

**Lesson 4 – WHAT A PERSON TRULY BELIEVES WILL BE REVEALED BY HOW THEY ACT – Part 1**

**Review:** “contend for the faith!” Jude 3 *“Fight the good fight of faith”* (1 Tim. 6:12). The Greek word is an athletic term that gives us our English word *agonize*. It is the picture of a devoted athlete, competing in the Greek games and stretching his nerves and muscles to do his very best to win. Remember: “Contend for the faith, but don’t be contentious!”

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**JUDE 4-7 - For certain intruders have stolen in among you.**

**Jude 1:4 (NLT)** <sup>4</sup>I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Jude 1:4 (NASB)** <sup>4</sup>For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

- **2 Peter 2:1 - 3 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup>But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup>Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. <sup>3</sup>In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.
- They have “a form of godliness,” but they lacked the *force* of godliness that lives in the true Christian (2 Tim. 3:5).

Jude cited two reasons for this certain condemnation:

1. They ***pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness***. The true gospel teaches that people are freed from sin by believing in Jesus as Savior and Lord. This happens by God’s grace alone. (Latin: *sola gratia*)
  - a. “Grace” gives Christians freedom from sin and from the law. However, the purpose of this freedom is to move people to holy living and service to God. (***Please read Acts 26:20 and Acts 17:11***)
  - b. “Licentiousness” means there are no sexual restraints, an open and excessive indulgence in sexual sins. Licentious people have no sense of shame or restraint. The false teachers “perverted” or twisted God’s grace, saying that freedom from sin means that people can live any way they please, fulfilling their sinful pleasures without inhibition. (***Please read Romans 1:18-32 and Gen. 6:5***)

***But what a person truly believes will be revealed by how he or she acts!***

2. They *deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ*. This refers to the doctrinal side of their heresy. While claiming to know God, their actions denied him. They taught lies, and in so doing they denied the basics of the Christian faith. **Titus 1:16 (NASB)** <sup>16</sup>They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed. Jesus had told his disciples, “Whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven” (**Matthew 10:33 NKJV**).

We can guard against heresies by asking questions like these about any religious group:

1. Does it stress man-made rules rather than God’s Word?
2. Does it stress formulas, secret knowledge, or special dreams/visions more than the Word of God?
3. Does it neglect God’s universal church, claiming to be an elite group?
4. Does it fully believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus? Declare Jesus as God and His virgin birth?

**Jude 1:5 - 7 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup>So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful.

<sup>6</sup>And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. <sup>7</sup>And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.

### Jude's very clear reminders of God's punishment for unfaithfulness and disbelief:

#### 1. Unfaithful Israel (*Background – Numbers 14*)

- **Hebrews 3:16 - 19 (NLT)** <sup>16</sup>And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? <sup>17</sup>And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup>And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him? <sup>19</sup>So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.

#### 2. Fallen Angels (*Background – Ezekiel 28:11-19*)

- **Genesis 6:2 - 4 (NASB)** <sup>2</sup>that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. <sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." <sup>4</sup>The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

#### 3. Immoral Sodom (*Background – Genesis 18-19*)

- **Genesis 19:5 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup>They shouted to Lot, "Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!"
- **1 Corinthians 6:9 - 11 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup>Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup>or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

#### 4. Wicked World/Ancients (*Background - Genesis 6 – 7*)

- **2 Peter 2:5 (NASB)** <sup>5</sup>and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

**Monday Morning Moment:** "The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground" -----Work, advance and press!!!

**2 Peter 1:10 (NLT)** <sup>10</sup>So, dear brothers and sisters, **work hard** to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. **Matt. 11:12 (NLT)** "until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing..." **Philippians 3:14 (NASB)** "I press on toward the goal for the prize..."