



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

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Contend for the Faith

Jude in the Book of Jude makes clear the concern of serious apostasy that is taking place, as does Peter in his writings in II Peter and Paul in the Book of Acts, Chapter 20.29-31. Apostasy has not ceased and will continue as there are those who can and are bought by the enemy. It is amazing what money and position offered can reveal in the light, the Light of Jesus Christ.

Previous *Messages* written have made it clear that there are those who are willing to bring false teaching and preaching and prophesy to a people who are easily manipulated and misled. Many are misled because they believe they do not have to obey the Word of the Lord. They do not read the Holy Bible. They do not seek Jesus Christ. They just want to socialize and look "good," and walk with the world.

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *[and]* called:

Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and **exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints (Jud 1.1-3).

Contending for the faith is to stand faithful against the adversary, the enemy who comes in with false teachings, leading many a people down the wrong road. Contending is more than walking away, saying "whatever will be, will be." It is more than saying, "It's okay; everyone has a right to believe what they want."

I wonder how many parents tell their children, "Oh, well. Do whatever. You have a right to do whatever you want. You are just fine doing what you want to do, whatever it is that makes you happy."

Contending for the faith is knowing the Truth of the Lord God Almighty and speaking forth the Truth in Christ Jesus to a world that is lost, that is dying, and going out into eternity without the Lord. People are dying without Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; they are going to hell. Yes, there is a heaven, and there is a hell.

Christ, the only Begotten Son of God – and His great love. Oh, it is time that we awaken to what is going on around us, in our little world where we are, as the vile, wickedness of the enemy is present throughout the world. We need to know the voice of the Lord, and call upon Him when another voice comes to us to deter us from walking with the Lord Jesus Christ, from taking a stand for the Truth.

We need to come together as the Body of Christ and stand together as one in the Lord, praying together, seeking the will of the Lord in our lives, and in the life of Christ Holy Church, that we shall stand together in Him, contending for the faith, that others shall come to know the Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you; Ye dare not trust your own;
Put on the gospel armor, Each piece put on with pray'r;
Where duty calls, or danger, Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long.
This day the noise of battle, The next the victor's song:
To him that over cometh, A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory Shall reign eternally.

George Duffield, Jr.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

When we lay back and say, Everyone has a right to believe and say what they want, and your loved ones and friends are going down the wrong path, do you not speak to them and contend against the enemy who has so many in his grasp?

When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we are each called to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, to reach out to those around us whom the Lord God puts in our path to give forth the Word of the Lord.

As we travelled for ten years coast to coast, we were so very aware of the hunger of people for more of the Lord. Many would say to us, I don't go to church; there is nothing there. The Word is not being preached; it is just socializing, and I can get that in the community events.

What a joy to find people hungry for the Lord Jesus Christ, for the fellowship of which the writer of Luke shares with us in Acts 2.41-47. Powerful is this passage. Take time to read it with your heart and seek what it is the Lord has for you from this passage.

Do not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul writes in Romans 1.15, 16:

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Are we ashamed of Jesus Christ?

It seems to me for the past number of years, we do not hear of missionaries as once we did, those going to other countries to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is more in line with social work than the Gospel of Jesus Christ being preached and taught - all too often.

Oh, the Book of Jude is clear regarding our call to contend for the faith.

Jer 12:5 If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and [if] in the land of peace, [wherein] thou trustedst, [they wearied thee], then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

Jeremiah addresses this well. The Lord reveals to Jeremiah that there are yet greater trials of faith to come. He is called to exert greater powers of endurance as he continues serving the Lord. The ones coming against Jeremiah are the ones who seek prophets, preachers and teachers to build them up and say what they want to hear, to speak lies to them (Jer 23.21, 22).

I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But **if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.**

We must contend for the faith in small matters as that is where the enemy, where Satan comes in and has all through time – in the small matters. How often I have heard the saying, "Choose your battles." There are never battles! Satan will not at this time put battles before us. He comes with the small matters, the ways that seem not to matter, and people say – so what! The little thought, that little event,

that small teaching . . . is no big deal. I will take a stand, contend if it is worth my times; but these small teachings that go against the Bible, against what I have been taught to be the way we are to live – no bother. Just be ready to take a stand against those events, those teachings that really make a difference.

We must be strong in the Word of the Lord that we might contend for the faith in the small things that lead to the larger things. If we ignore the small things, the larger things will slide right by us. When we continue accepting the small things, we become accustomed to those teachings, those actions and fail to recognize that it is of the enemy.

Jeremiah 12.5 makes this clear that if we do not contend against the small things, how shall we contend against the major things. It also is making clear that if we are wearied with the small things and complain about the small trials of faith and fail to stand, how will we stand under the larger trials of faith.

I find Jude 1.9 interesting.

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Michael, the archangel, teaches us much about responding to the enemy as the scripture reveals that the archangel contended with the devil, took a stand against the enemy; however, he called upon the Lord when he said, "The Lord rebuke thee." We need to walk with the Lord and call upon Him when the enemy comes against us, when the trials of faith come our way. We need to realize that we need the strength, the wisdom, and discernment of the Lord in these battles of faith in our lives.

There is a time to come back with the Word of the Lord to the enemy, and there is a time to rebuke the enemy in the Name of Jesus Christ. Jude 1.4 reveals that there is reason to contend for the faith. There were those who were cunning, wicked, who were pretentious, denying the Lord Jesus Christ. This exists today, and there are those who are church-goers but do not know the Lord Jesus Christ, who do not read the Word of the Lord God Almighty, the Holy Bible, and willingly believe anything they are told, anything that tickles their ears. Not only do they receive the enemy into their lives, they invite him in, and then become those who go out to bring others into the false teaching.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not (Jud 3, 4, 5).

We must contend for the faith as there are those whose souls are going to hell because we are failing to know the Word of God, failing to tell others of Jesus