

PP Jude-Christian...Contend For Jesus!

Part 4-1:4b

9/28-29

If we do not care about the truth, we will not be that bothered by those who distort it
Peter warned his readers what some false teachers were doing with Paul's teaching: *"which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures."*

2 Peter 3:16

A person can twist scripture in nearly infinite ways to suit their preferences and biases

PP Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=mFc-63Znye4

0.06-1:12

PP Is that really what the verse he pointed to saying: *"Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness!"* **Habakkuk 2:15**

It is wrong to make someone drunk so that you can take advantage of them, and it is wrong for Babylon, to who God is speaking here, to intoxicate a nation with their favor and then crush them militarily

Drinking excessively is sin, but to use this verse as proof that Jesus didn't actually turn water into wine with alcoholic content is absurd

There is bad teaching, and there is false and heretical teaching

Jude was exposing false teaching because he knew it was poison, as did Charles Spurgeon

PP *"I cannot endure false doctrine, however neatly it may be put before me. Would you have me eat poisoned meat because the dish is of the choicest ware?"* **Spurgeon**

Jude sees heresy creeping into the church and he's calling Christians to contend for the faith

Last week we looked at the first heresy: *"For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality "who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality"*

Cheap grace, or hyper-grace, the teaching that since all our sins were put on Christ and He paid for them all, then it doesn't matter when we sin

Instead of grace moving us to holy living, it actually created a license to sin all you want or a sense that you can get to the point where you are no longer a sinner

But then Jude warned of a second heresy: some *"deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."*

PP *'deny'* means to disown, for the followers of Jesus who fearing death or persecution, deny that Jesus is their Master and desert His cause

They were disowning not an idea, but a Person, Jesus Christ

The King James almost makes it appear that Jude is talking of two persons: *"denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."* **4**

But the Greek grammar requires these two names to refer to one Person

Jude is saying here that Jesus Christ is God!

PP He is the *'Master'*, a word that gives us our word despot, not a tyrant who abuses his power, but a ruler with absolute power and authority

Anyone who denies that Jesus was fully man and fully God fully all His time on earth is a false teacher

PP Michael Horton points out in *Agony of Deceit*, that *"any teaching that denies that Christ is 'the only begotten Son, the One and Only incarnation of God' is heresy"*

PP Not only is Jesus supreme in authority, He is the **'Lord'**, *the honorable owner of all*
He was more than a good man, or a good teacher, and His authority was not derived from God
The authority of Jesus is His own, because He is God in flesh

False teaching almost always has a problem with the authority of Jesus Christ

So Jude ends his letter with the strongest affirmation of this possible: ***"to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever."*** 25

Jude is affirming in verse 4 what the false teachers were denying...that Jesus was God in man, the supreme authority and rightful owner of all there is

Most of us struggle in this area of authority, finding it difficult to fully yield to God with hearts in full agreement with His will

Has God clearly asked you to do something that you are, quite honestly, not yet willing to do?

Has He allowed or even brought something into your life that you are struggling to accept?

Following the Lord in that moment may be the most difficult choice you'll ever make

It is at that moment you'll discover if Jesus is your Master and Lord

Notice the word Jude uses here: ***'only'***

This is a clue, identifying the heresy was, creeping into the church, and it is strengthened when we look at verse 25, and see it there as well: ***"to the only God, our Savior"***

PP It had a name, and it is still very much alive; it's called Gnosticism

This has been one of the greatest threats to the church in all its history, often changing in form
It was a cult philosophy that believed that the Supreme God was completely unknowable and too pure to touch physical matter because matter was intrinsically evil

So he/she created divinities, or Aeons, each one further and further removed from his presence

The last one created was so removed from the supreme God that he was ignorant and evil

This final divinity was the God of the Old Testament, the creator of the universe, who blinded the eyes of unbelievers and kept humans from knowing who they really were

Who people really are, are divine sparks of light, offshoots of God trapped in a corrupt body

So the supreme God created another divinity, the redeemer Christ, more like he/she than the creator god

Christ came to rescue these elect sparks, giving them knowledge of who they are, so that their eyes could be opened and they could realize that they are divine

The Christ did not come to redeem the elect from sin, but from ignorance, and when these few realized who they were, sparks of divinity, gods within, they began their journey back to the Supreme God

But the Gnostics were divided in their view of Christ

Some believed, since all matter was evil and God cannot touch it, the Christ appeared to be a man, but was really just a spirit in the illusion of a body

Others believed that the Christ came into the man Jesus at His baptism and then left him on the cross

Either belief united in the purpose of Christ, to give secret knowledge to the ignorant

The body was evil and a prison to be escaped from with some teaching that since it was evil and utterly separate from the pure spirit within, it didn't matter what you did with it, so sin as much as you want

Other Gnostics argued that one must separate from all desires of the flesh and control it

But both taught that salvation, enlightenment, started with the knowledge that Christ came to give, and continue with gnostic teachings, visions, dreams, experiences, rituals, as well as directly from angels

Eventually for the elect few enlightened Gnostics, death started the spirit's journey back to a reunion with the Supreme God forever

Jesus isn't the only God, we are all gods, we need not forgiveness of sin, but secret knowledge

This is the original strategy of Satan, and it works so well, he keeps using it, outside the church as well as inside it, as Self-help guru Wayne Dyer presents:

PP Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=tUdAZq4cOQo
3:39-4:11 Wayne Dyer

PP *"But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"* Genesis 3:4-5

Eat the fruit, your eyes will be open to know...and when you know, you will be like God

And this is what Gnosticism taught; that we have within us the divine spark, the potential to become gods, and what awakens it is this secret knowledge

And what prevents us from being on this path of enlightenment is not sin, but ignorance

So Jude wrote that some *"deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Friends, do you realize that many are teaching these same heresies today?

PP Rhonda Byrne in the promo of her book, *The Magic* says: *"For more than twenty centuries, words within a sacred text have mystified, confused, and been misunderstood by almost all who read them. Only a very few people through history have realized that the words are a riddle, and that once you solve the riddle - once you uncover the mystery - a new world will appear before your eyes. In The Magic, Rhonda Byrne reveals this life-changing knowledge to the world."*

This is pure Gnostic philosophy, and there are many who claim this special secret knowledge and

PP revelation: *"Now I don't know what hell looks like but God gave me a few ideas. It is hot, fire hot but at the same time it is cold and clammy. That is kind of different isn't it? Fire hot, but cold and clammy."* Joyce Meyer

How about the Gnostic belief that the Christ left Jesus on the cross so He was just a man?

PP *"[Jesus] could have helped himself up until the point where he said I commend my spirit into your hands, at that point he couldn't do nothing for himself anymore. He had become sin, he was no longer the Son of God. He was sin."* Joyce Meyer

PP *"Why didn't Jesus openly proclaim Himself as God during His 33 years on earth?" For one single reason, "He hadn't come to earth as God, He'd come as man."* Kenneth Copeland

PP Paul was battling the beginnings of Gnostic heresy at Colossae when he wrote: *"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit...For in [Christ] the whole*

fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority.” Colossians 2:8-10

Word-Faith teachers like Copeland, Hagin, Price and Dollar not only demote Christ to bring Him to our level, they promote humans to be on His

PP Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=21YYN2E7xkY
2:30-2:49 Crefflo Dollar we are all gods

Watch Pastors Larry Huch and Paula White teach their heresy:

PP Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=eQtQinXtsKE
19:32-19:59 ‘According to Hebrews...’

PP Or Casey Treat, “The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost had a conference and they said, ‘Let us make man an exact duplicate of us.’ When God looks in the mirror, He sees me! When I look into the mirror, I see God!”

PP Or listen again to what Kenneth Copeland said, “*You don’t have a God in you, you are one*” and “*When I read in the Bible where (Jesus) says, ‘I am,’ I say, ‘Yes, I am too.’*” And because we are gods, Copeland says, “*Pray to yourself*”

Or, pray with the secret knowledge of what Benny Hinn and Miles Monroe say we can have:

PP Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=eQtQinXtsKE
15:46-16:14 Benny Hinn and Miles Monroe

PP Pray with authority over God as Robert Tilton tells us we have as gods: “*We make our own promises to do our part. Then we can tell God on the authority of His word what we would like Him to do. That’s right! You can actually tell God what you would like His* part in

According to Jesse Duplantis, God even asked him for his opinion:

PP Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=eQtQinXtsKE
17:45-17:59

Friends, this is not poor teaching, it is false teaching, open denial of ‘***our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ***’

PP “Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and His redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God.” Isaiah 44:6

Friends, there are all kinds of false teaching coming out of the pulpits of churches

Know the truth so well, that you will discern the false!

My aim in this series is to wake us up to the attack on the faith in our day

And if you read my blog, you will know that we are walking on the bones of thousands of saints who fought and died for the faith before us!

And maybe you want to check out these blogs regularly as I will be going deeper into some of these dangerous, and often false teachings!

And get in the *agon*, your place of contest-work, school, neighborhood-and contend for the faith!

Pray