

## **PP Jude: What Makes False Teachers Tick?**

Part 9-Jude 11

11/9-10

Christians all over our country are stepping into the ring and contending for the faith

**PP** Video <http://www.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/us/2013/11/05/dnt-track-star-wont-wear-666-number.wymt.html> From beginning to 00:26 spliced with 00:55-01:05

But there also many in the church who are rising up and leading the church away from the faith

**PP** Do you remember the famous saying from George Santayana?: *“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”*

Jude is dealing with false teachers who have forgotten the past examples of apostasy in Israel

**“Woe to them!”** writes Jude, you are the curse and judgment of God he is saying

Your judgment is coming false teachers, and he is sounding the warning to the churches, do not follow them down their corrupted path

What path is this? ***‘For they walked in the way of Cain’, ‘abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s error’, and ‘perished in Korah’s rebellion’***

Let’s look more deeply into this trio of evil men, and see why Jude recalls biblical history

### **PP 1-False teachers reinvent worship**

Pastor Ian Lawton of C3Exchange recently removed their cross and changed their name from Christ Community Church, in order to reflect their own diversity

**PP** Video [http://www.alittleleaven.com/christless\\_christianity/](http://www.alittleleaven.com/christless_christianity/)  
Church takes down its cross

These false teachers ***‘walked in the way of Cain’***, meaning that they chose Cain’s path

But what does that path look like?

The Jews had many *targums* which were Aramaic portions of the Hebrew Scriptures followed by commentary, and used in the synagogues

In the famous ‘Jerusalem Targum, Cain is depicted as saying, *‘There is neither judgment nor judge; there is no other world; no good reward will be given to the good and no vengeance taken on the wicked’*

There was no righteous fear of God in Cain, he did what he wanted without fear of consequence

A person steps onto the path of Cain when they feel there are no consequences to choices, that their way is higher than God’s, their authority greater than God’s

And once you are onto that path, the inevitable direction it travels is called the ***‘way of Cain’***

**PP** ***“Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.”*** **Genesis 4:2-5**

It’s clear that God had taught them how to worship, for younger brother Abel understood it

The brothers were instructed how to worship God, knowing that they needed a blood sacrifice, remembering that God had killed animals to cover Adam and Eve, covering their sin

**PP** They knew what Hebrews would later say, *“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”* **Hebrews 9:22**

The brothers each brought an offering, Abel's from his flocks, and Cain's from his harvest  
 Abel's demonstrated his need for mercy, which he knew was a gift from God to him  
 Cain's sacrifice represented his hard work, which was a gift from him to God  
 It is the original battle between salvation by works and salvation by grace through faith  
 Salvation has always, in every case, been by underserved grace and *through faith!*

Friends, the *way of Cain* is a different path than the gospel, a new, false way to worship  
 An inclusive way, pluralistic rather than unique and exclusive  
 When you don't want to come to God in your utter need of mercy, then you come to God  
 through your effort, which is unacceptable and worthless, a false way  
 Notice something we often miss...Cain was not put out of the Lord's presence, he chose to leave

**PP** *“Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.”* **Genesis 4:16**

The way of Cain creates a religion devoid of the presence of God, devoid of faith  
 They were stripping Christianity of Christ and His atonement and the need for faith

**PP** Dr. Delores Williams stated at a conference of 2200 clergy: *“I don't think we need a theory of atonement...I don't think we need folks hanging on crosses, and blood dripping, and weird stuff.”*

Watch a member of the church who took down its cross contend for the faith

**PP** Video [http://www.alittleleaven.com/christless\\_christianity/](http://www.alittleleaven.com/christless_christianity/) 02:05-02:45

Cain's sacrifice required no faith, for he viewed himself in no need of mercy  
 Cain refused to worship God in the way that God had prescribed, and instead worshiped the way  
 he wanted to, a vain, empty religion, denying the power and authority of God  
 He reinvented worship, re-imagining it, re-interpreting God's Word that had been taught to him  
 Cain is the original apostate, the first false teacher, rejecting God's Word and throwing off faith  
 He created a dead religion!

## **PP 2-False teachers are driven by selfish motives**

Here is gospel singer, and pastor Marvin Winans preaching at the funeral of Whitney Houston

**PP** Video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4Xb3rGDIqI> 7:16-7:30

The apostates of Jude *‘Abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error’*

**PP** The word *‘abandoned’* means to gush out, as it was often used in sacrifice as the neck of the animal was cut and the blood would rush out

It is to run after, to rush headlong after whatever it is you desire

Jude refers to Balaam, a prophet you could hire for the right price to bless or curse someone  
 Prophets taught people the Word of God

**PP** *“But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam”* **Revelation 2:14**

Balak, the King of Moab hired Balaam to curse Israel which was camped at his nation's doorstep

But God's Word came to him and commanded him to not curse Israel, for they are blessed  
But Balaam tried to curse Israel anyways, because like these false teachers, he loved money

**PP** *"Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing..." 2 Peter 2:15-16*

But Balaam was prevented from pronouncing a curse on Israel, so he gives Balak another way to accomplish his goal

**PP** He *"taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality."* Revelation 2:14

*Balak, God will not let me curse Israel, so pay me and I will give you another idea...send your most beautiful women among their camp, get the Median women to go as well, and tell them to seduce the men of Israel*

*The men will be drawn away to other gods, and the God of Israel Himself will curse them*

**PP** And it worked: *"these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord."* Numbers 31:16

It worked, but the wrath of God, consumed Balaam as well...he was caught in his own trap!

God will defend His Word and will not abide it being changed by anyone for any reason

These false teachers were greedy, and willing to set aside the Word of God for gain

### **PP 3-False teachers are motivated by a lust for power**

Korah is the third in this unholy trio-*'perished in Korah's rebellion'*

Korah was from the blessed tribe of Levi, the tribe God chose to assist the priests under Aaron

But Korah wanted more than to be an assistant, he wanted to be in charge, to have control

**PP** *"Korah...became insolent and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD's assembly?"* Numbers 16:3

*'The whole community is holy'* meaning that we are all equal to Moses and Aaron

**PP** He twisted what God had promised to Israel, *"you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."* Exodus 19:6

We are all priests; we are all holy; we each can mediate between God and Israel with authority

**PP** Moses responded, *"Isn't it enough for you (ambition) that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD's tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them?...but now you are trying to get the priesthood too."* Numbers 16:9-10

Korah already had an extremely privileged leadership position

He attacks Moses saying Moses was trying to make himself a prince or Lord over them

False teachers don't want anyone in authority over them, so they attack those in leadership

Benny Hinn said of John MacArthur, *"I wish God would give me a Holy Ghost machine, I'll blow your head off!"*

Video [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=fPWspiPFpjc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=fPWspiPFpjc)  
0:57-1:08

I am pretty sure that those who opposed TBN or Hinn weren't on the level of Korah's rebellion  
**PP** Moses prayed, *"As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, with their households and all Korah's men and all their possessions. They went down alive into the grave, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community."* **Numbers 16:31-33**

Afterward, fire came out and consumed the 250 leaders who Korah influenced to rebel  
The next day, incredibly, the whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron and they gathered against Moses and Aaron and the Lord sent a plague among them  
This is what was happening in Jude's day, as these false teachers were rejecting the teaching and authority of the apostles as well as re-interpreting the Old Testament scriptures  
They wanted to be the leaders of God's church!

Cain thought he knew a better way than God's way  
Balaam was driven by greed and rose up against the people of God  
Korah was motivated by a lust for power  
All three were religious, and all three of them rejected God's Word  
Cain rejected God's Word, changing the way God had said for a sinner to come to Him; Balaam rejected God's Word, bringing harm to Israel rather than blessing; and Korah rejected God's Word Who had chosen Moses and Aaron, and wanted to lead the congregation  
Cain was cursed by God while Balaam and Korah were utterly destroyed, and many more besides because of their evil influence  
Because of Balaam, over 24,000 Israelites died (Numbers 25:9)  
Because of Korah, 14,700 people died (Numbers 16:49)

Will you contend for the faith, warning false teachers and rescuing those who are in danger?  
Many here at Cornerstone are gaining the courage to do just that!  
People are emailing me asking how to speak on one issue of faith or another  
Cornerstone, step into the ring and contend!  
At your jobs, in your neighborhoods, on your school or college campuses!  
Peoples' eternal lives are at stake and they are misleading thousands and thousands!

AMEN?

Pray