

The Faith once delivered

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[0:00] Jude 1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ and called, mercy unto you and peace and love be multiplied.

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.

There's a warning here, a needful warning. Jude describes the common salvation and the faith. Peter calls it light, precious faith.

The faith once for all delivered unto the saints, God's people. And Jude says this is a needful message. He says it was needful for me to write it unto you and to exhort you.

The faith, the faith. It's important. The faith. This faith. Jude urges us, here is something worth fighting for, worth contending for.

[1:19] And I put it to you today, this faith, biblical faith, is under attack. It's threatened today across the church as it always has been. And Jude says this, that the genuine believer should contend, contend earnestly for the faith.

Friends, today we're in the midst of a battle, a battle for biblical truth. We have a fight on our hands, the fight of the faith, the fight for the faith.

And there is a present day invasion of error, a tidal wave of error. And contrary winds of doctrine, a blame all around about, that threatens to blow us off course.

And we need to be earnestly contending in these days. We heard of the earlier reading of the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Notice firstly that we're commended to the faith, the faith.

People are searching in our day, searching for truth, searching for something they can believe in, something they can hang on to. And Jude says there is such a thing, it is the faith, the faith once delivered unto the saints.

[2:29] We ask the question, who can I trust? Friends, you can trust God, you can take him at his word. You can trust him, whom to know is life eternal. And you can know the faith once delivered to the saints.

Notice that the faith was not delivered to the scholars and the intellectuals, but to the saints. It wasn't delivered to the Vatican, the Pope's Church of Rome, or some unbelieving crowd.

It was delivered to the believers, to the saints, to the people of God. God's people, God's church.

That's where God gave the faith to. And we can know that the church, the church, as it has held the line down through the pages of history, is in possession of a definite body of truth, the faith.

The faith. Now there's a book called The Trail of Blood. The Trail of Blood. Now there's good and bad in this book, but the basic premise of this book, I believe, is true, that there is a trail of blood right back from the first century right through to the present day.

A trail of blood, as it were, as we see the faithful church from the beginning at Pentecost right through to the present time today. The trail of blood.

[3:48] The faithful church has held its course down through the pages of history. The faithful church has held fast the faithful word, striving even unto blood.

As we see it even in our day today, where true godly people are still suffering and bleeding and dying simply for the faith that they will not deny.

And one of the characteristics of the steadfast church has been its steadfastness for sound doctrine. For faith in the word of God. Despite relentless persecution along the way.

Despite marginalisation by the false church of the day. To the extent that people shed their blood right from the beginning. People were burnt at the stake because of their faith.

Because of their like precious faith that we hold dear today rather than denying it. And the godly church has had this feature, has this same characteristic that they received the word.

[4:48] They received the word. Starefastly receiving it, holding it fast. And Jude says that the faith has been delivered to the saints. So friends, for us to recognise where the truth is, we need to recognise what the true church of God holds fast.

Because the custodian of this body of truth is the steadfast church of God. As Paul writes in 1 Timothy 3.15. Of the church, the house of God or the family of God.

Which is the church of the living God. The pillar and ground of the truth. So it is a rock solid, founded, planted, grounded, steadfast foundation of truth.

That is the foundation stone for this church. This truth, this faith is our foundation. And friends, it was once delivered.

We have that same faith that was once delivered back then. Back in the first century. And we as the church of God are stewards of it. We're custodians of it. We are to be recipients of it and safeguard it.

[5:58] We are commanded to do so. Jeremiah 6.16. Thus saith the Lord. Stand ye in the ways. And ask for the old paths. Where is the good way?

And walk therein. And ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein. We must hold fast to the biblical pattern.

To the sound words. There is no new revised truth. It is the old paths that we need. God has not given some new added instructions. There is no new or revised or improved model.

You know, back through just some hundred years or so ago. People started to kind of invent new revelations. As if this wasn't enough. As if you got to add to it.

Friends, we do not need new revelations. We need a new illumination of the old revelation. We need not an updated version of the faith. But to find the faith of our fathers.

[6:58] The faith that was once delivered to the saints. That is the faith that we need. It's sad these days to see scholars using all kinds of scholarly intellect.

To take away from that foundation of God's sure word. To trash God's truth with pathetic paraphrases. And with an undermining.

Which is really an interpretation of man. We need the sound word. The sound faith. The sound doctrine. The faith that was once delivered unto the saints. No other faith.

No other revelation is to supersede it. We must hold it fast. The old past. The old truth. The truth is still the truth. The truth. The whole truth.

And nothing but the truth. That's what they say when they put their hands on it. Amen. The truth.

The whole truth. And nothing but the truth. The truth is still the truth. And the truth does not change.

[7:55] You should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints. So friends it was delivered. Delivered. Divinely delivered. This message is still the same.

God has spoken. We have the whole counsel of God. And it was delivered. Preserved down through history. His word. This faith. It's life.

Who delivered it? Who is the deliverer of this truth? Jesus our Lord is the deliverer of this truth. The body of doctrine that we believe is wrapped in these covers.

It is the word of God. Upon this our faith rests. The all sufficiency of the scriptures. It is the faith. It is complete. As the Lord Jesus said in John 6. The words that I speak unto you.

They are spirit. And they are life. Without his words. We do not have life. And he's delivered his words. Such that they shall not pass away. He says heaven and earth shall pass away.

[8:52] But my words shall not pass away. Matthew 24.35. So we have it from his lips. And it is assuredly spoken. And he says in John 8.

If you continue in my word. Then are you my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth. And the truth shall make you free. Then he prays in John 17.

For his church. Sanctify them. Make them holy. Through thy truth. Thy word is true. So friends. As God's people. As is common across this planet.

And across the time span of church history. We stand with those who believe God. And his revelation. And his truth. And he's given it one time. For all time.

To the saints. And we are unapologetic. As a church. We will confront the culture. We will oppose false doctrine. And we will warn people. Against false teachings. Colossians 2.

[9:50] Paul says. Beware lest any man spoil you. Or in other words. Take you captive. Through philosophy. And vain deceit. We stand for the whole counsel of God.

Friends. I urge you. Brothers and sisters. There's nothing more precious. And important today. And I exhort you. To contend earnestly. For the faith. Believe it. Preach it.

Hold it. Without error. Without fear. Or favour. We stand on the word. And friends. There's a doctrinal shift. Happening today. A shift. A shift is happening.

A shift in separation. A shift in theology. We want to be a church. That does not hold back. From calling sin. Sin. And from labelling false doctrine.

As false doctrine. And be willing to pay the price for it. For what we believe. Some will not understand. Here is a quote of something. I read lately. Are we legalists?

[10:46] No. We are just people. Who believe the Bible. And are simple enough. To believe that if God says. Do it. We do it. And if God says.

Don't. We don't. We believe. That we are privileged. To be stewards. Of a sacred trust. Sacred truths. So firstly. We are seen.

We are commanded to. The faith. The faith. We stand. In the tread. Of those who have gone before us. Who bled and died. At the stake. And the fire. And the guillotine.

For the faith. Once delivered. So secondly. We are commanded to. The fight. You should earnestly. Contend for the faith. Which was once delivered. Unto the saints.

There's a fight here. It is a fight. We're engaged in a fight. And I think by and large. The church has lost its fight. We've lost our fighting spirit. We're meant to be the church militant.

[11:43] We should not shy away from the fight. And draw back. Yet as a church. Across the world. It seems. Like the church has become. Sloppy and slack.

Our princes have become cowardly. Man pleases us. As though we have become weak. And accepting. And there's nothing to stand for. Or against anymore. Princes will scarcely dare to speak.

Something that will cause a stir. But rather. People of God today. Saints of God today. Men and women of God today. Rather. Saints. We are called to be. Contenders.

Contenders for the faith. Defending the faith. Not departing from it. We need to get our fight back. In these days. Where biblical Christianity. Is being barraged.

And undermined. And eroded. Why do we need to fight? Because there's a transformation. Going on. There's much talk today. Of the new age.

[12:39] But really. The new age. Is the old lie. It's the old lie. The Babylon of old. Is still with us today. Babylon isn't. Back in your Bibles.

Some historic. Feature of old. Babylon. Is present time. Present day. It's now. As we see this syncretism. This blending.

This uniting together. This counterfeit unity. Of religions and beliefs. It's all coming together. It's all coming together. It's an overturning of the Reformation.

Where churches that once stood. Against falsehood. Are getting ever closer and closer. Cozying up. And rejoining Rome. The horror of Babylon. It's an ever deepening cooperation.

And condoning of error. What fellowship. Has light with darkness. There's no. Middle ground here. I urge you. Brothers and sisters.

[13:35] Consider these things. Consider. What the word says about Babylon. What the word says about. Truth. And what the word says. About error.

Dark forces. Are arrayed against us. We are at war. And this war is a spiritual one. A spiritual one. The forces of our archenemy.

Are against us. And they come in the form of. Liberalism. Humanism. Modernism. And within the church. People are falling prey. To seducing spirits. The fight is on.

The fight is on. Friends today. And we see this. Call for political correctness. Where we've got to be. Just. Making everyone feel comfortable.

People. But there's things that are against the church of God. And sometimes they're covert. We see this elevation of human wisdom.

[14:33] And human reason. The word foretells. An emerging church. A harlot church. As the trend is. Back to Rome.

Back to Rome. Back to the Vatican. And it's interesting. To observe that. Many substitute Bibles today. Are broadly.

Based on. A corrupted text. Where was it from? The Pope's library. The Vatican's library. That's where they came from. The spiritual forces at work today.

That. That. Are ultimately. Drawing people away. Into a worldwide apostasy. And ultimately. A world religion. And it's covert. In warfare.

There's a covert operation. As well as an overt operation. You know. The enemy. Can be hidden. Yet in plain sight. So these hidden dangers.

[15:29] Track the unwary. That might come. Cloaked in. Christian ease. And seem quite harmless. Yet we must not be ignorant.

Of such dangers. There's another Jesus. Another Christ. A false one. And friends. There's a gospel. That Rome preachers.

That is not the gospel. That we believe. It's not the same gospel. We have no fellowship. With them. So we must. Stand fast. On the authority.

Of God's word. And in the godly fellowship. And not swallow. The sugar coated lies. That are prevailing today. I'm talking plainly.

This is not. Easy to say. But I firmly believe. That in. Christendom today. Many have lost respect. For the word of God. And they're swallowing.

[16:23] All kinds of false doctrine. Because sound doctrine. Is under attack. And sometimes. It's covertly done. There's a blending. There's a mixture. A condoning. Ultimately.

A joining forces. With the enemy. As he infiltrates. And undermines. The true church of God. Such that. There's not a distinction. Between truth and error. We can't distinguish. We can't discern. We've lost our discernment. In this quest. For a pretend. Spiritual unity. But it's not a biblical unity. It might be a spiritual unity. There's a spirit of error.

But friends. Let me try to illustrate. What I'm saying. You might be hearing this. And thinking. He's just talking. Into the air.

There's some news stories. That I can cite. That give us some. Examples of this. That illustrate. What I'm saying. The so-called. Christian rock group. Jars of clay.

[17:20] Jars of clay. The front man. Of this Christian. Band. Has come out. In support. Of same sex marriage. And Christian. Contemporary music. Is leading people.

Like the Pied Piper. Into spiritual oblivion. As Christians. Tune in. By the thousands. They say. If we like the tune. Who cares about the truth.

Friends. It's not about the tune. It's not about the. Jivey. Hyping. Happy melody. It's about what is said. And done. What is being stood for. And stood against.

Pope Francis. I call him Pope. Because that's what people call him. But the Bible says. Don't call anyone father. So we shouldn't even call him Pope. Which means father.

Holy father. Which is God's title. But this so called Pope. Pope Francis. Right now. As we speak. He's preparing to go to the Middle East. And he has announced that he will be accompanied. By Rabbi Abraham Skorka.

[18:19] And Muslim leader. Omar Aboud. It's the first time a Pope. Has made an official visit. Accompanied by members of other faiths. And it underscores the interfaith focus.

Of Francis' trip to the Holy Land. The Vatican said. That was last Thursday. It's all part. Of the enemy's master plan.

Here's another story. This same Pope. The one who falsely claims God's title. Of Holy Father. Says as of February. February this year. The miracle of unity has begun.

Declaring we are brothers. To Kenneth Copeland. The famous charismatic preacher. Pope Francis says. We are brothers.

To Kenneth Copeland. As he made a video call for unity. To Copeland's conference. Copeland said. Glory. Glory. Glory. Heaven is thrilled. Over this.

[19:21] And Copeland prayed for the Pope. In his nonsensical fake gibberish tongues. And Kenneth Copeland recorded a video message. For the Pope. In which he said. All of these leaders at this Christian conference.

Represent literally tens of thousands of people. That love you. Thank you sir. We do bless you. And we receive your blessing. We thank God for you.

The miracle of unity. Has begun. Says the Pope. I firmly believe. Friends. We're in dangerous times. We don't love the Pope.

Or what he stands for. I firmly believe. That the prophesied. Ecumenical. Harlot church. Of the end times. Is certainly linked.

With the Pope's church of Rome. It's all a part. Of the enemy's master plan. The enemy of your soul. And mine. Here's another example.

[20:19] Brian Houston. A prime leader. In Australian Pentecostalism today. Brian Houston. Has said this. As of March. This year.

Muslims and Christians. Serve the same God. That is a lie. That is a lie. From the pit of hell. We do not serve the same God.

As the Muslims. This is wickedness. Such men are false teachers. And their false teaching.

Needs to be rebuked. And declared for what it is. It is a lie. Liberty University. In the USA.

Was at one time founded. Upon Christian values. Liberty University. Along with its president. Jerry Falwell Jr. Recently invited. The media figure. Glenn Beck.

[21:15] To take center stage. To address thousands of students. At its annual convocation ceremony. Glenn Beck. Is an avowed Mormon.

Beck's speech. Promoted Joseph Smith. And Mormon theology. And this university. Liberty University. Love him so much. They've given him.

An honorary doctorate. This is woeful. This is woeful. You should earnestly. Consent for the faith. Which was once delivered. Unto the saints.

Friends today. Open your eyes people. Christianity. Is being redefined. And we're witnessing. A wholesale. Spiritual slide. A spiritual sell out.

Away from biblical truth. And into global. Ecumenism. It's the enemy's cunning. Master plan. Popular Christianity. These days. Is replete with doctrines.

[22:14] Of devil. Such as. Man is a god. Or gods. Jesus took on. Satan's nature. Sinned. And had to be born again. In hell.

This is what some of these. Teachers say. God is subject. To man's desires. And wishes. And there's a preoccupation. With visits to heaven. And visits to hell. And fabricated.

And lying. Signs and wonders. Extra biblical. Dreams. Wonders. Visions and revelations. And man infested. Manifestations. There's a prosperity.

Poverty. And there's one on one. Encounters with angels. Prophets of old. And apostles. And Christ himself. Open your eyes. Open your eyes.

The spirit of error. And the spirit of truth. The church is being hijacked today. And we're witnessing this. Evil. Adulterous generation. Trampling truth.

[23:10] Underfoot. Casting doubt on the Bible. Devaluing the Bible. We see the deception in the church. In so many forms. And fashions.

As we see a Trojan horse. Things look good on the outside. It all sounds quite plausible. And comfortable. And what's wrong with that?

It's a Trojan horse. A new spirituality. A compromised unity. Not a biblical unity. Friends. We've got to be discerning. Your discernment might be different from mine.

I might be seeing things you don't see. You might see things I don't see. But we ought to exhort one another. Oughtn't we? Oughtn't we to do that? It's strange fire today.

In other words. There's a worship that's contrary to God's order. A corruption that's prevailing. And we're tolerating it. Rather we ought to have a clear rallying call.

[24:08] This is war. This is war. We must arm ourselves. And get ready for the fight. Friends.

Many Christians today. Are just accepting this compromised form of Christianity. This emerging church. You know. I'd love to show you some things that I've seen. Maybe there's some particular videos on this kind of material. That would be good for you to be informed about. You may not go along with what is said. But to be informed. Helps us to make our own understanding on these matters.

There's much compromise today. There's much catering to the crowds. Much pleasing of people more than God. Much doing things not to offend anyone.

And so we compromise more and more and more. And so the church continues its downward spiral. No one dares speak the truth anymore.

[25:07] It's not popular. Rather. Let us be a supernatural church. That believes God. That takes him at his word. That's fired up and faithful and fruitful for his glory.

That cares enough to speak up. Each one of you individually. Care enough to speak up. Thank God for this dread malady.

That afflicts the church of God today. There is a blessed remedy. This healthy, holy intolerance. That we call to. There is none other name under heaven.

Given among men. Whereby we must be saved. We don't serve the same God as the Muslims. Or the Mormons. Or you name it. We serve the God of the Bible.

The only one. It's exclusive. Christianity is exclusive. There is none other name. And there's one road. A narrow road. And few there be that find it.

[26:04] Friends, we need to care enough to speak out. To speak against the lies. And to speak the truth. Where is it all leading? Where am I going with this? Where are we going? Where is the church of God going today?

Where is it all leading? What are we going to face down the road? I put it to you. That we who profess to be Bible believers. Face yet more trouble. It's not going to get any easier.

The trail of blood continues. The trail of blood. There are true saints and godly martyrs today.

That lady could be a martyr soon. Because she will not deny the Christ who has saved her soul from hell. Will you follow in their tread?

It's time now. To set your house in order. Thank you for God today. The storm is upon us. Christians are being more restricted and oppressed.

[27:04] More and more and more today. There's dreadful new stories as we've heard of recent days. And the choice is clear. Deny Christ and live. Profess Christ and die.

It could come down to that. When the line is drawn, which side are you going to stand on? Where are you today?

I read this. There's five steps that lead to persecution. Five steps. Someone has counted. The steps of tightening of control of a reeling power. That eventually lead to outright persecution, imprisonment and eventually martyrdom and death.

Five steps. They are as follows. Identifying. Identifying. This involved finger pointing by the ruling authority. They try and blame the nation's troubles on a particular group.

Ahab did this with prophet Elijah. In 1 Kings 18.17. He identified Elijah as the one who brought trouble and drought to the land. Art thou here that troubleth Israel?

[28:10] Biblical Christianity is blamed today. As an obstacle to bringing the controlling powers plans for a humanistic society. Identifying. You've been identified.

You're troublemakers. To the plans of the elite, as it were. You're troubled. As Christians here today, you're troubled. You've been identified.

Secondly, there's a marginalising. Secondly, marginalising. The politically incorrect portion of the church are seen as not fitting in with the mainstream of society.

So they organise a smear campaign. And the media use trigger words. Trigger words against you. Extremist. Sacrist. Bigot.

Fringe. Right wing. Whatever it be. Or the mentalist. Trigger words are used against. So that you're marginalised. Step two. Third step.

[29:05] Vilifying. That's the next step. As the persecutors slander, cheapen and debase the worth and significance of the persecuted within society. Attacking by innuendos and insinuations.

Vilification. You're going to be vilified. It's already happening, people. Christians are being vilified today. Step four.

Criminalising. This is where the state has legal justification to charge. And arrest the persecuted. With accusations of alleged criminal wrongdoing.

And the state takes this heavy handed control. To protect its citizens. And then ultimately the fifth step. The fifth step. Step five. Terrorising. Here's where the powers of the state are blatant.

Outright threats of violence. To silence and neutralise the persecuted. Friends, the state is already beginning to criminalise Christian beliefs.

[30:04] You see what's happening in schools lately. In America. When Christian parents speak up against some abomination. Where Christians want to pray. They're being persecuted.

Identified. Vilified. And criminalised and terrorised by the state. And there's this tightening of government control. Such that in the schools and the higher education systems of today.

There's a deliberate indoctrination. It's toxic. Toxic. We need contenders in this day. Our Lord cries out. Who will rise up for me against the evildoers?

Who will rise up? Friends, we've got to rise up. We've got to stick our head above the trenches. Will you be willing to go to the stake or the guillotine with me? Are you ready?

Yes. Are you ready? Are you really a Christian? Friends, the line has got to be drawn in the sand. And will you deny Christ or will you stand for him?

[31:07] Don't be afraid to speak up. We must contend. Contend. Contend with vigour. We must press the fight. Hold fast for the honour and glory of his name.

We must get back to the book. People of God. Watch unto prayer. You should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

We call it to contention, not to comfort. To contention. Contention takes intensity. It takes earnestness. It takes exertion and spiritual labour.

Contention doesn't mean taking the easy road. It means taking the hard road. Contention. It means being against something. It means encountering opposition. And there will be bruises and scars for you.

No matter what, we must contend. So we've seen, firstly, the faith is commanded. The faith of old. The faith of our fathers. The faith of the book. The fight is commanded. There's a war on.

[32:11] The fight is commanded. We're called to earnestly contend for the faith. And thirdly, notice this. That it speaks to us of the faithful. Notice the people addressed are the saints.

The faithful. God is looking for faithful saints. God is sifting his people. Judgment must begin at the house of God. You should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Notice that it says, was given unto the saints. Are you in their number? When the saints go marching in, can you truly say, I want to be in their number?

Are you one of the saints? The Pope doesn't make you one. No man on earth makes you a saint. God Almighty makes you a saint. And the saints here this morning.

Christians. Consecrated to God. God's own. Precious people. The faith should be the foundation.

[33:15] Friends, I urge you today. Take heart. When all around us we sing a bombardment of error and falsehood. If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Psalm 11.3 We need the faith. In Acts 16 it says, And so were the churches established in the faith. And increased in number daily.

We need to be established in the faith. Established in it. That's why it's important that we fellowship where we can.

Don't miss the opportunity. Please, I urge you. And especially Bible study. I urge you, it's important. If you want to be grounded. If you want to be established in the faith.

Being at the Bible study. It's important. Very important today. If you can't make it, certainly study the Bible at home. You don't have to wait for the meeting.

[34:13] But get your Bible and dig deep. And so we see we should contend earnestly for the faith. So what's the take home message today?

As I've been shouting at you so much this morning. What's the take home message? What can you take home from this? Contend for the faith. From these rantings of this preacher here this morning. What can you take home today? You should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints. In summary, our text tells us three things. Of the faith.

The faith. The truth of God. His word. Sound doctrine. The most holy faith. We are to receive it. Be faithful stewards and guardians of it.

To receive it. To find faith. To trust him. Trust him now. Receive the truth. Hold it fast. Be steadfast. Unshakable. The faith matters.

[35:11] The faith. The fight. We are called to contend. We need to maintain our fight. To be that resilient, unbending, uncompromising people of God.

In combat. We need to call false doctrine for what it is. And oppose it. Actively stand up and speak up. And don't be afraid. Arm yourself today.

Brothers and sisters today. We're in combat. We need to take a stand. And thirdly. The faithful. These saints. I want to be in their number. Don't you? Don't you want to be in their number today? It might be walking the trail of blood for you. It might be in the trail of blood for you. I want to be counted as one of the faithful.

One of the few. To march in their tread. If it means blood. That it will be shed. That we will not shy away. Brothers and sisters. This is a rallying call today.

[36:07] Because we don't know what the future holds. But one thing for sure. We don't want to join party with the false church. We don't want to give an inch.

Do not give an inch. The saints. They were counted faithful. Counted saints. To whom their faith was once delivered. Are you a saint today?

I've been preaching to Christians today. Are you a saint? This message has really been to Christians. You might not be a saint yet. You may not be saved today.

This might sound quite strange. Some of this that I've said to you today. But there is two groups of people on planet earth.

The saved and the lost. I was watching a video lately about the Titanic. And at the end of the... When the ship went down there was a list drawn up. And you're either on one side or the other.

[37:05] Saved. Lost. Saved. Lost. Which side do you want people? If you're saved, stand fast. If you're lost, you can't be saved.

If you trust him, trust him now. Talking about faith. Simple faith. Trust him. Trust him. Trust him now. Trust him now. Take him as true and faithful as the only saviour.

Trust him now. Trust him now. Let us pray. Let us pray.