d; Ps. 1:1-3; Col. 2:6-8; Rev. 2:11).

- A. They're visible but bear no good fruit.
B. They're spiritually dead – not abiding/rooted in Christ.

4. Waves (v. 13a).

- A. Visible, active, noisy, dangerous, unstable.
B. External forces expose their shame (Isa. 57:20).

5. Stars (v. 13b).

- A. Visible, but directionless, so don't follow them!
B. Destined for the blackness of darkness forever (v. 6).

FOUR MORE CHARACTERISTICS (vv. 14-16):

1. They're Destined for Judgment (vv. 14-15).
2. They're Grumblers & Complainers (v. 16a; Phil. 2:14-15; 1Cor. 10:10; Num. 11:1; 14:26-29).
3. They walk according to their own lusts (v. 16b).
4. They flatter people for personal gain (v. 16c; Prov. 20:19).

CONCLUSION: Be on guard for these contemporary apostates & don't let them suck you in! Don't follow them!