

Truth, Lies, and Those Who Spread Them

6.13.10

The Gravity of the Situation:

“Beloved” Shows the depth of Jude’s heart toward these people.

“our common salvation” The fact that have both turned to Jesus in faith and repentance.

“contend” Strong word. A soldier fighting for his cause. (More next week.)

“for the faith once for all delivered to the saints” True Christianity. Nothing is to be added to the Faith or the Scriptures.

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed, designated for this condemnation” False teachers that were prophesied long ago have infiltrated your ranks and are already among you.

“ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” lit. twist and distort grace into a license to sin.

“Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. Ref. to God’s people being delivered in the Exodus, but then failing to trust God. This resulted in God allowing the unbelieving generation to wander and die in the wilderness instead of entering the Promised Land.

P: Believing lies has consequences.

What lies are at work in your life? What needs to change?

More on False Teachers and What They Are Doing:

“And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.” Likely ref. to angels that rebelled with Satan, awaiting final judgment. Sodom and Gomorrah judged as an example for all.

P: False teaching leads to God’s judgment.

“Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.” They follow subjective experiences for permission to do as they please.

“But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” A ref. to a story from outside the Bible in which this took place. Not a problem.

“But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.” Sin instinctively without even thinking.

“Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s error and perished in Korah’s rebellion.” 3 OT Ref. Greed and pride are driving them.

“These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear,” Builds upon infiltration imagery from before. Large fellowship meals where they also took communion. No fear of God or consequences for their sin.

“shepherds feeding themselves;” Pastors who aren’t pastors. Not interested in helping their sheep, only themselves.

“waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted” They have nothing to show for their efforts because they aren’t preaching the Gospel.

“wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.” Profound imagery of their depravity.

“It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him. Also recorded in extrabiblical source. Also not a problem.

“These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires they are loud-mouthed boasters” showing favoritism to gain advantage. Speaks to their motives. These kinds of false teachers were prophesied long ago who have a seemingly endless list of spiritual problems.

Application:

1. Until Jesus returns, there will always be false teachers and false teaching.

- a. False teaching is both overt and covert.
 - i. Overt: Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormonism (LDS), Catholicism (Justification-most important error), “Prosperity” gospel, most common = “Burger King” Spirituality.
 - ii. Covert: Popular “Christian” Literature - Emergent movement, “Open Theism” (“God doesn’t know the future”), The Shack, etc.

2. The best way to be able to spot lies is to know the Truth.

- a. We know the Truth by hearing the Bible taught regularly--Sunday and Others.
 1. Be careful who you listen to. Ask a pastor. We can tell you +/-
 2. Listen with “open ears” and “open Bibles.”
 - a. *Am I closely evaluating what I am taking in?*
 3. Community group can be a real help.
 4. This is a good opportunity for self-evaluation.
 - a. *Where are any of these characteristics at work in our lives?*
 - b. *Humility: Am I allowing my knowledge of true teaching to puff me up?*
- b. We know the Truth by staying close to Jesus.
 1. **In Christianity, the Truth is not just a body of doctrine but a Person.**
 2. Prayer, Bible Study, Confession/Repentance, Service, Holy Spirit within us guiding us into all Truth.
 3. *Is there anything between you and Jesus today? What needs to change?*

We can know the Truth because of the Cross.