

## Remnant Life Church

March 5, 2017

### Remaining Faithful – Recognizing the Lies

Jude 1-16

- One of the challenges that pastors and preachers face is deciding on what to teach on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening or whenever they are speaking
- Sometimes it is easy if you are given a topic or in a series of messages
- But there must always be purpose
  - The length of a sermon has no bearing on its power or impact
    - After 90 mins –“huh?”
    - Newton Conant
  - Neither does the length of time spent in preparation
    - Will not preach unless 4 to 6 weeks of prep
    - Another had his service in the early afternoon and would begin to prepare that morning
  - Something in between
  - Preparation is obviously necessary but the single most important thing is not the time spent in preparation or how long you speak it is the anointing of the Holy Spirit that brings the power of conviction and change to a life
- Well there have been times when every preacher has been ready to preach one sermon and God led in another direction – this is what happened to Jude

#### READ – Jude 1-16

- Background
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> shortest book – 2 John-13; 3 John-14; Jude-25 verses
  - The author identifies himself as Jude
  - He also calls himself the brother of James
  - Both of these are very common names
  - Jude is a derivative of the name Judah (the fourth son of Jacob) and the lineage tribe of David and Jesus
    - Another name type from Judah is Judas
    - This name carried great status because of Judas Maccabaeus – national hero to the Jews because he led the Jews in the Maccabean revolts against the oppression of the Greek king Antiochus IV in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC
    - The named usage dramatically changed however thanks to Judas Iscariot and more people used Jude instead so as not to be identified with the betrayer of Jesus
  - The James referenced would not have been the apostle James the son of Zebedee (Peter, James, and John) since he was martyred by Herod Agrippa I ([Acts 12:2](#)) around 44 AD and the authorship of Jude is most often placed in the mid 60's
  - The only other James well known in that time and connected with the church would have been James of Jerusalem who was the half-brother of Jesus ([Gal 1:19](#))
    - This means that the author of Jude was also the half-brother of Jesus
  - That James was also the leader of the Jerusalem church

- But we know that this James did not believe in the messiahship of Jesus until after the resurrection ([John 7:5](#); [Acts 1:14](#))
  - And it would also stand to reason that Jude felt the same way which helps to understand his humble use of the word “servant” instead of “follower” in the introduction
- Jude traveled preaching salvation through Jesus Christ
  - Jude had intended to write to the church(es) regarding the doctrine of salvation in Jesus Christ but instead, learning that false teachers had infiltrated the church, he writes of the necessity and importance for fighting the lies being spoken against the Gospel
  - Today, at every turn, we are faced with false teaching
    - The increased issue today is how cleverly disguised the deceptions are
    - But the foundation of the discord and problems have not changed
    - Look at what Jude writes is taking place
1. Verse 4 – they were saying that God’s grace allowed them to live any way they wanted to - “immoral lives”
    - a. This very dangerous and perverted thinking is alive and well in the hearts of many Christians and even churches today
    - b. We must not believe this lie – right is right and wrong is wrong in accordance with the Bible
    - c. The Barna Group survey – 2 particular findings
      - i. 71% say they will develop their own slate of beliefs rather than accept the beliefs taught by a church or denomination.
      - ii. Only one-third (34%) believe in absolute moral truth.
    - d. That means that 2/3rds of those who called themselves Christians will decide for themselves what is right or wrong
    - e. [Isa 5:21](#) - *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.*
    - f. Paul writes in [Romans 6](#) that we should never think to allow sin to remain because of God’s grace
    - g. Instead we should desire to live a righteous life because we have died to sin!

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  2. Verse 8 – They claimed authority for themselves through dreams and defied true authority
    - a. Self-exultation is always filled with deception
    - b. The new-age movement has at its base the teaching that we are the ones who determine the course of moral behavior in our lives because we all have the “god spark” within us
    - c. [Ex 20:3](#) – *you will have no other gods before me*
  3. Verse 16 – they are complainers and filled with pride
    - a. The word Jude uses for complainers is the same that Paul uses for the rebels in the wilderness who came against Moses
    - b. He references Korah ([vs 11](#)) one of those who led the uprising and was punished with death by God
    - c. The pride of life ([1 John 2:16](#) – *lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life do not come by the Father...*) only leads to destruction and the church must be on guard today more than ever for those who have their own agendas and not that of God