

POINTE•MEN

LIFEPOINTE CHURCH MEN'S MINISTRY

"Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people."

- Jude 3

Contend for the Faith

A 3-Week Study on the Epistle of Jude

Week 2: Stewards of the Gospel

Nearly every book of the New Testament, expresses the need to watch out for false teachers who seek to infiltrate the Church. The Apostle Paul warned the elders in Ephesus, "I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number, men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30 NIV). Similarly, the Apostle Peter raised the alarm that, "there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves" (2 Peter 2:1 NIV).

Jude, the brother of James and half-brother of Jesus, wrote his epistle exclusively for the purpose of exposing false teachers within the Church. With great urgency, he confronts the insidiousness of these individuals who masquerade as followers of Christ and manipulate believers into abandoning scriptural truth in favor of doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). Jude's letter exposes their character and actions, explaining how they exploit the grace of God for their immoral indulgences.

The peril of false teachers infiltrating the Church has persisted throughout history, albeit under different guises and labels. In the first century, some of these false teachers were known as Gnostics, peddling heretical beliefs that contradicted foundational Christian doctrines. Today, their modern-day counterparts, often termed "progressive Christians," follow similar patterns by challenging biblical authority, endorsing behaviors at odds with Scripture, and elevating human reasoning and personal experience above the wisdom of God's Word. These pretenders attempt to manipulate Christians by using biblical language but redefine the terms to mean something entirely different than what Scripture teaches.

As stewards of the Gospel, the necessity to discern and refute false teachings remains as crucial as ever. Jude's admonition urges believers to guard against the deceptive allure of teachings that masquerade as enlightened but undermine the very essence of the Gospel. Embracing the truth of God's Word, standing firm on its timeless principles, and discerning the subtleties of deceit are imperative to safeguarding the purity of the faith against the encroachment of false doctrines.

Questions To Consider

Read Jude 1:5-16

1. In verses 5 through 7, Jude offers three OT references revealing how God destroyed those who were disobedient to Him. How are we to understand the grace of God through Jesus Christ in light of these references? (vv. 5-7) *see John 3:36; Romans 6:12-14*
2. Why does Jude call these false teachers dreamers in verse 8? *see Romans 1:30-32*
3. In verse 8, three traits of false teachers are outlined: sexual immorality, rebellion against God's authority, and scoffing at spiritual beings. How can we discern or identify these traits in today's world? (v. 8) *see 2 Peter 2:10-12; Ephesians 6:12*
4. What can we learn about spiritual warfare from the incident between Michael and Satan described in verse 9? (v. 9) *see John 10:27-29; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5*
5. What is the danger of acting and thinking instinctually “like unthinking animals” as described in verse 10? (v. 10) *see 1 Corinthians 2:13-15; Romans 8:5-8*
6. Why does Jude liken false teachers to Cain, Balaam, and Korah? (v. 11) *see 1 John 3:12; Numbers 31:15-16; Numbers 16:27-35*
7. What do the metaphors used by Jude in verses 12 and 13 tell us about false teachers? How can we use this insight to recognize false teachers today? (vv. 12-13) *see Matthew 7:15-20*
8. Considering the warning about divine judgment against the ungodly, how can understanding this prophecy influence our choices and actions as Christians? (vv. 14-15) *see 2 Peter 3:10-14, 17-18*
9. How might selfish motives and false flattery, as indicated in verse 16, negatively affect relationships within a Christian community, and what biblical principles guide us to combat such attitudes? (v. 16) *see Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:10*
10. What role does the knowledge of Scripture and a firm foundation in God's Word play in enabling believers to exercise discernment, especially when confronted with false teachings or deceptive doctrines? *see Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*