

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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CONTEND FOR THE FAITH.

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In the religious world today there are many different faiths and many different doctrines that are being taught. As Christians today we have an obligation to “Contend For The Faith.” In the Bible Jude says, “*Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3).

In this context Jude is dealing with false teachers teaching “Antinomian Doctrine Of Libertinism.” These are people who act without moral restraint (*Webster Dictionary*). Many were teaching that one could sin with impunity. Why? Many thought the body was so depraved or corrupted that when they sinned the body was sinning, not the spirit. In teaching this doctrine they were denying the Lord and turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. They were giving themselves over to indulgences of their sinful passions and fulfilling the lust of the flesh.

Jude writes to the saints urging them to contend for the faith. The word contend means: to

contend about a thing as a combatant or to fight. Jude is urging these Christians to fight and to defend the faith against these false teachers who were teaching a different doctrine contrary to the one doctrine to which they were to earnestly hold fast. They were to contend for that one and only faith which was delivered by the Lord and apostles.

Today when false religions come our way bringing different doctrines we must contend for the faith and uphold the truth of the gospel. For example, when some want to teach the doctrine “Once Saved Always Saved”, which means: a Christian cannot sin and be totally lost. What does the Bible teach? Paul says, “*You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by the law; you have fallen from grace*” (Galatians 5:4). If a Christian can never sin and lose their soul, then why does Paul say these Christians have fallen from grace? Jesus died to take away our sins; not that we should continue to live in them. Brethren, we must continue to teach the truth and rebuke those who teach this false doctrine.

Some today teach that Je-

sus will come back and set up an earthly kingdom and rule for a thousand years. What does the Bible say? In Colossians 1:13 Paul says, that Christ has brought us out of darkness and has transferred us into His kingdom. Friend, how can we be transferred into His kingdom if Christ has not yet established His kingdom? Also in Acts 2:33 Luke records, that Christ has been exalted and has received the promise from the Father and is now sitting at the right hand of the Father this very day.

Ladies and gentlemen, Jesus is reigning on His throne today. He is not floating around in the air waiting for the establishment of His kingdom. Also in John 17:4, Jesus said His work is finished which the father had given Him. How can Jesus’ work be finished if His kingdom has not been established? We must continue to teach others that Christ has already established his kingdom, which is His glorious church.

Let us always remember to contend for the faith, in doing so we will be defending our Lord. If we refuse to teach the truth we are denying our Lord.