

Sunday, May 28, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Holy Spirit Directive

Series: Jude, An Ancient Letter Written to Believers of THIS Day...2 **Text:** Jude 1:1 - 25

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to gently contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

Introduction:

~ Last Sunday we started a devotional series from the Book of Jude; the devotional title was "A Letter to Believers," with three main points: 1) To Those Who Are Called, 2) To Those Who Are Beloved, 3) To Those Who Are Kept

1. The Divine Directive to Contend is NOT the same as Being Contentious:

~ The Greek word in verse 3 which is translated "contend" appears only here in the New Testament

~ The word means to struggle for, to earnestly contend for. Contentious: causing or likely to cause an argument, controversial; involving heated argument; of a person – given to arguing or provoking argument.

~ Proverbs 6:16 – 19, "There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: (17) haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, (18) a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, (19) a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers."

~ Romans 16:17 – 18, "I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. (18) For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive."

~ Galatians 5:20 (from verses 17 – 21), "idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, division,"

2. The Divine Directive to Contend is Parallel to Spiritual Warfare:

~ Ephesians 6:10 – 20, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand firm. ..."

3. The Divine Directive is to Hold to what was Delivered and be Awake:

~ Jude 1:3, "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."

Notice from Ephesians 6:13 – 17: vs. 14, "having fastened on the belt of truth,"; vs. 15, "as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace."; vs. 16, "take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;" vs. 17, "take the helmet of salvation"; vs. 17, "and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,"

~ 2 Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." See also verses 16 - 18

~ Jude 1:4, "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

~ Mark 13:33, "Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come."

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:6, "So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober."

4. The Divine Directive is Empowered by Prayer:

~ Ephesians 6:18, "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"

~ James 1:5 – 8, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (6) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind, (7) For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

~ John 16:7 – 11, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (8) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; (10) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

Conclusion:

I would suggest that we ought to be like the people of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32, "Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command."