

THE FAITH IS WORTH CONTENDING FOR

The book of Jude has very similar information to 2 Peter. Both Jude and 2 Peter deal with apostasy. Jude is one of the five books without chapter divisions in our Bible. The books of Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John and Jude have only one chapter. Jude wrote about the one faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. This faith is worth contending for. There are many threats against the one true faith; we must be sure our faith is genuine. Christians must recognize false doctrine and stand firm for the truth. Jude challenged Christians to know the will of God, build others up in the faith, to pray and to keep yourself in the faith. (Jude 1:3-21) We must be strong and aggressive in our defense of the faith. We cannot, we must not, allow ourselves to depart from the doctrine of Christ to some false doctrine. Jude used several Old Testament examples to show us the danger of departing from God and from His truth.

False teachers crept in – Jude 1:1-7: The book of Jude warns against false teachers and challenges us to keep ourselves in the love of God. Jude was a servant of God. (Jude 1:1) Jesus has purchased Christians for His own possession. Jude wrote his little letter “to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.” Sanctified refers to the love that comes from God. These are Christians who are loved by God the Father. In addition to that great thought that we are loved by God, Jesus keeps watch over or preserves the faithful in Christ. The book of Jude emphasizes the truths of mercy, peace and love. (Jude 1:2) The person who learns the word of God and lives it in daily life has peace. Only Jesus can bring true peace to life. You can have peace when Jesus replaces Satan in your heart. A heart filled with the mercy, peace and love of God has no room for Satan. Jude desired to write concerning the common salvation. The Holy Spirit moved Jude concerning contending for the faith. God wanted Jude to stay in the fight of defending the faith. (Jude 1:3) He was to stand strong for truth and fight in the struggle to overcome religious error. The reason that Jude needed to contend for the faith was that certain false teachers had crept into the church unawares and they were doing much damage with their false doctrines. (Jude 1:4) The Bible contains many warning against false teaching. (1 John 4:1) False teachers were condemned by prophets and others who wrote inspired Bible messages. False teachers are “ungodly men.” False teachers pervert the teachings of Christ to allow unrestrained behavior, physically and spiritually. False teachers disown our Lord and His word. Jude proceeded to show, from past examples, what happened when believers turned from the word of God. “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.” (Jude 1:5) Even the angels who had negative attitudes toward the word of God were punished. “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” (Jude 1:6) Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because they did not follow the word of God. (Jude 1:7) Lives are filled with problems because of a lack of respect for or a lack of following the word of God.

Pictures of apostasy – Jude 1:8-14: Jude wrote about (1) The apostasy of the believer, (2) The apostasy of the fallen angels, and (3) The apostasy of the unbeliever. (Jude 1:4-7) Likewise or in a similar manner there is apostasy in the church. These apostates were “filthy dreamers, they defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.” (Jude 1:8) The delusive thinking of false teachers led to all kinds of false religious actions. False teaching likewise leads to defilements of the flesh. False teachers despise the dominion or authority of God. They use blaspheming terms when speaking about God and His