

“CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH”

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“1This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ. 2May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love. 3Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend [“contend”] the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. 4I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives.” – JUDE 1:1-4, NLT (AD 65 to 80)

[Jesus] *“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.” – MATT. 7:15*

OBSERVATIONS

1. Jude’s message is just as _____ today as it was in his day
2. Jude’s message is a collective _____ for all God’s people against apostasy, heresy, and judgment
3. Jude’s message is a collective _____ for all God’s people to stand fast and stay true to God’s Word

THE “FAITH” JUDE REFERENCES HAS TWO SIDES

1. A _____ side = Orthodoxy
→ Correct or right _____
2. A _____ side = Orthopraxy
→ Correct or right _____

WHAT DETERMINES “RIGHT”? THE _____

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, the 66 canonical books of the Old and New Testaments. The Bible is the Word of God, fully true; our final authority in all matters of faith, practice, and lifestyle.

1. _____ = Core Christian beliefs that we believe are the essence of Christian faith (ex. Apostles’ Creed)
2. _____ = Beliefs about which we have persuasions, though recognizing many biblical Christians have drawn different conclusions (ex. tongues, mode of Baptism, women in ministry, church leadership, etc.)
3. _____ = Topics about which we welcome opinions about, but would not even argue for (ex. worship style, Bible translation, etc.)

HOW DO WE CONTEND/DEFEND THE FAITH?

→ We _____ in _____
to the best of our ability

“But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God’s love.” – JUDE 1:20-21

1. We Build _____ up in the faith
“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” – HEB. 10:25
2. We _____ in the Holy Spirit
“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.” – COL. 4:2
3. We wait with _____
“The Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.” – ROM. 15:4
4. We remain in _____ with God
“When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.” – JOHN 15:10