



CREEPS
in the Church

An Urgent Warning
Against Apostasy

Jude 4

CONTESTED
FOR THE FAITH
JUDE 1:1-4





Jude

³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.



Jude

⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.



Jude

The Author (verses 1-2)

The Alarm (verses 3-4)

The Argument (verses 5-16)

The Admonition (verses 16-25)

Who is Jude?

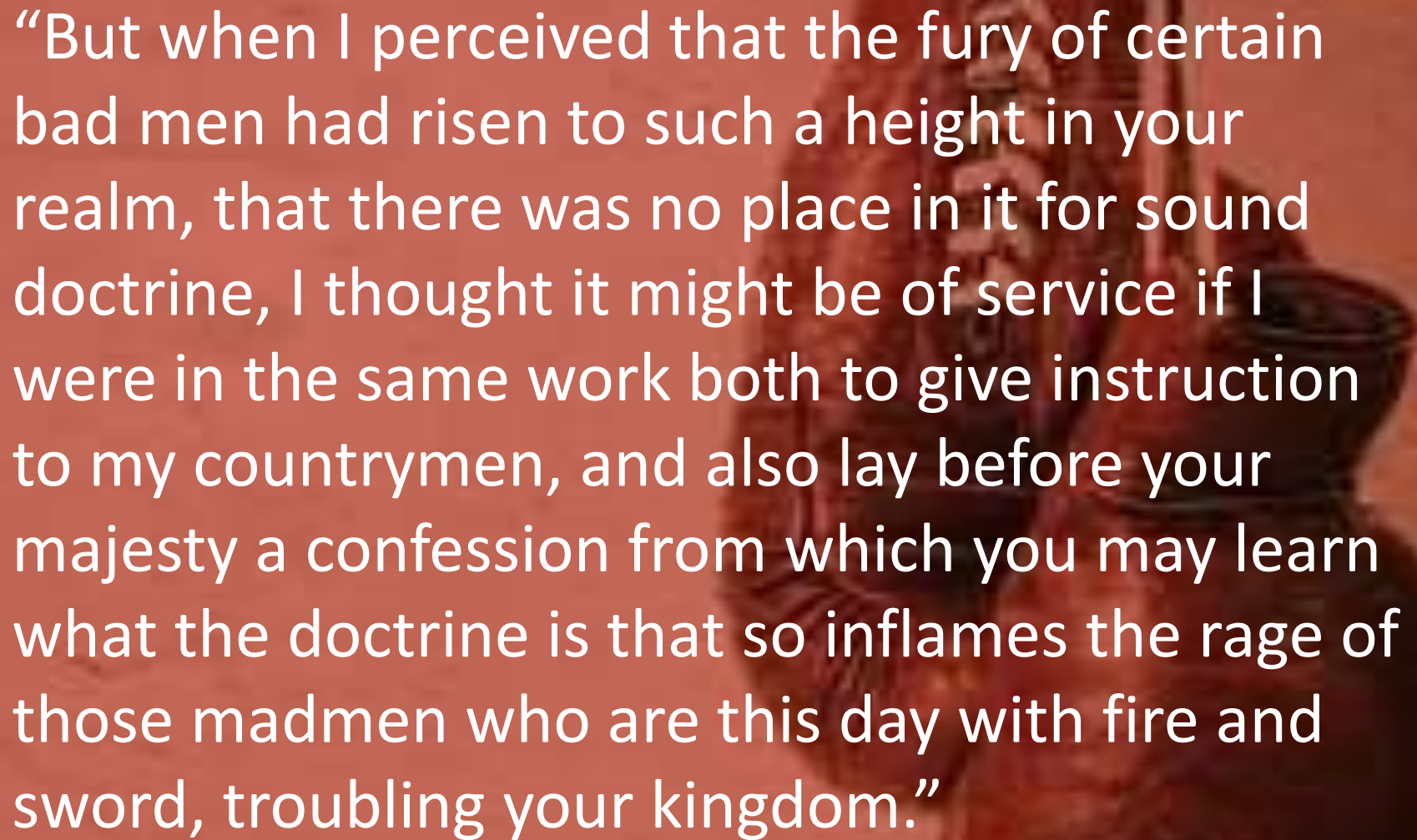
Brother of James (Jude 1)

Half-brother of Jesus (Mt. 13:55)

Name: Jude (Judas) =
“praise YHWH”



The Christian life is a battleground,
not a playground.



“But when I perceived that the fury of certain bad men had risen to such a height in your realm, that there was no place in it for sound doctrine, I thought it might be of service if I were in the same work both to give instruction to my countrymen, and also lay before your majesty a confession from which you may learn what the doctrine is that so inflames the rage of those madmen who are this day with fire and sword, troubling your kingdom.”

~ John Calvin to King Francis (1536)

Prefatory address *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*

APOSTASY

- Renunciation of a religious faith
- Abandonment of a previous loyalty, defection
- Greek: *apostasia* (*apo* = away + *stasia* = stand)

II Thessalonians 2:3 (NASB)

Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

WHY APOSTASY MATTERS

“...for it has never yet been known to fail that one fool, when he goes astray, takes several others with him.”

~ Søren Keirkegaard

“Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

~ Jesus Christ

Matthew 15:14

“CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH...”

“I have therefore found it necessary to deny knowledge, in order to make room for faith.”

~ Immanuel Kant
Critique of Pure Reason

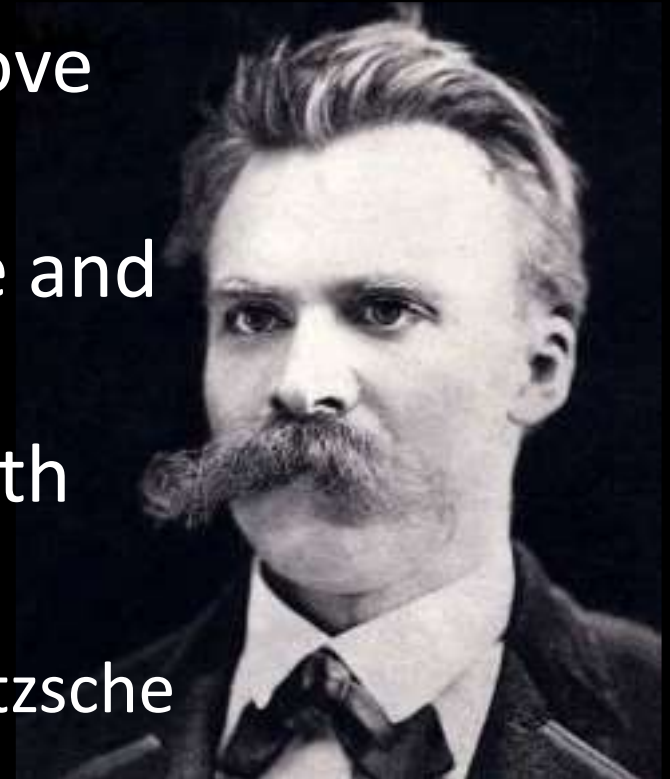


“Facts have nothing to do with religion.”

“CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH...”

“When faith is thus exalted above everything else, it necessarily follows that reason, knowledge and patient inquiry have to be discredited: the road to the truth becomes a forbidden road.”

~ Frederick Nietzsche



“Faith means not wanting to know what is true.”

What is Faith?

pistis

1. That which evokes trust; assurance
2. State of believing based on the reliability of the one trusted
3. Conviction of the truth
4. Being worthy of belief and trust

Arndt, Danker, Bauer (2000) *A Greek-English Lexicon of the NT*

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- Objective
- Verifiable
- Proof
- Facts
- Faith





“Probably the best way to describe this concept of modern theology is to say that it is faith in faith, rather than faith directed to an object which is actually there . . .

Modern man cannot talk about the object of his faith, only about the faith itself. . . . In Christianity the value of faith depends upon the object towards which the faith is directed. So it looks outward to the God who is there, and to the Christ who in history died upon the cross once for all, finished the work of atonement, and on the third day rose again in space and in time. This makes Christian faith open to discussion and verification.”

~ Francis Schaeffer,
The God Who is There

“once for all handed down...”

hapax

a single occurrence and something that is decisively unique in nature.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,² has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

NT Warnings of False Teaching



Every New Testament book except Philemon contains warnings about false teaching – 26 out of 27 books. What does that say about the importance God places on right doctrine and teaching?

“have crept in unnoticed”

pareusdyo

1. Slip in stealthily
2. Sneak in; hard to detect
3. Slip in sideways

Arndt, Danker, Bauer (2000) *A Greek-English Lexicon of the NT*



"So skilled is error at imitating truth, that the two are constantly being mistaken for each another. It takes a sharp eye these days to know which brother is Cain and which is Abel."

A.W. Tozer

"How to Avoid Serious Error"



Creeps in the Church

Apostates are Professing Christians

1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

Creeps in the Church

Apostates are Professing Christians

II Peter 2:20–22

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*,

Creeps in the Church

Apostates are Professing Christians

II Peter 2:20–22

to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “*A dog returns to his own vomit,*” and, “*a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.*”

Creeps in the Church

Apostates are Professing Christians

II Peter 2:2-3

And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

Creeps in the Church

Apostates are Ungodly

Matthew 7:15-20

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

Creeps in the Church

Apostates are Ungodly

Matthew 7:15-20

“A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “So then, you will know them by their fruits.”

Creeps in the Church

Apostates are Ungodly

II Peter 2:2-3

"Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep."

Creeps in the Church

Apostates are Deceitful

II Corinthians 11:13-14

For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.



Creeps in the Church

Apostates are enemies of Grace

Titus 1:15-16

"To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed."

Creeps in the Church

Apostates are enemies of Grace II Peter 2:18–22

For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.

¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

Creeps in the Church

Apostates deny Truth

II Peter 2:1

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

Creeps in the Church

Apostates deny Truth

II Peter 3:3-4

“... knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”

Creeps in the Church



Apostates are Professing Christians

Apostates are Condemned

Apostates are Ungodly

Apostates are Deceitful

Apostates are enemies of Grace

Apostates deny Truth

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This message is part of a series of studies on Contending for the Faith in the book of Jude and, like all of my messages, has a study guide available to you at our website below. A video file is also available on YouTube at FAITHBIBLEBRADENTON. If you have found this study helpful give God the glory. If you find an error it's my fault.

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