

**“Contend For The Faith
Jude 1 - 4”**

May 26, 2019

Contend = fight for the faith;
agonize for the faith

Jude was not accepted as part of
the Canon of Scripture until
350 AD

Jude quotes 2 Apocryphal books
(the Assumption of Moses and
the Book of Enoch)

Books of this nature are many
and are known as the
“pseudepigrapha” - false writings

Why quote these books?

Though not entirely reliable, they had some information that was true and used by the Holy Spirit to convey truth

How were the books of the Bible determined to be genuine?

Important: Men did not determine which books were Scripture (*early Church councils simply recognized what God deemed as Scripture*)

For a book to be canonical, it had to meet the following standards:

- 1) It had to be written by a spokesperson for God - a prophet, apostle or someone closely related
- 2) It had to be confirmed by an act of God
- 3) It told the truth

For a book to be canonical, it had to meet the following standards:

- 4) It demonstrated the power of God**
- 5) It was accepted by the people of God**

Verse 1 - 2

**Contenders must know -
*you are safe with Jesus***

Bondservant = “*doulos*” = a
person’s will is consumed with
the will of his master

**Jude became a believer after the
resurrection of Jesus *and was all
in!!***

Encouragement #1 - *You are special to God*

CALLED - by *God*

SANCTIFIED - by Father - *God*

PRESERVED - in Jesus - *God*

preserved = “*tereo*” = to guard,
watch over - *Jesus*
is watching over you!

Encouragement #2 - *You are special to God*

Mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you!

God knows where you are - ***He is with you multiplied!!***

Contenders in the chaos of life,
know that you are safe in Jesus!!!

Verse 3

**Contenders must know -
*when to change course***

God reserves the right to change
the course of your life

*“In his heart a man plans his
course, but the Lord determines his
steps.” Proverbs 16: 9*

Principle: When God changes your
course unexpectedly, *don't
fight it!*

**Father knows best - it's *not*
*about me, it's about Him!***

Contend for the faith - *fight for, agonize for the faith!*

Do not cave to the counterfeits - *it is hard to spot a good counterfeit!*

Satan's messengers may be hard to spot - **2 Corinthians 11: 13-15**

There must be no retreat and no surrender to the compromised life - ***NONE!!***

Verse 4

**Contenders must know -
*sound doctrine!***

How do certain men creep in unnoticed?

People simply do not know sound doctrine!

Those who know the truth of the Word, will not fall prey to counterfeits

A. T. Robertson on *“crept in”* =
to slip in secretly as through a side
door

Someone has crept into these
universities, denominations and
Churches that changed the
course of these institutions

What has crept in?

The challenge to the inerrancy of
Scripture - *“has God thus said?”*

Genesis 3: 1

It starts with a little compromise, by not believing the whole Word or tweaking the Word to suit you

God says:

Deuteronomy 4: 2

Proverbs 30: 5-6

Principle: Whenever a person has doctrinal problems, they will end up with moral problems

Principle: When a person changes their view of Scripture, they will ultimately change their values and
*“Deny the only Lord God
our Lord Jesus”.*

A true Shepherd's calling is to feed the sheep:

“The pastor is called upon to feed the sheep. He is called upon to feed the sheep even if the sheep do not want to be fed. He is certainly not to become an entertainer of the goats. Let goats entertain goats and let them do it in Goatland. You will certainly not turn goats into sheep by pandering to their goatishness.” (William Still)

CONCLUSION: *CONTEND FOR THE FAITH*

Apostasy can be subtle; Jude used the word *“crept”*

“So skilled is error at imitating truth, that the two are constantly being mistaken for each other. It takes a sharp eye these days to know which brother is Cain and which is Abel.” (A.W. Tozer)

William Borden (*heir to the Borden fortune*) found his calling to China was overwhelming. He prepared in Egypt, learned the language, was prepared to leave and then developed spinal meningitis and died at age 25. News reached America of his untimely death, many thought, what a waste.

Was Borden's untimely death a waste?

Not in God's perspective

As the story has it, prior to his death, Borden had written two words in the back of his Bible. Underneath the words ***"No Reserves"*** and ***"No Retreats"***, he is reported to have written ***"No Regrets"***

NO RESERVES - hold nothing back;
no retreats to the comforts of
the world

NO RETREATS - keep going
forward; press on toward the
goal to win the prize

NO REGRETS - I will give my life for
my Savior - ***I have no regrets!!***

THIS IS OUR TIME

***CONTEND FOR THE
FAITH!!***