

## **CONTEND FOR THE FAITH (Jude 3-4)**

### **I. We are taught the manner in which we are to contend.**

- A. We are told to earnestly contend.
  - 1. This literally means to fight for something.
  - 2. Its root word is the word from which we get our English word, agonize.
  - 3. It carries the idea of striving for something with effort.
- B. The secular Greek writers used this word to describe the effort given by athletes to win the Olympic games in the first century.
  - 1. Paul used this as an example to the Corinthians.
  - 2. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25.
- C. Have you ever looked at the training regimen of an Olympic athlete?
  - 1. For instance, Michael Phelps trained for six hours a day, six days a week, even on holidays.
  - 2. He swims over eight miles a day and does body-specific weight work.
  - 3. He also rides a stationary bike daily for cardiovascular strengthening.
- D. This is just one example of what could be given.
  - 1. Those athletes give out tremendous effort to train for winning an Olympic medal.
  - 2. What they are doing is of no importance when compared to the work of contending for the faith.
- E. Jude is describing for us the extreme effort that is to be given in defending the truth.
- F. There is no way to give a half-hearted effort in the fight for truth.
  - 1. There is no middle ground in this.
  - 2. The Laodiceans were condemned because they were lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-16).
  - 3. Pergamos and Thyatira were chastised for allowing false teaching to go on among them (Revelation 2:12-15; 20).
- G. As we do this, we must do it with the proper attitude.
  - 1. As we give great effort, we are not allowed to do so maliciously or unlovingly.
  - 2. There are those in our brotherhood who, in their zeal to contend for the faith, tear down more than they build up.
  - 3. As Barnes noted, that is contrary to the spirit of true religion.
  - 4. As militant as Paul was, he was never hateful or ugly.
  - 5. As harsh as Jesus could be, He was always loving.
- H. Paul said he was not ashamed of the gospel and we must never be as well.

### **II. We see the message for which we are to contend.**

- A. We are to earnestly contend for "the faith."
- B. "The faith" stands for the system of faith about which we read in the New

Testament.

1. Barnes noted that this is the system of religion revealed in the gospel.
2. It is the gospel message of which Paul said he was not ashamed.
- C. Paul talked about his past to the Galatians and mentioned the faith (Galatians 1:23).
- D. There were priests in Jerusalem that were “obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).
- E. We contend for a lot of things don’t we?
  1. If we are Alabama fans and it is attacked by an Auburn fan, we contend don’t we?
  2. If we are a member of a political party and it is attacked by another, we contend don’t we?
- F. The fact is, there is nothing for which we should stand and fight for more than the gospel.
  1. We stand on the shoulders of a group of Christians that shed much blood, sweat and tears.
  2. They stood for that which was right and we must as well.
  3. It is the truth of the gospel for which Jesus died to put into place.
  4. We must never be guilty of not defending it and allowing to be run down without saying a word.

### **III. We see the men with whom we are to contend.**

- A. Jude said there were certain men “crept in unawares.”
  1. These are false teachers.
  2. Men and women who teach doctrine contrary to the New Testament.
- B. In order to know who these people are, Jude writes several verses describing them (vs. 8-16).
- C. We can’t allow false teachers to spread their message because souls are in the balance.
  1. This is why those churches in Asia were condemned by God.
  2. False doctrine causes people to be lost.
- D. Notice Paul’s attitude toward the Judaistic teachers from Jerusalem (Galatians 2:4-5).
- E. We are not to have anything to do with people such as these (Romans 16:17-18).
- F. They aren’t easy to spot either.
  1. 2 Corinthians 11:15.
  2. Jesus described them as wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matthew 7:15).
  3. They aren’t in uniform announcing who they are, but are sneaky and insidious.
- G. John tells us that we are not to support them in any way or we become part of their evil works and can suffer with them (2 John 9-11).

From an article by Wade Webster.