

Sunday, June 11, 2023

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

Title: Beware of the Fifth Column

Series: Jude, An Ancient Letter Written to Believers of THIS Day...4 **Text:** Jude 1:1 - 25

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to the strategy of the enemy of planting a ‘fifth column’ in our house.

Introduction:

Last week’s devotional was entitled “Contend for the Faith,” and the major points were: 1) The Faith; Not all Men Have Faith, 2) The Faith; Is Established on the Person Jesus Christ, 3) The Faith; Is to Be Kept, 4) The Faith; Is to be Built and Grow

~ 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.*”

“Fifth Column” is a military term and is defined as: a fifth column is any group of people who undermine a larger group or nation from within, usually in favor of an enemy group or another nation.

~ Matthew 12:25, “*Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.”*

1. Beware of Certain People:

~ vs. 4, “have crept in unnoticed;” in the Greek this phrase is ONE word, and this is the only occurrence of this Greek word in the New Testament. Its meaning is to enter secretly, slip in stealthily. To settle in alongside, i.e. lodge stealthily:-- creep in unawares

Illustration from old series TV called The Rifleman an episode called And the Devil Makes Five

~ Warren W. Wiersbe (Back to the Bible and author of some 150 books) once said; “I must confess that I sympathize with Jude. In my ministry, I would much rather encourage the saints than declared war on the apostates. But when the enemy is in the field, the watchmen dare not go to sleep. The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground.” This instruction takes us back to “contend for the faith.”

2. Beware for They Are Deceitful:

~ Jude is sounding the alarm trumpet! Believers need to shake off the drowsiness and go to their guard posts.

~ Genesis 3:1, “*Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden,?’”*”

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:4 – 11: vs. 6, “*So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.*”

~ Galatians 2:4, “*Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—”*

~ 2 Peter 2:1 – 2, “*But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.*”

~ Matthew 24:24 – 25, “*For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. (25) See, I have told you beforehand.*”

~ 2 Peter 3:17 – 18, “*You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. (18) But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*”

3. Beware for they are Ungodly:

~ vs. 4, “*For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people,*”

~ The word “ungodly” means: destitute of reverential awe towards God, [contemning; treating or regarding with contempt], impious [not showing respect or reverence, especially for a god]

~ This is far more than bad, improper, or evil behavior! It is an attitude toward God that mocks and belittles God our creator. It extends to His Word and the Lord Jesus Christ himself! When I disagree with God I am placing my opinion above Him. That is ungodly!!!

4. Beware for they Pervert the Grace of Our God:

~ Romans 5:12 – 21, Confusion among some Roman believers

~ Romans 6:1 – 4, Paul’s instruction

~ 2 Timothy 3:1 – 5, Last days confusion: “*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. (2) For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, (4) treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*”

~ Romans 6:5 – 14, Know this!

Conclusion:

Song – Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone