

LESSON TEXT: Jude 1-25

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

The Book of Jude would be extremely significant for Christianity if it had only one verse in it--actually just half of verse 3! That half-verse states, "I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." That is a cornerstone-verse of what is known as The Restoration Movement! Notice Jude does not say just "faith" or "a faith." The faith means all the doctrine, nothing more, nothing less, delivered once for all in the New Testament Scriptures.

Samuel Rogers, born in Virginia in 1789, became a member of the Christian Church. He said that all the preaching he ever heard until he was a grown man was the reading of the Bible by his mother to her children. He was converted by Barton W. Stone, preacher at Cane Ridge, KY, who "invited all to lay aside their creeds and take the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice. I was pleased (says Rogers) with his preaching; it sounded like the truth--like the religion I had read of. He then gave me a Bible, saying, Preach its facts, obey its commands and enjoy its promises."

Alexander Campbell said in a sermon before the Washington (PA) Association, in 1810: "Do not the Scriptures of truth furnish the only established law or way for Christians, whether in an individual or church...to walk to heaven?" Campbell said in 1842, "The Bible alone must always decide every question involving the nature, the character or the designs of the Christian institution (church)."

F. R. Beattie says in his book, *Apologetics*, "Christianity is either *everything* for mankind or *nothing*. It is either the highest certainty or the greatest delusion...But if Christianity be *everything* for mankind, it is important for every man to be able to give a good *reason* for the hope that is in him in regard to the eternal verities of the Christian faith. To accept these verities in an unthinking way, or to receive them simply on authority, is not enough for an intelligent and stable faith."

Brethren that is why every Christian Church should have 100% of its worship-attenders in attendance at a Sunday School class. It is in

these classes where the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints is taught from its source--the Scriptures!

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Jude find it necessary to write those kept by Jesus Christ concerning the faith, once for all delivered to the saints? 1-4
2. Why does Jude cite what happened to all those, including angels, who left their proper dwelling place? 5-7
3. Where do you find in the Bible the account of the archangel Michael contending with the devil over the body of Moses? 8-9
4. How could such wicked people be participating with the Christians in their love feasts? 10-13
5. What does the prophecy of Enoch have to do with the reprobates to whom Jude refers? 14-16
6. What are the last times about which the apostles of Christ predicted? 17-19
7. How does one pray in the Holy Spirit? 20-21
8. How do you snatch some from the fire? 22-23
9. How does God keep you from falling (Greek, *apaistous*, "apostasy")? 24-25

"In Christianity, the two great generalizations are Christ and His religion. His Messiahship rests on power, and His religion on authority. The former is, of course, the problem; the latter the dogma. In the Scriptures, the Messiahship is never placed on authority, but on proof; and the doctrine, on the contrary, is never placed on proof, but on authority; the reason for which is this: It being there proved that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, it is consequently assumed that nothing He teaches can possibly be false. The strongest argument which can possibly be offered for the truth of His doctrine is, therefore, this: *Magister dixit!*"

"The Master has said it!"

--Walter Scott (great preacher of the Restoration Movement in the 19th century), in his book, *The Messiahship, or Great Demonstration*

The "Restoration Movement" is the fountainhead of the Disciples of Christ churches, the Christian Church churches, and the Church of Christ churches