

A CALL TO ARMS **(Jude 3-4)**

I. The essentiality of the call .

- A. Jude loved the brethren to whom he was writing and had planned to write them about the common salvation.
 - 1. Salvation is a wonderful theme that needs addressing.
 - 2. We need to understand its source, its process and its results.
- B. However, something pressing, or essential, was brought to the mind of Jude by the Holy Spirit.
- C. It was brought to his attention that the people to whom he had planned to write were being threatened by false teachers.
- D. Therefore, he writes that it was needful for him to write to them about contending for the faith.
 - 1. The word needful is from a Greek word pronounced anagkee.
 - 2. It means to be spiritually compelled, a necessity.
 - 3. Jude couldn't help but write to them about this topic.
- E. There are some things in life that simply essential.
 - 1. We think of food, water and shelter as physical essentials to life.
 - 2. Spiritually, it is an essential that one be aware of and avoid at all costs those who teach false doctrine.
- F. I have been told of congregations that will allow a false teacher to come and speak.
 - 1. They don't believe that false doctrine but allow him to come for some reason.
 - 2. Their attitude is, "We won't let him teach that here."
- G. Jude was spiritually forced to write and warn these brethren of the dangers of false teachers.
- H. It was pressing on him to do so and he could not rest until the task was accomplished.
- I. In our call to arms, there is an essentiality to mark and avoid those that continue to teach false doctrine.
 - 1. We shouldn't rest until it is done.
 - 2. The reason is the result of their teaching is destruction.

II. The earnestness of the fight.

- A. Once the call to arms has been sounded, we should earnestly fight for the truth.
- B. Jude exhorted his readers to contend for the faith.
 - 1. Exhort is from a Greek word that means to call to one's side, to aid.
 - 2. Jude calls his readers to side with him in the fight for the gospel that had been taught them and us.
- C. In this fight, we are to war earnestly.
- D. The phrase earnestly contend for is a compound word in Greek.
 - 1. It literally means to fight for something or wrestle.
 - 2. One of the words that form this compound is the word from which we get agonize, or agony.

3. It gives the idea of great effort being given in this fight.
- E. The fight is a fight for the faith which was one time, for all time, delivered to the saints.
- F. Everything that we believe and obey is to be protected earnestly, with great effort on our part.
- G. When Christians are attacked by false doctrine, we are to spare no effort and give no quarter in defense of the gospel.
- H. This is not a physical fight.
 1. We are not to beat up false teachers.
 2. It is a fight for minds that is to be made through, writing, teaching, debating and study.
- I. The Bible that is attacked is to be the weapon used for defense.
- J. This is why it is so important to know the word.
 1. A soldier practices for hours and days with his weapon to prepare himself for battle.
 2. Hours are spent shooting, cleaning and maintaining his weapon so he will be familiar with it and able to properly use it in his defense against enemies.
- K. We need to know the word in so that we can defend it earnestly.
 1. Without knowledge of the word, we won't know when it is being attacked.
 2. We will sit idly by and allow our faith to be shipwrecked because of a lack of knowledge.

III. The enemy described.

- A. Jude then tells his readers why there is a defense that needs to be made.
- B. He first describes them as stealthy.
 1. They crept in unawares literally means by a side door.
 2. They did not come in trumpeting their intentions.
 3. As Woods says, "without revealing their true motive of seducing the saints."
 4. False teachers don't wear signs declaring their intent.
 5. They use subtlety and take time to worm their way in to the hearts of unsuspecting Christians.
- C. The fact they would come was told by Jesus, Paul and Peter.
- D. False teachers have always been ordained, or written beforehand, to destruction.
 1. This class of people is going to be punished.
 2. It has always been so and does not teach that these men were destined for this fate before their birth as Calvinists use it to teach.
- E. Jude then describes them as being sinful.
 1. They had no reverence for God and His word, which is the meaning of ungodly.
 2. This is shown today when people change God's word to suit their teaching or to make themselves feel better.
 3. They used God's word to teach that one could be immoral under grace.

- a. They taught the gospel gave freedom to sin.
 - b. This type thinking brought people into the depths of bondage to sin.
- F. He then describes them as subverters.
 - 1. When this type teaching was heard and ingested, it lead to the subversion of their faith in God and Christ.
 - 2. It caused them to deny the gospel and the Ones who made possible the gospel.
 - 3. It went completely against the word of God.
- G. Today, the idea of once saved, always saved continues this type of false doctrine.
 - 1. It allows people to indulge in their fleshly appetites with a false sense of security.
 - 2. God's grace is frustrated and thwarted when this type teaching is presented and followed.