

PP Jude-Christian...Contend with Eyes Open!

Part 3-1:3-4a

9/21-22

Stand and read **Jude 1:3-4**

Pray and introduce the video

You are about to be introduced to South African evangelist, Rodney Howard-Browne, the self-professed Holy Ghost Bartender, who started the laughter movement

PP Video Laughology

Pastors from Toronto, came to Browne's revival services, where he imparted the gift of drunken laughter to them and they in turn imparted it to their churches, where it then spread into the Vineyard churches and went mainstream in charismatic denominations

Browne says this all started in South Africa, in 1979, where he was hungering for a deeper

PP experience with God, and he said to God, *"Either you come down here and touch me, or I will come up there and touch you."*

Suddenly, he says, his whole body felt on fire and he began to laugh uncontrollably.

Those who are touched by the Spirit, describe a feeling of drunkenness accompanied by laughter and animal-like noises and crawling around the floor shaking and gyrating

PP *"I'd rather be in a church where the devil and the flesh are manifesting than in a church where nothing is happening because people are too afraid to manifest anything... and if the devil manifests, don't worry about that, either. Rejoice, because at least something is happening."* Rodney Browne

PP Another holy laughter pastor said, *"Let yourselves go, do not think about what you are doing, just give yourselves completely to the spirit."* Pastor John Kilpatrick

PP John Wimber, Vineyard movement founder, proponent of holy laughter, said, *"There's nothing in Scripture that supports these kinds of phenomena that I can see...so I feel no obligation to try to explain it."*

Today, the holy laughter has inundated ministries such as Joel's Army, the International House of Pray in Kansas City, Sons of Thunder, and many, many more

PP *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."* **1 John 4:1**

We are in a series in Jude where we are seeing that the most serious attacks from the enemy come from those who claim to be Christians but are false teachers

We have a lot to see in our passage today, so let's jump right into it

PP How are we to contend for the faith?

PP 1-Be loving enough that you are willing to caution

Last week, we saw who we are in Christ, our Christian identity, and the true riches we possess Jude, whose name means *praise*, wanted to go on longer teaching of the glory of our salvation

"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith..." **3**

I can relate to Jude as I would rather preach 1 sermon like last week, then a hundred like today's!

But it is necessary to preach hard things, and frightening things at times, and what motivates preachers to do that is the same thing motivating Jude...love

Three times he refers to the people in these churches as the *‘beloved’* which in the NIV, is translated, *‘Dear friends’*

He cares about them, he loves them, and he wants to protect them, and sometimes preachers, like parents, have to say hard things in order to take care of their loved ones

This entire letter is about apostasy, and Jude wants to protect his friends in Christ

PP 2-Be brave enough that you are willing to contend

“appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”

PP *‘appealing’* is a powerful word where someone calls another to his aid

I cannot do this alone, protect the church from apostates, we have to do this together!

Come along beside me and contend for the faith!

PP Notice its root as I show you the Greek for *‘contend’*- *epagōnizomai*

In the time during which Jude was written, the root word *Agon* was used for the place that people assembled for a contest

The word referred to athletes contending in their events, vigorously, intensely, determinedly struggling to defeat the opposition

Our word *agony* comes to mind as athletes exert themselves to the point of great pain in order to win

Or think of our word, *agonize*, meaning to make a great effort or struggle

The word was used for other contests, like debates, lawsuits, etc

The arena for the contest is saying, is the church, the community of God’s beloved, and the prize of contention is *‘the faith’*!

Notice it didn’t say ‘my faith’ or ‘our faith’, but *‘the faith’*

Faith here is a noun, the objective body of the knowledge of what God has done for us

It isn’t personal faith, subjective and internal faith, like my personal faith in Christ, confidence in the Word of God, etc

PP Video Joel Olsteen and Wolf Blitzer interview on Mormonism

There is room for different opinions under Christian orthodoxy, but to believe that Mormons are saved is outside that orthodoxy

Mormons, who believe Jesus is the spirit brother of Satan, both born of a heavenly god and mother, teach that we are all spirit babies of God and if we live by His plan, we can become gods as well

Jesus was the firstborn, Lucifer the second, and when the counsels in heaven asked who would go and redeem the earth, they each volunteered to go, but Jesus was chosen, inciting Lucifer to rebel

According to Pastor Joel, personal faith is more than *‘The faith’* which is the objective truth of Christianity, the body of biblical beliefs

PP 3-Be wise enough that you’re able to catch

“For certain people...” **Jude 1:3a**

You need to hear in this, a level of derision Jude has for these false teachers
In fact, these certain people become just *'these people'* in verse 8 and 10, and then *'these'* in verse 12, 14, 16, 19

Jude has no respect, no kind words, and no tolerance of them

Have mercy on those who doubt because of 'these' he will say in verse 22, but he offers no mercy to the apostates, instead writes that they were *'long ago were designated for this condemnation'* **3b**

Not that God made these men become false teachers and so is responsible for their sin
God long ago ordained that those who corrupt and twist His Word will be judged and condemned
So Jude deals severely with them and points out they *'have crept in unnoticed...'* **3b**

PP 'crept', only used here in the NT, means to sneak in to a place

Almost always, heresy creeps, and rarely does it suddenly burst on the scene

In secular Greek, this word describes a lawyer who cleverly sneaks into the minds of the jury or judge to influence and corrupt their thinking

Also used of a criminal who is exiled, who disguises himself after a period of time and sneaks back into the country from which he was exiled

False teachers creep in through nice personalities, good looks, academic degrees, signs and wonders

Let me make clear here that Jude isn't talking about teachers who teach ignorantly, having gotten some of the gospel wrong

That is terrible enough, but these people have an agenda...to corrupt the faith!

They get in *'unnoticed'*, when a church's watchtowers are down, and no one is guarding

Watchtowers go down when we order Christian books or read them because a friend recommended them, or walk into bookstores believing they are guarding the shelves

When we let others guard and we open our minds to any preacher on television

When we let books carry more prominent weight than the Bible and are more prevalent voices in our minds

When we separate a preacher or teacher's life from his or her message

Look at **verse 4** for a moment and notice the word... *'ungodly'*

Look at **verse 15**, that the Lord will *"convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."*

An ungodly person is a person without a relationship with God, and sooner or later, while it may not come clear in his or her words, it will be clear in his or her life

PP 4-Be knowledgeable enough that you'll critique

Jude, in verse 4, begins to show us the false teachings that were creeping into the church

We'll look at the first one today: *"ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality"* **4a**

Since the early church, false teachers have hated grace, the unearned, undeserved willing power of God to take away our sins and to help us sin less and less as we mature

So they either turn it into legalism, that it is available if you do what is required, or that doing anything at all in grace is no longer required

I believe it's the second in Jude's mind...a false teaching that turns grace into a license for sin

Preaching has radically changed in the last 30 years as it has moved from theology to therapy,
 and now, in the last 15 years, to motivational speaking
 In these churches, the stance against sin is rarely mentioned, God's and His wrath against sin is
 redefined as incompatible with His love
 When hyper-grace exists, all kinds of serious errors creep in, and all of a sudden Christianity is
 made compatible with the world's philosophies
 If you want to grow a mega church fast, preach what the world agrees with

Look with me at how Jude describes the first of two heresies that he is exposing: ***"certain people have crept in unnoticed...who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality"***

Originally called antinomianism, or anti law, it is the belief that the gospel frees Christians from
 needing to obey the moral law of God because we are under grace today
 This belief views the Old Testament as useful today mainly for the metaphors, types and symbols
 regarding the coming of Christ
 Don't focus on the Old Testament, for Christians today, it is the New Testament
 Carry that a step further you get the Red Letter Christian movement, which results in the social
 gospel that emphasizes the demonstration of the gospel more than its proclamation

Jude is catching the heretics and says they are turning grace into a license to sin: *do whatever you want, grace is supreme and the law is dead*
 The body doesn't matter, only the heart and what you do with the body is irrelevant
 This is cheap grace, easy believism

Christian, the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, the New Testament is the Old
 Testament revealed
 Every one of the 10 commandments is affirmed in the New Testament for us today
 The moral law convicts us of sin today and is still the standard of righteousness for Christians,
 perfectly demonstrated and embodied in the life of Jesus

When a false teacher can successfully reject the law, and convince the people that God is
 concerned with love and grace alone, then sin becomes a rarely used word
 Preaching becomes therapeutic and the bible gets redefined
 Homosexuality is not wrong as long as the two faithfully love each other; hell gets emptied of
 anyone; and the wrath of God gets replaced by His love

The PCUSA denomination just redid their hymnals and debated the inclusion of *In Christ Alone*
PP They struggled with one of its lines: *"Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied."*

PP They asked the writers to let them change it: *"as Jesus died, the love of God was magnified."*
 It was rejected, so the PCUSA decided, by a vote of 9 to 6 that it would not be included

Get the bloody Christ off the cross, modern radical feminist preachers have stated
God the Father laying His Holy Wrath on His Son is nothing more than cosmic child abuse
 In their efforts to exalt the grace of God, they strip Him of His resolute hatred of sin and forget
 that the God of the Old Testament is in perfect harmony with the God of the New

But there is another end result of “**pervert[ing] the grace of our God into sensuality**”, and that is the idea that we can, Christian, in this life, no longer sin

PP Play Audio clip with this on the screen “*All I was ever taught to say was I a poor miserable sinner. I am not poor, I am not miserable, and I am not a sinner. That is a lie from the pit of hell. That is what I were and if I still was then Jesus died in vain. I am going to tell you something folks I didn’t stop sinning until I finally got it through my thick head I wasn’t a sinner anymore and the religious world thinks that is heresy and they want to hang you for it. But the Bible says that I am righteous and I can’t be righteous and be a sinner at the same time.*” Joyce Meyer

PP What does she, and others who teach this, do with **1 John 1:8** which says, “***If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.***”

‘**We**’ includes John himself, the disciple whom Jesus loved, into the camp of ongoing sinner, saved and being sanctified by grace, who will one day be glorified

John didn’t make it, but Joyce somehow did!

If Ms. Meyer would have said that I am no longer a sinner under the wrath of God, or no longer held under the power of the mastery of sin, she’d be fine

But, ‘*I didn’t stop sinning until...*’ and ‘*I can’t be righteous and be a sinner at the same time*’ betrays a lack of understanding the difference between justification and the ongoing need for sanctification

PP The Apostle Paul wrote, “***The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.***”

Not was the foremost, but ‘***I am the foremost***’

Several of you have had your eyes opening to false teaching and are sending me emails asking me questions or giving me examples of what they are now seeing

We must know the truth so well that you can discern the false and contend for the faith

“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...” 4

Pray