

# Contending For The Faith

**Jude 3-4**

## Jude 3-4

- 3 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.
- 4 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.

# Introduction

- **Beloved** → dear, esteemed. (cf. 17,20)
- **Diligence** → eagerness -- to write of the common salvation. (cf. II Pet. 1:5)
- **Needful** → necessary; compelled. (cf. Heb. 7:12)
- **Exhort** → encourage, beg, entreat, admonish. (cf. Acts 11:23)
- **Earnestly contend** → exert strenuously; endeavor zealously; fight. (Cf. I Tim. 6:12 and II Tim. 4:7).

# Introduction

- **The faith** → the word of God; the gospel. (cf. Acts 6:7; Rom. 1:5; 16:26; Eph. 4:5)
- **Once for all** → Once for all time; of what is so done as to be of perpetual validity, and never need repetition. There are no other “faiths”. (cf. Heb. 9:26-28)
- **Delivered** → entrusted (NET); handed down (NASB)
- **Lesson:** We need to consider the responsibility we have as those who have been entrusted with God’s complete and final revelation to earnestly contend for that message.

# Earnestly Contend For The Faith

- The concept of contending, defending, promoting the truth is under attack. Age of “tolerance”, “diversity”, religious pluralism, and post-modernism says there is no absolute truth. Should not be critical of anything another chooses to practice or believe. Each one has their own “truth”.

# Earnestly Contend For The Faith

- **Jude 3** → “...that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
- **Phil. 1:17** → “...I am set for the defense of the gospel.”
- **I Thess. 5:21** → but test everything; hold fast what is good.
- **Acts 17:11** → “...examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.
- **Matt. 7:15** → 15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits.
- **I Pet. 3:15** → “...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

# Turning The Grace Of Our God Into Lasciviousness

- They presented God's unmerited favor toward sinners as a license to sin.
  - The false notion that God is not concerned with sin:
    - **Matt. 15:17-20** → "...these are the things that defile a man.
    - **I Cor. 6:9-11** → "...the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
    - **Titus 2:11-12** → "...denying ungodliness and worldly lusts..."

# Turning The Grace Of Our God Into Lasciviousness

- The false teaching of once saved, always saved.
  - **1 Cor. 10:12** → Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
  - **Heb. 3:12** → Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
  - **Heb. 10:39** → But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.
  - **Gal. 5:4** → “...ye are fallen from grace.”



# Denying The Only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ

- Deny the person (Deity of Christ)
  - **Jn. 8:24** → for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.” (cf. Rom. 1:3-4; Phil. 2:9-11)
- Deny the redeeming death of Christ. (cf. II Pet. 2:1)
  - **Heb. 2:9** → “... so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”
- Deny the authority of Christ.
  - **Matt. 28:18** → “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (cf. Matt. 21:23-27; 7:21-23)
- Those who deny the coming of Christ.
  - **Acts 1:11** → “...This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (cf. II Thess. 1:7-9)