

Sermon Series: Contending for the Faith

August 23, 2020

Sermon Title: Spitting in the Faces of Angels

Today's Scripture: Jude 1:8-13

Prayer

Introduction: Clayton and then Dean

Main point: Run, run away from False Teachers. They Intend to Deceive You All the Way to Hell.

Context:

1. False teachers back then and false teachers today continue corrupting people despite a knowledge that they will likely suffer the same punishment as the Israelites, Watchers, and Sodomites. **Yet in like manner these people also,**
 - Why aren't false teachers afraid? They know what happened to previous corruptors. I can't speak for the Watchers or Sodomites, but I believe that false teachers today are presuming upon the grace of God. Perhaps they have been taught from youth that God is a forgiving God and all it takes is one quick prayer of repentance before one dies and all the evil they have done over a lifetime will vanish.
 - But Scripture indicates that for many, they may not be able to repent when they want to. **2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (ESV) and,**
 - **2 Timothy 2:24–26 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (ESV) and,**
 - **Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. (ESV)**
 - **Romans 1:24–25 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (ESV)**
 - So, I believe their fear of eternal damnation is suppressed either by denying it outright, not taking God seriously as the Watchers must not have done, or they believe they can repent at will when they want to, a most bastardized theology, or they falsely believe they are truly believers and cannot lose their salvation.

- Some well-known names come to mind. Joshua Harris who wrote “I Kissed Dating Goodbye” has rejected the faith and the book and so has his wife. I guess we can kiss Joshua Harris good-bye. Does he fit in the category above as one who cannot now repent? We’ll let God decide. Another is Marty Sampson of Hillsong fame who said “I’m genuinely losing my faith and it doesn’t bother me”. Is he condemned to hell no matter what? Only God knows.
2. These false teachers claim as their authority the visions God gave them as dreams in the night, only those dreams didn’t come from God. **relying on their dreams,**
- If false teachers need an authority outside of Scripture they must resort to visions they have had. The word for dream in this passage is only used one other time in Scripture and that is when Peter used it to quote Joel. **Acts 2:17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; (ESV)** Peter says those days have arrived. The visions, prophecies and dreams Peter speaks about are authentic because Joel says that the Spirit Himself will be poured out on people to bring forth revelation with a small (r)
 - The most famous dreamer of all perhaps is Joseph Smith the founder of the Mormon Church. Have you been to the Temple in Salt Lake City? Either he was on some pretty strong mushrooms or he discovered weed before anybody else knew about it!
 - At this point, should I back up and be PC and not offend our Mormon friends? NO! Never! Who else will they hear it from that their honored founder is nothing more than a false teacher. And if we don’t warn them they are five heartbeats away from hell, are we doing them any favors by not screaming at them to reconsider what they are trusting in? Hell is real. We need to act as if we believe it enough to plead with people to surrender to Christ as often as we can.
 - Here’s what God says about people like Joseph Smith: **Deuteronomy 13:1–5 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. (ESV)**
 - It would have been better if Joseph Smith died before he could tell his dreams to others. Millions would have been spared from hell had he been taken out long before he passed away. But, we don’t live in theocracy like Israel, so we can’t take a Joseph Smith to the judges and say he deserves capital punishment. I wonder what his many deceased followers think of him now?

3. Jude tells us how to spot a false teacher (it's not hard).
 1. They are immoral. **defile the flesh**, - You know their names, the Jimmy Swaggarts and Jim Bakers and the hundreds of others who are never found out because they hide it so well behind a T.V. screen. Yet, their wives know. Their lovers know. Their secretaries know. Their underlings know who get a fat enough paycheck to keep quiet about it.
 - The word here for defile is the same word used in the Bible for dying a cloth. Their flesh is dyed or stained is a better phrase. Rather than the purity of the undefiled married bed that the author of Hebrews mentions, their bed is not a married bed and it is not undefiled.
 - The whole scandal within the Catholic church of pedophilia is an abomination. Evangelical pastors who have had multiple affairs . . .???. They give evidence of never being born again. SO why are they still in the pulpits?
 2. They are Insubordinate. They answer to no one. **reject authority**,
 - The authority they are rejecting is only one –Jesus. They have decided that he does not have the authority to tell them what to do and how to live their lives. Imagine that? Imagine standing before the King of Kings as described in Revelation 5 and tell me again how you dare to say to the King whose eyes are burning fire that the one who created you and sustained you and protected you and blessed you for all your life, that one doesn't have the right to tell you what to do and how to live?
 - My guess is that the parents of these false teachers never trained their children to respect authority, neither the parents are any others. I maintain one of the greatest blessings of a Christian home is the priority Christian parents put on obedience and respect for authority. The Holy Spirit has a much easier time getting a child to surrender and then love surrendering to Christ if taught early in the home to respect mom and dad and treat their elders with the same respect.
 - This is also why so many pastors acting as faithful shepherds get in trouble. Their pride causes them to think they answer to no one and are unaccountable to anybody. When I see that kind of personality, red flags go off and I seriously wonder if that person has ever been born again. Likely not.
 - John MacArthur has written books on this subject. He has had people oppose him by saying no you don't have to acknowledge Jesus as Lord in order to be saved. So John went to investigate where this teaching came from. One advocate was from a leader of a Bible College in Florida. Later this leader was discovered having illicit relationships with female students for years. Another opponent of this teaching was a pastor in Southern CA. Later that pastor was discovered having as John described it "a most wretched relationship with a daughter of missionaries for 17 years". Point? Those who teach no lordship usually have a reason.
 3. They despise God's Law and the Holy Angels Who delivered it. **and blaspheme the glorious ones**.

- All The angels were present with God on Mt. Sinai. Deuteronomy 33:1–3 This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the people of Israel before his death. He said, “The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand. Yes, he loved his people, all his holy ones were in his hand; so they followed in your steps, receiving direction from you, (ESV)
- What did they do? Psalm 68:17 The chariots of God are twice ten thousands, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary. (ESV)
- Acts 7:53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” (ESV)
- Galatians 3:19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. (ESV)
- Somehow the angels took the Law of God and hand delivered it to Moses, putting their stamp of approval upon it and confirming their agreement with it. I bet George Handel would have loved to hear the angelic choir sing so he could put it to music.
- When we disobey the Law of God, we too say to the angels, you are liars. You told us God is good, and the Law is good but we don’t believe you so we will blaspheme you and call you holy one evil ones and liars.

Final words:

Never take God’s Word casually as if we can choose to obey or disobey at will. You are then spitting in the face of angels who are a million times more powerful and holy than you (we) are.