**EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH**

**Jude 1 – 4**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. There is as much of a need [today] to contend for the faith as there was in the 1st Century.

 A. False doctrine is steadily tearing the church apart.

 B. It has come to the point, where many within the church, are willing to accept any kind of

 teaching; regardless of how [it] may contradict the Bible.

2. To stop the spiral into liberalism, [the] faithful must be willing to contend for [The] FAITH.

**BODY:**

**1. A FAITH WORTHY TO CONTEND**

 A. [We] must [first] understand the Bible teaches the singularity of [The] FAITH (Eph 4:5).

 1. One of the greatest causes of religious error is the false concept, where some say there

 are many FAITHS approved of by God.

 2. [We] would expect this from the denominational world, **BUT** many within the body

 have adopted a similar philosophy.

 B. God’s Word (Rom 10:17), will guide us into compliance (2 Tim 3:16, 17; 2 Pet 1:3).

 1. Once [we] accept His Truth, [we] will better understand the need to contend for it.

 2. As long as one incorrectly believes, it doesn’t make any difference what one believes;

 one can never take a stand, if one stands against Christ.

**2. INCENTIVES FOR CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH**

A. We have a common faith (Jude 3).

 1. The commonality is seen because it has been offered to “ALL” men (Tit 2:11, 12).

 2. Many passages assist us to comprehend how God desires for “ALL” to have an

 opportunity to be SAVED (Mk 16:15; 16; 2 Pet 3:9).

 B. MAN will be judged according to God’s Word (Jn 12:48).

 1. Judgment lies ahead for every accountable person (Rom 14:12; 2 Cor 5:10).

 2. If one’s FAITH is ***NOT*** contended, MAN will face God unprepared.

 C. The enemies of the FAITH abound.

 1. The enemies of the GOSPEL have crept in unawares (Gal 2:4; Jude 4).

 2. With them have come mockers sneering at Biblical TRUTH (Jude 18).

 3. They have turned the TRUTH of God into a lie, as previously done (Rom 1:25).

**3. IMPERATIVES FOR CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH**

A. [We] must build ourselves in the FAITH (Jude 20).

 1. This demands [we] grow Spiritually and in knowledge (Eph 4:15; 2 Pet 1:5).

 A. In order to “Defend the Truth”, [we] must KNOW it (2 Tim 2:15; 1 Pet 3:15).

 B. [We] must keep ourselves in the Love of God (Jude 21).

 1. This implies the necessity of our compliance with His Commands (Jn 14:15).

 A. One can***NOT*** hope to be in God’s Love, while rejecting His Will (Mt 7:21 – 23).

 C. [We] must continue to depend upon Christ (Jude 21).

 1. This involves continued fellowship with the Lord by walking in the light (1 Jn 1:7).

 D. [We] must have love for those who have fallen into error (Jude 23) and turn them back.

 1. This love is for the soul of the one beset by SIN (Gal 6:1).

 A. It is SIN which drives the wedge between God and MAN.

1. TRUTH is exalted (Gal 2:14).