

Let Us Contend for the Faith

Introduction

1. In Jude 3 we read where Jude exhorts the brethren.

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints.

A. It was “needful” for Jude to exhort them.

2. This need arose from the work of false teachers.

Jude 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, **who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

3. We are in an age of much indifference, insincerity and false teachers.

4. In our lesson this morning we will see where Jude’s exhortation is very much needed today!

Faith

1. What is “faith?”

A. The word “faith” can mean several things. It sometimes means belief.

Hebrews 11:6

Romans 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

B. It sometimes fidelity. Fidelity is "faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support." (Oxford Dictionary)

1 Thessalonians 1:8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. **Your faith toward God** has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

C. In our text, the word "faith" refers to the gospel (the system of faith).

1) It was something that was delivered (Jude 3)

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

2) It was something that was revealed

Galatians 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for **the faith which would afterward be revealed**. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

1 Peter 1:10-12 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

3) It was something that was preached

Galatians 1:23

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

4) It could be obeyed

Acts 6:7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Romans 1:5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,

5) It could be established (strengthened)

Acts 16:5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

6) Can be departed from

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

7) Should be contended for

Jude 5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

Contend

1. Let's now look at the meaning of "contend" in the text.

A. There is no authority for contention and strife toward one another.

Philippians 1:15-16 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

B. To "contend" is to rise up in defense of the gospel.

Philippians 1:7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

Philippians 1:17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

C. When the gospel is attacked, we must stand up for it!

1) This may be done by arguments and disputes.

a. Stephen successfully disputed with his adversaries.

Acts 6:9-10

b. Paul disputed with the Grecians.

Acts 9:29

c. Paul and Barnabas disputed with Jewish teachers.

Acts 15:1-2

- D. We should not only defend the gospel, but make the gospel aggressive – to change others.**

Earnestly

- 1. We are not to just “contend,” but we are to earnestly contend!**

- A. We should do it with all we’ve got.**

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, **do it with your might**; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

- B. We learn from example that we are to declare the gospel boldly.**

Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that **with all boldness they may speak Your word,**

Ephesians 6:19-20 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, **that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

1 Thessalonians 2:2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, **we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel** of God in much conflict.

Once Delivered

1. **All revelation has been completed – there is no more.**
 - A. **Jesus is the author and finisher of our (Gr. “the”) faith.**
Hebrews 12:2
 - B. **All the truth has been revealed unto us.**

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come.**

- C. **Paul, and we today are forbidden to preach another gospel.**
Galatians 1:8-9
- D. **The gospel that we have is a perfect system.**

James 1:25 But he who looks into **the perfect law of liberty** and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- E. **It contains all things pertaining to life and godliness.**
2. **Those who claim any new revelations today are just imposters.**
 - A. **There have been various revelations received about the end of the world - HASN'T HAPPENED.**
 - B. **The book of Mormon claims to be necessary because it is a latter day revelation – NOT NECESSARY AND IS FALSE.**

Saints

1. **The gospel message was first delivered to the apostles.**

Matthew 28:19-20

Luke 24:46-47

2. **Committed to faithful men.**

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men** who will be able to teach others also.

Conclusion

1. **We should never contend for our own opinions.**
2. **We should never contend for the various doctrines of men.**
3. **We SHOULD contend for things that are only revealed in the faith!**
4. **NEVER stop – always “contend earnestly for the faith.”**

Invitation

Place

Date

Let Us Contend for the Faith.wpd
Richie Thetford, January 2019 (Based on a lesson by W. Curtis Porter)