

Series: Contend for the Faith; Sermon: Remember
delivered by Josh Moody, senior pastor, on January 10, 2021

Bible text explored: Jude 1:1–16

¹Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus
Christ:

²May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

³Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—⁷just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

⁸Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” ¹⁰But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. ¹²These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” ¹⁶These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What (*verse 3*) had Jude been planning to write about?
Instead, what challenge did he realize required urgent attention?
2. How (*verse 4*) had “ungodly people” infiltrated the church and misrepresented the grace of God?
What made their condoning of immorality also a denial of Jesus Christ?

Jude notes that this pattern of false teaching was condemned “long ago,” and gives sobering examples of the consequences of rejecting divine authority.

3. How (verse 5) did the Israelites rebel in the wilderness?
(See, for example, *Numbers 21:4-9*.)
How (verse 6) did the angels rebel against God? (See *Genesis 6:1-4*.)
How (verse 8) did God judge the sinners of Sodom and Gomorrah?
(See *Genesis 19:1-29*.)
4. How (verse 8) is questioning of God’s Word a rejection of his authority?
(See *Mark 7:6-8*.)

*Pastor Moody emphasized that contending for the faith (verse 3) does not mean contending against culture. He noted that we should observe the distinction Jesus made in *Luke 20:24-25*.*

5. Still, what (verse 10) is the inevitable result of scoffing at divine authority?
6. Jude mentions (in verse 11) three more examples of the disastrous outcome of rejecting God’s authority “for the sake of gain”:
What (*Genesis 4:1-16*) was the “way of Cain”?
What (*Numbers 22-24*) was “Balaam’s error”?
7. What (*Numbers 16:1-35*) was “Korah’s rebellion”?
8. Reflect on the six graphic metaphors (verses 12-13) that Jude uses to describe false teachers.
9. What fate (verses 14-16) awaits the “loud-mouthed boasters” who have opposed the Lord?
10. Today, with suspect content spreading instantly on social media platforms, how should I respond to Jude’s urgent appeal?