

## **“The Call to Earnestly Contend”**

### **Jude 1-4**

**Introduction** - We begin today the study of one of the most neglected books in the New Testament. The book of Jude:

- It’s placed in the New Testament in what is classified as the General Epistles.
- It’s author.
- It’s purpose.

*“The brief epistle of Jude is without a parallel in the New testament for its vehement denunciation of libertines and apostates. While displaying affectionate concern for true believers, it burns with fiery indignation and vivid pronouncements of judgement upon religious sensualists. In our day when an increasing number regard truth as relative and are growing more willing to consider all religious systems as having some validity, many suppose that this epistle has lost its relevance for today. But as long as it is true that belief influences and motivates conduct, and as long as God’s holiness continues to stand in opposition to all sin and evil, so long will this epistle retain its relevance by declaring God’s unchanging message to men.” - D. Edmond Hiebert*

- It’s relevance. Last days apostasy.

I Tim. 4:1, *“Now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith....”* So Jude is a call to arms, vs. 3, *“exhort”* sounds the trumpet.

So today, three things:

1. The Army, vv. 1-2
2. The Commission, vs. 3
3. The Enemy, vs. 4

#### **IV. The Army, vv. 1-2**

- The captain of the army is Jesus Christ.
- The army He commands are His saved people who share a “common salvation” (vs. 3).
- We are the “church.” Ephesians 4:4-6, *“One body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, on baptism, one God and Father of all....”*

Jude addresses them in three ways:

1. *“Sanctified by God the Father”* vs. 3, *“saints.”*

2. “*Preserved in Jesus Christ.*” Same word used in vs. 6 and 13, “*reserved*” and also vs. 21, “*keep yourself.*”
3. “Called”....by the Holy Spirit.

As a result:

- Mercy - He does not give us what we deserve.
- Peace - Because of Christ’s work on the cross.
- Love - We experience God’s love, Rom. 5:5.

Here then is God’s “*spiritual army.*”

*“If you have truly trusted Jesus Christ, you are in his army. God is not looking for volunteers; He has already enlisted you! The question is not ‘shall I become a soldier?’ Rather, it is ‘will I be a loyal soldier?’”* - Warren W. Wiersbe

Illus.: Isaac Watts once preached a sermon on I Corinthians 16:13: “**Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you [act] like men, be strong.**” When he published the sermon, he added a poem to it; we sing it today.

Am I a soldier of the Cross,  
A follower of the Lamb?  
And shall I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease?  
While others fought to win the prize  
And sailed through bloody seas?

That’s a good question!

## **II. The Commission, vs. 3**

- The Common Salvation
- The Commission - “Earnestly contend,” literally “to agonize upon.”
- What do you contend for? Answer, “the faith.”

Ask, “*What is the faith?*”

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. There is only one God.

3. Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
4. Jesus Christ is Lord!
5. Salvation, by grace through faith.

- “Once delivered.”

- No new truth!
- It’s entrusted to us!

- How do we contend?

1. By strengthening the hands of faithful pastors who are honoring the Word of God in their pulpits.
2. By your commitment to God’s word as truth!
3. By your support of the church and its ministry of getting out the word. (See 3 John 8 & 2 John 10.)

*Why should we earnestly contend?*

### **III. The Enemy, vs. 4**

Jude wasted no time in identifying the enemy.

1. They were deceitful - “crept in unaware.”

- Was/is an Apostate?
- Tears among the wheat.
- Acts 20

2. They were ungodly.

- No fear of God.
- But have the form of godliness.
- Not poor in spirit, they do not “*tremble at God’s word.*” Isa. 66:2

3. They were enemies of God’s grace, vs. 4.

- Only Christianity teaches saved by Grace.
- But some turn to God and grace into a license to sin.

4. They denied God’s truth, vs. 4.

- It’s all about Jesus! He is Lord! He is God!

Let’s “*Earnestly Contend!*”