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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas



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Maintaining Steadfast Faith A Study of Jude

Date	Lesson	Text
04/11	Contending for the Faith	1:3
04/18	Corruptors of the Faith	1:4-16
04/25	Building up the Faith	1:17-25

Food for Thought

The Time Will Come

Lord, teach us from Your holy Word
 All error to discern,
 And by Your Spirit's light help us
 From Satan's snares to turn.
 Stand on the Word of God
 and you won't fall into error.

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

2 Tim 4:3 (NIV)

(From "Our Daily Bread" Mar 08, 2009)

CORRUPTORS OF THE FAITH

Jude 1:4-16

APOSTASY EXPLAINED

Jude 1:3-4 states the reason that Jude's letter was written and give a definition of **apostasy**. That evil has been around since the beginning of time, and it's still here. **It is the abandoning of truth.** It is not to be confused with mere indifference to the Word, for it involves an intellectual acceptance of the Scriptures. Neither is apostasy to be confused with error. It is not necessarily believing false doctrine. An apostate can acknowledge that certain doctrines are true, but fail to believe them in his heart. An apostate can acknowledge Christ without accepting Him. On the other hand, a true Christian could fall into doctrinal error, but that's not apostasy. **Apostates have received light but not life. They have known and accepted the written Word, but have never met Christ, the Living Word.** You probably know some people like that. There are people in the church who come all the time and know the truth, but have never acted upon it. Apostasy is a deliberate rejection of the the truth after it is known. Hence, it is the most damnable sin of all. The writer of Hebrews said, "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, with which he was sanctified, an unholy thing...?" (10:29). Somebody who knows the truth and stomps across it deserves more severe punishment than others who didn't know as much.

APOSTASY EXPRESSED

- a. **2 Thessalonians 2:10** They received the truth, but never acquired a love for it, so they fell away.
- b. **Acts 8:13-14, 18-23** Here we are introduced to a strange character by the name of Simon, who was a sorcerer (vv. 13-14) The account goes on to say that the Apostles laid their hands on some Samaritan believers who then received the Holy Spirit. Simon realized that was better than any trick he could do (vv. 18-23). Peter was saying, "You're not a Christian at all. Doing what you did indicates that you have no part with us. Your heart is not right, so you better pray for forgiveness." Every Christian has forgiveness, so Simon was obviously not a Christian. **Simon exercised some sort of belief and was baptized, but he never personally accepted Christ. He merely gave intellectual assent.** Now that is apostasy, a very common subject in the Bible. The Greek word for apostasy (apostasia) is only used two times in the New Testament. The first place is in...
 - c. **Acts 21:21** Here was a report of an accusation that Paul had been teaching the Jewish people to forsake the teachings of Moses. The other occurrence of apostasia is in...
 - d. **2 Thessalonians 2:3** The idea of apostasy appears in many New Testament passages without the use of the word that specifically means "to fall away." For example:
 - e. **John 6:66** There you have a forsaking of Christ. Many of His disciples (those who followed Him), turned their backs and said, "That's enough for us; we don't want to hear anymore. We're bailing out."
 - f. **2 Peter 2:20-22** **Having an intellectual knowledge of Jesus Christ and rejecting Him constitutes apostasy, the severest sin there is.** Peter pictured its ugliness in two proverbs: "...The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed, to her wallowing in the mire" (v. 22)
 - g. **1 Timothy 4:1** Apostasy is a departing from the faith-- turning your back on what you know to be the truth.
 - h. **2 Timothy 4:3** Turning away from the truth, people will seek that which is false.

Paul warned Timothy of apostasy coming from the pulpit in the last days. False preachers will turn people from the faith as they follow "seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1). There have always been false prophets, and there will be false prophets as long as Satan is active. Paul calls them "hypocritical liars" in 1 Timothy 4:2--they use religious language and talk about love but they are really phonies. Not only are there false preachers, but there are false congregations as well. Such congregations want teachers that will teach them after their own lusts (2 Tim. 4:3). There is apostasy in the pulpit and **apostasy in the pew. It includes everybody who has understood the gospel and turned their backs on the revelation of God.** People have asked me why so many churches are denying the faith: they don't believe in the inspiration of Scripture, the virgin birth of Christ, His literal resurrection, or His literal return. The reason is that the pastor and the people are often apostates, controlled by Satan. We can't expect anything else from them.

(Adapted from "The Description of Apostates--Part 1" by John MacArthur)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Corruptors that are marked for condemnation (4)

Condemnation for those who exploit others (2 Peter 2:3)

3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Condemnation for preaching a false gospel (Gal 1:7-9)

7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Condemnation for those who have not believed the truth (2 Thess 2:12)

12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Condemnation for those who deceive (2 Cor 11:15)

15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

Corruptors that speak evil (8)

Evil speaking through blasphemy (2 Peter 2:12)

12 But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

Evil speaking through false doctrines (1 Tim 6:3-5)

3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

Evil speaking through unholiness (2 Tim 3:1-3)

3 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

Evil speaking through destructive heresies (2 Peter 2:1-2)

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

Corruptors that serve and seek to gain advantage for only themselves (12)

Gaining advantage through seeking earthly things (Phil 3:18-19)

18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Gaining advantage through seeking to satisfy selfish appetites (Rom 16:18)

18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

Gaining advantage through seeking own interests first (Phil 2:21)

21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.

Gaining advantage through dishonest gain (Titus 1:10-11)

10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

Gaining advantage through lustful desires of the sinful nature (2 Peter 2:18-19)

18 For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.