

MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

I urge you!

"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 you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." - Jude 3

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, lovingly and boldly wrote unto these dear believers. He eagerly wanted to write to them about the "common salvation" that they shared. However, considering that there was a spirit of compromise infiltrating some of the Christian communities, it was more necessary for Jude to write urging them

to earnestly defend the truth of "the faith" that God first delivered to His saints. This truth of "the faith" was entrusted to the saints and it was not to be relinquished or diminished by those who followed them. Jude boldly remind these believers that it was written beforehand that certain godless men would worm their way in among them and change the grace of God into a license for immorality. These godless teachers, who claimed to love Christ, would spread the false idea that after becoming a Christian we can sin freely without any consequences. Such lies contradicted the truth of "the faith" by distorting the sac-

rificial work of God's Son on the cross to pay for our sins-crimes against God, as well as the absolute sovereign authority of Jesus Christ to rule in the lives of His people.

This spiritual warning was written to the first-century believers. So how are we doing handling the "common salvation" and the truth of "the faith" in the twenty-first century? True believers know that God loves diversity. The apostle John saw in his heavenly vision great multitudes from all nations, tribes, and peoples before the throne shouting together "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Revelation

7:9,10). So it is not about the different styles of worship or the different cultures that Jude was concerned about. It was about the "common salvation" - yes, the truth of "the faith" as it relates to the glory of God and the exaltation of His Son Jesus Christ in saving us from eternal destruction.

Seriously consider, why is it that we can get crowds in churches for programs, entertainment, and short-story sermons, but few desire to study "the faith" which was delivered unto the saints. Honestly, we dig dry holes in the ground and call them wells. We advertise a church meeting and call it a revival.

Yes, we light strange fire and call it the Spirit, and we wonder why our society is the way that it is?

Pastor, are you lovingly and boldly contending for "the faith" without compromise? Believer, do you understand the beauty and glory of "the faith" found in Jesus Christ? Pastor, I urge you to prayerfully get into the word and contend for "the faith." Believer, I urge you to earnestly find a church that takes time to open up the word of God and explain "the faith" to your heart.

David C. Hale, pastor
Email: insights@gmx.com

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