

Earnestly Contend for the Faith

Text: Jude 3-4

Review: I John 2:18-19 (they have already crept in), I Tim 3:15 (our duty as a church). Every generation must engage in this battle

- II. How we must contend
 - a. Contend for “the faith”
 - i. The true gospel vs. Prosperity, social gospels
 - ii. The inerrancy and authority of the Bible (verbal plenary inspiration, preservation, literal interpretation)
 - iii. The Virgin Birth of Christ, The Deity of Christ, the bodily Resurrection of Christ
 - iv. The Pretribulational Rapture of the Church, The Literal Second Coming of Christ, and literal millennial kingdom!
 - b. With conviction- contend earnestly for the faith:
 - i. The ancient Greek word translated “contend” comes from the athletic world – from the wrestling mat. It is an intensified form of the word meaning “to agonize.” Therefore “contend” speaks of hard and diligent work. The word "earnestly" is added to convey the intensive force of the preposition
 - ii. It’s not always easy
 - iii. There’s something worse than an empty church- an offended God!- W.B. Henson
 - iv. V. 9 Interesting example of Michael contending- Angelic strength wasn’t enough, but God’s strength was! “The Lord rebuke thee!”
 - c. With compassion- the right position and the right disposition.
 - i. Contend without being contentious

- ii. Testify without losing our testimony
 - iii. Compassion makes a difference- Jude 22
- d. Continually
 - i. In each generation.
 - ii. The verb translated contend earnestly is in the present infinitive, showing that the Christian struggle is continuous.
- e. Defensively- I Tim 3:15
- f. Offensively- Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it!"
 - i. Separate light from darkness Genesis 1:2-4- We see the Spirit of God and the Word of God! These are our weapons!
 - ii. The doctrine of separation is clearly taught throughout scripture- Romans 16:17, I Timothy 1:18-20

Conclusion:

- We contend for the faith when we resist error and stand for the truth found in God's Word.
- We contend when we strengthen and hold up the hands of preachers and leaders
- We contend whenever we share the gospel, or teach the Bible
- This faith is also the key to our victory! I John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."
- God will get the victory! During dark ages, the Reformation sparked. It was said in Scotland that when Patrick Hamilton was burned that everybody his smoke blew upon became a Christian and left the Roman Catholic Church