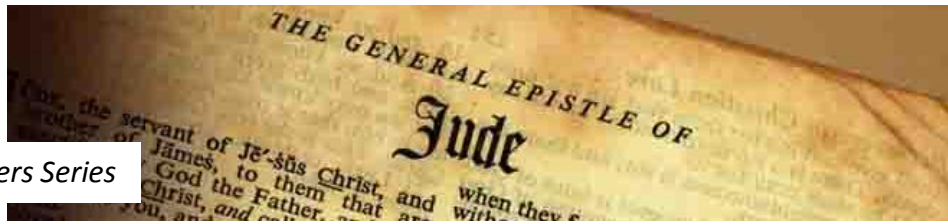


The Epistle of
Jude

New Testament Letters Series



Lesson 2-The Character and End of False Teacher's and their followers **Focus: Ch. 1 v.8-25**

1. Recap and further exposition of vs.5-7:

- a. *In these verses, covered by our last lesson, we realized that one cannot choose to live in a life of sin, and yet honestly call themselves as faithful Christians. This is a complete contradiction and those who think they may choose to live in sin, yet possess the favor of Jesus Christ, are thoroughly deceived by Satan's sophistries. No one can live a life of committing sin, and yet be a true Christian. We cannot remain in the acceptance or favor of God, unless we truly abide in Him and obey His holy words. **It was disobedience that got Adam and Eve kicked out of the Garden of Eden, Satan kicked out of heaven, and such like.** None will ever enter back in there by doing the same things! The condition of having God's favor can be lost by a choice to persist and live in sin (For further study on this point compare also 2 Peter 2:18-22).*
- b. **Verse 7 further points out the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah** and how God punished them for their wickedness! All who choose a lifestyle of sin will pay in a fiery judgment from God. God demands righteousness in all areas of our lives and sexual purity of the highest degree is required by God of His creatures. The only rightful place of the sexual relationship is between a husband and wife (Hebrews 13:4). And even then it should be pure, respectful, and loving; not twisted, degraded, demoralizing, or belittling of a person/partner who has been made in the image of God. It should not be to excessiveness, but should be done in subjection to the higher powers of the mind such as moral integrity, reason, conscience, and good judgment. Regular enjoyment of passionate times together is just fine biblically (1 Corinthians 7:2-5). God created sex to be enjoyed between a husband and wife. However, we should also be temperate and should exercise self-control, such as the Holy Spirit gives (Galatians 5:23).
- c. **The sexual sins of Sodom and Gomorrah** were homosexuality, lust, rape, fornication, and all sorts of perversions. The Bible CLEARLY condemns all forms of sexual sins such as these and those who practice such sins (even in heart and mind) will NOT be permitted to enter Heaven. Only the pure and the Holy will be there in God's presence. Nothing that defiles will ever enter there (Matthew 5:8; Revelation 21:27). The "strange flesh" here mentioned refers the perversions of homosexuality. See Genesis 19:4-7; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:16-20. Whether fornication or homosexual thought and behavior, all such impurity will be punished by God if not sincerely repented of. Even that, God can save us from (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; John 8:32-36). He came to deliver and to set the captives free! (Luke 4:18).

2. These false teachers have lived as Corrupt characters (v.8-11)

- a. (v.8-10) *By speaking evil against others, especially those in leadership positions they also demonstrate their own corrupt behavior. The Bible says, **"Speak evil of no man" (Titus***

3:2). We should never go around speaking bad things of others (even if they do deserve it). This is just not God's way. If anyone ever *DESERVED* to be condemned with many words it was Satan. However, God and His true followers would not, and should not ever sink down to that same level of evil. God's way is not to speak evil of others, even those who "deserve it."

- b. (v.11) **"The way of Cain"**—Cain spoke and thought badly of his own brother who was actually righteous, while Cain's way was not righteous. Cain did not honor God's righteous way, but rather, he carved out his own way (Gen. 4:2-9). This is most horrible corruption. **"Ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward"**—Balaam used to be considered as a prophet of God, but he sold his soul for money and the pleasures of this earth (Numbers 22-24; 31:8,16). By Balaam's evil counsel many in Israel perished. So have these done too. **"Perished in the gainsaying of Core"**—That is, that they have sealed their doom and fate of destruction by the most horrible kinds of rebellion against the Most High, and with the corrupt thinking that they all were "holy" (Numbers 16). The corrupt leaders and their rebellious followers all perished for their stubborn sin!
- 3. The Divine Condemnation of these ungodly men is sure in coming! (v.12-16)**
- a. (v.12,13) These men are like empty clouds, they do not have the Holy Spirit and they do not bear the produce of His most righteous fruit (as in Galatians 5:22,23). They live in their spiritually dead condition, feasting upon the various things of God's word, while never fearing for their evil lifestyle, even though they hear of sacred things. They do not fear God—they are as dead as dead can be spiritually speaking. Their shame lies before them and so does their coming condemnation. They are lost and "wandering" to nowhere.
 - b. (v.14-16) In their corruption they complain of holy things and people; They lust and speak corrupt words. They admire and seek to please men for their positions. They do not care to please God (See Galatians 1:10; John 5:42-44; Matthew 6:1,5; 23:5). They sin by giving "flattering titles" and undue respect unto mortal, sinful men (Job 32:21,22).
- 4. God warned His people that such corruption would come, but we are not to be so, and neither are we to think that all will stay in their corruption (SOME will yet repent) (v.17-25)**
- a. (v.17-19). It was spoken quite clearly that such would come (i.e. 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-8; 4:1-5). While many depart, we are to remain faithful to God by prayer, fasting, and fervent dedication to His Holy word!! We are to build up our faith in Christ and live it sincerely (v.20-21). Remember, some who fail now may yet be saved (v.22,23). We should reach out to share a saving influence towards them, but be careful at the same time that you be not tempted also by their wicked deeds. Look unto Jesus Christ (not men). He is the only one who can keep you from falling. By our own selves, you or I are nothing to stand for holiness. (Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 10:12,13; John 15:4,5; Hebrews 12:1-3).

Questions for the Heart:

Is it your desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ and to live by His word, rather than to follow the sinful and corrupt patterns of worldlings or even other "professed" believers who live in error? _____