



A CALL TO ARMS PART 2: THE ENEMY

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A BATTLEGROUND

Jude set out to write an encouraging letter about “the common salvation.” The name *Jude* (Judah) means “praise,” He was anxious to praise God and rejoice in the salvation God gives in Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of God changed his mind and led Jude to write about the battle against the forces of evil in the world. Why? Because it was “needful” for the church.

When the enemy is in the field, the watchmen dare not go to sleep. The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground.

JUDE 4 (NKJV)

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.

— THEY WERE UNGODLY (V. 4B)

This is one of Jude’s favorite words. While these men *claimed* to belong to God, they were, in fact, ungodly in their thinking and their living.

They might have “a form of godliness”, but they lacked the *force* of godliness that lives in the faithful Christian (2 Tim. 3:5).

— 2 TIMOTHY 3:1 – 5 (NKJV)

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

— THEY WERE DECEITFUL (V. 4C)

They “crept in unawares.” The Greek word means “to slip in secretly, to steal in undercover”.

Sometimes Satan’s undercover agents are “*brought in secretly*” by those already inside the church (Gal. 2:4), but these men came in on their own.

Peter warned that these men were coming (2 Peter 2:1), and now they had arrived on the scene.

— HEED THE WARNINGS

How could false brethren get into true assemblies of the saints?

- ***The soldiers (church leaders) had gone to sleep at the post!***
The spiritual leaders in the churches had grown complacent and careless.
- **This explains why Jude had to “blow the trumpet” to wake them up. Our Lord and His Apostles warned that false teachers would arise, yet the churches did not heed the warnings. Sad to say, some churches are not heeding the warnings today.**

THEY WERE ENEMIES OF GOD'S GRACE (V. 4D)

Why did they enter the churches? To attempt to change the doctrine and “turn the grace of our God into lasciviousness” (Jude 4).

- **The word *lewdness* means “wantonness, absence of moral restraint, indecency.”**
- **A lewd person thinks *only* of satisfying his lusts, and whatever he touches is stained by his base appetites.**

— GALATIANS 5:19 – 23 (NKJV)

Lewdness is one of the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19) that proceeds from the evil heart of man (Mark 7:21–22).

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

— GALATIANS 5:19 – 23 (NKJV)

²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

— EVIDENCE OF AN EVIL HEART

Mark 7:21 - 23 (NKJV)

²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

PETER'S WARNING

- **Peter had already warned this church that the apostates would argue, “You have been saved by grace, so you are free to live as you please!”**
- **They promised the people freedom, but that kind of freedom led to terrible bondage.**

— 2 PETER 2:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

BASIC TRAINING

The false teachers then, like the false teachers today, use the Word of God to promote and defend their false doctrines.

They seduce young, immature Christians who have not yet been grounded in the Scriptures.

Every Christian needs to go through “basic training” in a local church so that they know how to use the weapons of spiritual warfare.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 – 5 (NKJV)

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,



— 2 PETER 2:1 (NKJV)

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.



“LORD”

- ***Lord* is one of the prominent titles used of Jesus in the New Testament.**
- **The term Lord is used here with the Greek background in mind (that is, “Master,” “owner,” or “one who commands”).**
- **Since it can be assumed that many of Jude’s readers are non-Jews, then they would understand the term “Lord” in this manner.**

The terms Lord God and Lord here seem to be almost synonymous in meaning “our ONLY Leader and Commander” or “our ONLY Chief and Ruler”.

**Jesus said in John 10:30 (NKJV)
I and My Father are one.”**

THEY WERE ORDAINED TO JUDGMENT (V. 4A)

Jude did not write that these men were ordained to become apostates, as though God were responsible for their sin.

They became apostates because they willfully turned away from the truth. But God did ordain that such people would be judged and condemned.

The Old Testament prophets denounced the false prophets of their day, and both Jesus Christ and His Apostles pronounced judgment on them.

THEY WERE ORDAINED TO JUDGMENT (V. 4A)

Why should God judge these men? To begin with, they had denied His Son!

Furthermore, they mocked the doctrine of Christ's coming (2 Peter 3). "Where is the promise of His coming?" They teased the very promise of Christ's coming and the judgment He would bring against the ungodly.



THEIR DECEPTION

Of course, they did all these things under the pretext of religion, which made their sin even greater.

They deceived innocent people so that they might take their money and enjoy it in godless living.

Jesus compared them to wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15).



**How, then, should the church respond
to the presence of this stealthy enemy?**

Jude 3 (NKJV)

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.

How, then, should the church respond — to the presence of this stealthy enemy?

“The faith” refers to that body of doctrine God gave to the church through the Apostles. The word *doctrine* is found at least sixteen times in the Pastoral Epistles alone.

Paul admonished both Timothy and Titus to make sure the believers were being taught “sound doctrine,” which means “healthy doctrine,” doctrine that promotes the spiritual health of the local church.

2 TIMOTHY 2:1 – 4 (NKJV)

¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

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.

³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.



BODY OF TRUTH

While individual teachers and preachers may disagree on the fine points of theology, there is an essential body of truth to which all true Christians are committed.

This body of truth was *delivered* (Jude 3) to the saints. The word means “to be entrusted with.” The church collectively, and each Christian personally, have a stewardship to fulfill.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:4 (NKJV)

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.



— ONE GENERATION AWAY

You and I would not have the Word today were it not for faithful believers down through the ages who guarded this precious deposit and invested it in others.

The church is always one generation short of extinction.

If *our* generation fails to guard the truth and entrust it to our children, then that will be the end!



TAKE YOUR PLACE

When you think of the saints and martyrs who suffered and died so that we might have God's truth, it makes you want to take your place in God's army and be faithful unto death.

When the banner of Christ is in danger of being taken by the enemy, we cannot sit idly by; we must get in the fight.



— TAKE A STAND

We must always speak the truth in love, and the weapons we use must be spiritual.

At the same time, we must dare to take our stand for “the faith” even if our stand offends some and upsets others. We are not fighting personal enemies, but the enemies of the Lord. It is the honor and glory of Jesus Christ that is at stake.



1 TIMOTHY 6:12 (NKJV)

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.