



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Contending for the Faith Amid False Teachers

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

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Jude 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:

Jude 1:2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Jude 1:3 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.

Jude 1:4 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.

Jude 1:5 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 1:6 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 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Jude, the Bible said here; Jude said here that he is a servant of Jesus Christ. When you look at the word servant, it means to be a bond servant, or it means to be a slave. It means to be someone that has a responsibility that has been given him. He says he is a servant, or a bond slave of Jesus Christ.

We know that Jude, if you read the Bible, if you read the gospels and if you read Mark and also in Matthew; I believe you will find out that when Jesus was here, his brethren did not believe that He was the Messiah. They did not believe that He was the Christ. It goes on and says here that he is the brother of James. We know this James he is talking about is the brother of Jesus. We know that Jude, also, was a half brother of Jesus.

The great thing here I thought about, as I read this and studied on this thought; He wasn't boasting on that fact. He wasn't boasting and bragging about "Hey, I know that my half brother was the Son of God. I know He is the Messiah." He was not demanding any special respect. He said, "I'm just a servant. I'm just His servant." He

was not bragging about his lineage. He was not bragging about who he was. He was just thankful. He wanted everybody to know that he was a servant of Jesus Christ.

That is what I want people to know about me. Do you know that? It is one thing to know our names, but above everything else in life, we should want people to know that we are servants of Jesus Christ.

Again, it is his brother. He says to them that are sanctified. The word sanctified means to be set apart. We know that. We know that is what the word means.

Jude here was writing to the same people—keep this in mind because this has to do with everything we are going to talk about—Jude was writing to the same people that Peter wrote unto. This writing probably, was probably between 70 to 90 AD. We know that Peter wrote at the same time. Jude and Peter were speaking to the same people. That is important for this reason.

Jude 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:

Those that have been called, those that are set apart by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ. He is talking to people that are saved, been born again. People that God has called and people that God has laid His hand upon. God is preserving and taking care of them. Again, do you know what that should do when we read that? When we look at the word preserve, if Jesus Christ, if the God of heaven was and is and will always preserve those that He has called. Do you know what that should do? The should encourage us. Shouldn't it?

We should live in a way today that if we wake up in the morning, we should not be worrying about going to hell. If we are saved, we should not be sitting around thinking if I die tonight am I going to be saved or lost. If we are saved, and we have been born again, and we have been sanctified or set apart by the God of heaven then we know where we are going. That is who he is talking about. He talks about grace, mercy and peace here be multiplied. We won't get into all those words because I have don't have time. All those words mean something. He is invoking, he is asking and he wants him to be blessed with all kinds of mercy, and with all kinds of peace and all kinds of love.

Look what verse 3 says...

Jude 1:3 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.

When you look at beloved in the Greek, it means divine loved ones. Again, he is talking about people that has been saved, been born again.

Jude 1:3 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.

Here is what Jude was going to do. Jude had in mind that he was going to write unto people that are saved, called, born again people; he was going to write to them a letter about this common salvation. He was going to write unto them about the salvation that comes through and by faith in Jesus Christ. That is what he was going to write about. That is what was on his mind that he was going to write about, but as he begins to write the Holy Spirit speaks to him and says, hey, you don't need to speak about the common salvation. There is another issue here that you need to speak about.

He goes on and says this...

Jude 1:3 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.

Jude says, "Hey, I wanted to talk to you about common salvation. I wanted to talk you about how great it is to be born again. You are called. You are sanctified. You are preserved. We wanted to talk about all those things but I cannot do that. The Spirit is moving me to tell you, and to talk to you and to write unto you about something else."

When I mentioned a while ago about all these kids were up here; I wanted you to put that picture in your mind because what I want to talk about here tonight, or what Jude is going to talk about here has to do with us and with these kids. He says here...

Jude 1:3 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.

"...earnestly contend for the faith..." Peter wrote, when you read about Peter, Peter that in the last days false teachers and false prophets were going to come. Jude now, about the same time, or maybe few years later; he is going to tell the same crowd, hey Peter mentioned that the false prophets and the false teachers were going to come, now Jude is saying, they are already here. Since they are here then I need to exhort you, I need to encourage you that you earnestly contend for the faith.

When you look up the word earnestly contend, or those two words, it will talk about how that Jude wants encourage these individuals to exhort themselves as they defend the faith. What is so important about that is this—our children, our grandchildren, our own spiritual lives. That is why it is so important that he wants them to earnestly contend. He wants them—actually he wants them to go to war, when you read some of translations in the original; he is actually saying, guys it is time to go to war. I don't have time to talk to you about common salvation. We don't have time to talk about being born again and all those things. Now it is time to go to war.

Peter wrote about the false teachers and the false prophets coming. Jude says now they are here and now it is time for us to go to war.

I want to say something here. In all of my 40 years of ministry, I have never seen a time that you and I should be exhorted that we earnestly contend for the faith. There are so many avenues and so many people, and there are so many false prophets everywhere today. Everywhere you look today, there are people that are false. There are people that are not real. There are people that are trying to lead people astray, lead our kids astray. If there was ever a time that we needed to go to work, and we needed to be fighting for the faith, it is now. There has never been a time like it in my life and in yours that we should be contending for the faith as we should be now. Prepared, working, and laboring vigorously, defending what we know is true. There is no time to throw in the towel. There is no time to say, things are bad and this is going on, and that is going on and what is the use?

Listen. There is use. There is a need.

Do you know why it is so important that we contend for the faith? Do you know why it is so important that we defend the gospel message of Jesus Christ? Do you know why it is so important that we defend the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Do you know why it is? Because that is all that saves people. That is all that saves people. If we let that go, if this generation loses that then do you know what we lose? We lose our children. When we lose our children then do you know we have lost big time. This world has lost big time.

We have to be sincere about fighting for the faith, the truth that has been taught, that has been handed down through the word of God. We have to defend it. We have to fight for that. He says here...

Jude 1:3 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.

He is saying, guys you have been preached to. You have been taught. This is probably 70, 80, or 90 AD. So, thirty years after Christ. We know that Paul had been around, Peter had been around, Timothy, and all these other guys; they had delivered unto these people the truth. They knew what truth was.

Do you know what? It is amazing how quick we forget the truth. It is amazing sometimes how quickly we depart from the truth. It is amazing how sometimes how quickly we get so unconcerned about defending the truth. Amen!

Jesus died in 30, or 33 AD; this is 60 years later. Do you know what is happening? Things are slipping and going another way. Paul was in Ephesus and established church there probably around 60 AD. In 90 or 95 AD, things were completely changed. They were once on fire. They were once doing great things. They were once very evangelistic. They once were contending for the faith. They once were fighting and were at war against evil and wickedness. However, they cooled off.

Look at your own life. Do you know what you would have to say? Probably everybody listening to me tonight in this building tonight; do you know what you would have to say? I'm not near as spiritual as I used to be. I don't spend as much in prayer as I used to do. Things do not concern me as much as they used to. I just let things slide. I don't pray as much. I don't read as much. I don't do as much. Things do not concern me as much. I'm able to just let things go. Do you know what is going to happen? Do you know what happens? You lose. Who else loses? Your kids. Your grandkids. Your husband. Your wife. Your neighbors. Your co-workers. They all lose. Do you know what they are not seeing? They are not seeing that we are servants of Jesus Christ. They are seeing that we are servants of the world. Amen!

Here is what happens. When you I get lax, when you and I—and these people here that Jude is writing to had become lax. They had got comfortable. They got lethargic. They got lazy. It wasn't no big deal to them. They were saved. They thought they were going to go to heaven. Everything was just fine. They were just going to slide in.

Let me tell you something folks. The only place you are going to slide into is hell. You are not going to slide into heaven. If you go to heaven, you go to heaven because you purpose to go to heaven. Amen!

Here is what happened.

Jude 1:4 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.

"...certain men crept in unawares..." When I read that I thought what could that mean? How could people that are saved and born again 30 years after Jesus Christ died; the greatest of the Apostles that ever lived, the preachers that ever lived on earth had preached unto these people—how could we allow, how could the church allow people here just to creep in, slide in?

When you look at some of these words, it makes all the sense in the world. False prophets—do you know what they won't do? They don't come up and say I don't believe in Jesus. I don't believe in the resurrection. There are people who does that but the people who are trying to infiltrate the church don't do that. They don't do that. They knew if they did that they could not get in.

Here is what they do. One of the translations in the original, brought out the idea that they slipped through the side door. They did not come through the back door or the front door. They did not come in the way they should come in, but they slipped through the side door. Think about that just for a moment.

We are watching things—we watch people come in this door, that door. Do you know what sometimes we don't watch? We don't watch people that comes in the side door, or who goes out the side door.

Jude 1:4 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.

We were not paying any attention. The church here, people that were saved were not paying any attention who was coming in. They crept in. They slipped in here. The Bible says “unawares.”

Jude 1:4 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.

The word ordained here means to foresee or foretell. Evil and wickedness; God has already condemned. Amen! From before the world ever began, God has already condemned wickedness. These guys here, these false prophets, these false teachers, these false preachers, these false people that had slipped in through the side door are already condemned. Their condemnation is already set. The Bible says this...

Jude 1:4 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.

People that are not godly. Men that were not teaching, and people that were not living like God and doing what God would do, and saying what God would say, and participating in what God would participate in; these guys were the opposite of that. They were ungodly. They probably had credentials. They probably had a Bible. They came to church. They did all of that. However, they were ungodly. They were not living like God was living. They sat in the pews. They smiled. They sang in the choir. They preached. They did all kinds of things, but they were ungodly. They slipped in through the side door. They slipped in. They crept in unawares. They are condemned. They are ungodly the Bible says.

Get this.

Jude 1:4 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.

Do you know what that means? It means transpose. Transpose means to take one thing and substitute it for another. Do you know what these guys were doing? They were taking the grace of Almighty God and transposing or replacing it, or switching it with lasciviousness. Lasciviousness is wickedness, evilness, corruptness, and all kinds of things. That is what these guys were doing. They were ungodly. They were transposing grace and lasciviousness. They were putting lasciviousness where grace really was.

We are seeing that today. With pastors, preachers and people that are sitting in the pews, and people who are carrying bibles, and people who are doing all kinds of religious works; we are seeing them. Things that we know are right, holy, sacred, and God-ordained, and now they are switching those things out for evilness, wickedness, sin, and all kinds of corruptness. Do you know what the thing is?

Do you know what is going on here to these folks? Many folks that were sitting in the pews were believing what these guys had to say. They believed and followed what these guys had to say.

Listen. Never in a day, probably except the days of Noah have many, so many people been deceived as there are today. Do you know why? It is because they want the easy way. They don't want to live right. So many people don't. They want to live as they want. They want to do what they want. Say what they want. They automatically think that because of who they are and that because they come to church that God is going to accept them when they die. You are wrong. If you think that, you are wrong. The only people going to heaven are saved people. That is all that is going. Church members don't have anything to do with it. The only people that are going to heaven are the ones that are saved. Born again people, saved...

Jude 1:4 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.

Look what it says here...

Jude 1:5 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.

In other words, do you know what he is going to say? Guys, I want to remind you of something that you once knew but evidently you have forgotten it. I want to remind you of something; how the Lord saved the people out of Egypt and after destroyed them that believed not. These people that Jude, Peter and others had written unto knew all the story about the Exodus. They knew. These people here knew. They had heard about what God had done. They heard about how God had gone with Moses and Aaron and went to Egypt and delivered all those million or two million people out of Egypt. They knew that story.

Do you know what they also knew? They knew the rest of the story.

I don't know whether you ever thought about it or not. If you read the book, there are 600,000 men probably that left Egypt. Probably if you put women and children in there; there were probably over two million people that left. They left Egypt. I can imagine on a day—if you read the story—probably had been a day of Jubilation. They had been in slavery down there God is bringing them out now. The Exodus are leaving. The

Passover has happened. I can just imagine how happy they were. We are finally getting to leave this place.

They get over and we know they go across the sea. They got on the other side and just a short time later, they started complaining.

Here is the thing I want you to get folks. I'm not trying to discourage anybody. I'm trying to wake some of us up. Just because you have left Egypt does not mean that you are going to make it to the promised land. Amen! Just because you have left Egypt does not mean you are going to make it to the promised land. Amen!

If you read the book, do you know what you will find out? When Israel left Egypt; Egypt being a picture of the world—the Bible says they were a mixed multitude that came with them. That is the scripture. I'm not making that up. That is in there. Not everybody that left, actually wanted to leave. Not everybody that left Egypt with this crowd, these...do you know what the mixed multitude did? Do you know what the mixed multitude does today? The mixed multitude, when you read the story, were always the ones causing the racquets. They were always the one that was always causing all the racquets, the mixed multitude was.

Here is the thing. I want you to remember. He says here God brought them out of Egypt and God saved them out of Egypt. God brought them across the sea and with miraculous miracles; God brought them. However, the Bible says here...

Jude 1:5 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.

Two million people leaves, or so. You would think the trip to Canaan wasn't that far. They could have made it in a short time. You would have thought, they had been in Egypt for all these years; their families have been in Egypt for 400 years. You would think, I want to get to Canaan. I want to get there. I want to be free and enjoy what God has for me, enjoy life, raise my kids, and do all of that stuff. But, they did not do that. You read the story out of two million that left, out of two million that left Egypt, only two made it. That is the Bible. Two made it. The rest of them died in the wilderness. Two out of the two million that left or so, Egypt, only two made it. Do you know what he says? He destroyed them that believed not.

Let me tell you something folks, believing Almighty God is important. It was important then and it is important today. The greatest thing you will ever do in life is believe God. When you believe God, you obey God. When you believe God, you follow Him. When you believe Him, you obey Him. You are a bond servant. Do you know what you will do?

Do you know what I have learned over the years? I mean this. We belong to Him. The church—I'm not talking about this building—I'm talking about the born-again people. Do

you know who they belong to? They belong to God. You guys don't belong to me. You guys do not belong to any pastor.

I know they don't mean anything by it. But I have heard people say, these are my people. I don't have any people. I did not save not one of you. I may be your pastor, but I did not save any of you. You all belong to the God of heaven. Amen!

The thing is this. When we understand that we belong to Him and that He is the master and He has the plan, and that we work for Him; if we are going to go to heaven we are going to follow Him. Do you know what we will get out of the rut, or whatever? I did not get what I wanted. Therefore, I am not going to do anything. I am just going to pout. Do you know what?

The Bible says that He destroyed them that believed not. Only two people out of approximately, two million people the left Egypt, went to the land of Canaan. He says, He destroyed them that believed not. Do you know what got them in trouble? They lusted. Didn't they? The Bible says they did. They thought about the food that was in Egypt and how great it was. They wanted meat. They lusted. We know that got them in trouble. God sent plagues and bunch of them died. We know that they committed idolatry.

Moses was on the mountain and they decided they wanted something to look at to worship. Amen! Bring your earrings, your gold, silver. Bring it over here. He melted it down and made them calf. Amen! Do you know what? They looked at this and said this reminds me of the god that brought me out of Egypt. Do you know what that is? That is stupidity. That is idolatry. This calf that Aaron molded, may have been beautiful and it probably was, but it wasn't that calf that brought them out of Egypt. It was the God of heaven. They committed immorality. They committed fornication and all kinds of sexual sins. They died. They complained. They murmured. They died. That was simply because they did not believe God.

The reason that Jude is reminding them not only of Israel, not only of what has happened here, but about the... Not only is he reminding them of this, but he wants them to understand what false teachers do and where false teachers lead people. False teachers lead people to destruction. The mixed multitude and those that were false people caused a lot of people to die. Amen! It caused a lot of people to die. When they were traveling from Egypt to Canaan, those false leaders that taught people wrong; even after they get to the land, when you read the book of Kings; do you know what you will find out? You will find out that false leaders and people that were not genuine, priests, kings, and rulers that taught people wrong, and people believed it and bought into it. Yet, they died.

The reason I wanted to talk about all of this tonight is that it is your children, and grandchildren and my children and my grandchildren and everybody else's are depending on us, and the God of heaven is depending upon us to contend for the faith, to put on our battle uniform and pick up our weapon and fight for what we know is truth.

Amen! To fight what we know the Bible, to preserve, to fight, and to stand and say; I am not going to compromise. I am not going to transpose. I am not going to transpose righteousness for lasciviousness. I am not going to transpose grace for lasciviousness. We are not going to switch those things around. We are not going to compromise evil for good, or good for evil. We are not going to do that. I know what is right. I know what is truth. I know what we are going to stand on. We need to take that stand.

It is not easy in this day and time. It is not easy when you have teenagers you are raising. Amen! It is not easy to go to a job sometimes and all the things that goes on at work and all the things that you have to listen to. That is not always easy. Do you know what? We can do it.

He says you have to earnestly contend. Do you know what that means? Get right down with it. He is commanding us that we do the very best we can. When we will do that God will bless us. We will earnestly contend for the faith. We will preserve faith. Do you know what people can see? People can see we are servants of Jesus Christ. We can make a difference in this world. We can preserve truth.

That is why I want you to read your Bible. That is why I want you to pray. That is why I want you to seek the face of God and ask God for understanding and discernment. That is why I want you to do that. Don't listen to me all the time. I want you to listen to me but prove what I am telling you. Prove what I am telling you is truth. When you do that, when the enemy comes and he is going to come roaring and the false teachers are going to come; they are going to come. They are going to be all dressed up. They are going to have all kinds of pretty words to say. When you know the truth, do you know what you won't be? You won't be led astray. Your children won't be led astray. You won't live in a way that your children won't to follow God.

What I mean by that is this. It is so important that you live right. Your children watch what you are doing. Your children know more about you than anybody else knows about you except God. They know what you talk about. They know what you and your wife do. They know what you watch on TV. They know what you look at on your phone. They know all of that.

Listen. They know whether you are serving God, or not serving God. They know that.

Let's live right.

Come and pray—