

Lesson 5 – WHAT A PERSON TRULY BELIEVES WILL BE REVEALED BY HOW THEY ACT – Part 2

Review: **Jude 1:3 - 4 (NLT)** ³Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. ⁴I 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 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.
 - 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.

Genesis 6:5 (NLT) ⁵The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.

Romans 1:18 - 32 (NLT)

¹⁸But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

¹⁹They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them.

²⁰For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

²⁵They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

²⁶That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other.

²⁷And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

²⁸Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.

²⁹Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.

³⁰They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents.

³¹They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy.

³²They know God’s justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

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) ¹⁶They 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) ⁵So 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.

⁶And 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. ⁷And 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)** ¹⁶And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? ¹⁸And 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? ¹⁹So 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)** ²that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³Then 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." ⁴The 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)** ⁵They 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)** ⁹Don'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, ¹⁰or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. ¹¹Some 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)** ⁵and 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: *Make sure your faith in God is not “Frankenfaith”, but the faith based on the Word of God!*

2 Timothy 3:5 (NLT) ⁵They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!