

HOW TO CONTEND FOR THE FAITH – JUDE 1:17-23

So far in our textual study we have learned *why* we must contend for the _____ (vs. 3-4), *who* we need to _____ with (vs. 5-13), the *fate* of the ungodly (vs. 14-15), and the behavioral *traits* all the ungodly have in common (vs. 16). Today, as we move toward the close of Jude’s epistle, we will learn valuable instructions on *how* we are to combat the wicked adversaries of our ministry and work for the Lord Jesus Christ. And be aware: these directions are extremely _____.

J

1. Three important things to _____ – Jude 1:17-19

a. Keep these 3 things in the forefront of our mind:

1) The words of God

The word of God is our _____ to protect our mind – 2 Cor. 10:4-5

The words of God are our sharp two-edged _____ – Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12

U

2) Who gave us the words

The apostles (men sent forth from Jesus Christ) – Mt. 10:1-5; 2 Peter 1:16-21

They _____ us these mockers would come – Mt. 7:15; Acts 20:28-30; 2 Ti. 3:1-8; 4:3-4; 2 Peter 3:3; 1 Jo. 2:18; 4:1-6

3) Why they gave us these words

The wicked ungodly instigators creep into our churches and fellowships *unawares* – they are _____, they look and sound like sheep, but they are ravaging wolves seeking to devour the flock – Jude 1:4; Acts 20:29-30

D

b. These things are important

- We must *remember* the _____ in order to successfully contend for the faith

E

2. Three important things to _____ – Jude 1:20-21

a. Perform these 3 things daily:

1) Build yourselves up on your most holy faith

It is your own _____ faith

It is your own most _____ faith

It is an active labor of *intentional* Bible reading, Bible study, prayer, fellowship with likeminded believers, participation in your local church—giving cheerfully of your time, talents, and treasures; it includes the love, care, and support of fellow believers and missionaries

2) Pray in the Holy Ghost

Praying is the continual vocation of every believer – Lk. 18:1; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17

Pray by simply asking: God is our heavenly Father – Mt. 7:7-8

Pray, petitioning God about things that are already his will – James 4:2

Pray trusting the Holy Spirit will intercede for you – Ro. 8:26-27

Pray, and as you do the Holy Spirit will teach you to pray as you ought – Ro. 8:26

Pray as a weapon – Mt. 18:18-20

Pray with confidence that God hears you – 1 Peter 3:12

Pray knowing we have access to God by his Spirit within us – Ro. 8:15

Pray understanding that the Holy Spirit gives us the proper burden – Ro. 8:23

3) Keep yourselves in the love of God

Doctrinally speaking, we don't keep ourselves in God's love, we are always in his love. God's love for us is infinite and not based on our human effort – Ro. 8:29-30; 35-39

Devotionally, we can keep ourselves in a loving fellowship with God by obeying him, walking in Christian love and faithfulness, and by _____ loving this present evil world – Jo. 14:15, 21-24; 15:14; 1 Cor. 15:57-58; Eph. 4:17; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Jo. 2:15

b. These things are important

- We must *act* godly in order to successfully contend for the faith

3. Three important things to _____ – Jude 1:22-23; Prov. 24:10-12; 1 Peter 3:15

a. Determine these 3 things:

1) Who needs our compassion

The _____ of false doctrine and false ungodly teachers

2) Who needs rebuke and warning

The _____ instigators who creep into our midst

These evil players are out there in public and exist, but it does not mean we *go out* and pick a fight with them. It is when they creep into our midst spreading lies (Bible studies, homes, church assemblies, fellowships) that we address them – Mt. 10:14; Gal. 1:8-9; Titus 1:10-16; 2:15; 3:9-11

3) When and where to make these judgments

We have to pick our battles wisely and carefully

b. These things are important

- We must rightly *judge* our adversaries in order to successfully contend for the faith