

# The Letter From Jude

October 20, 2019

Jude 3—4

## Contending for the Faith

**Intro:** Jude changes his mind about the focus of his letter. He had initially intended to write about our common salvation. We may assume that he intended to write a doctrinal letter about the faith. Apparently, however, the cultural norms of the Roman world were creeping into the church with increasing rapidity and Jude felt it essential to urge the believers to hold to the faith.

### I. The Essence of the Apostasy Addressed by Jude

- A. The beginnings of the gnostic heresy: we are purified in the spirit and cannot affect it by the deeds of the body. This leads to licentiousness which denies the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- B. Sexual immorality:
  - 1. pornography
  - 2. fornication (sexual intercourse outside of marriage)
  - 3. lewd sexual behavior
  - 4. homosexuality

### II. Jude 3

- A. The problem that eventually urged Jude to get his letter written was the weakening of the faith within the Church; the truth (the faith is the corpus of truth) that was clearly spoken by the fathers.
- B. Once for all handed down to the saints:
  - 1. it is complete, the whole body of truth
  - 2. it can neither be added unto nor deleted from
  - 3. it is absolute and final in all its claims

### III. Jude 4

- A. Wolves in sheep's clothing . . . they have crept in unnoticed. To change the metaphor, they cause the church to be like the frog in the warming kettle—sin grows and increases unnoticed.
- B. It was determined and prophesied beforehand that tares would grow amongst the wheat.
- C. These are ungodly persons who
  - 1. turn the grace of God into licentiousness
  - 2. deny our only Master & Lord, Jesus Christ (His deity, incarnation, & sinlessness)

**Conc:** It is essential that we understand the truth and *drive a stake in it*, that we hold fast the Word of God.