

The New Testament Church
The Book of Jude #8 – Jude 1:12-13; (Matthew 7:15-20) – Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing
March 2, 2025 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Introduction and review of Jude - **called** to **contend** as well as **continue** in the faith

- A. Book of Jude - a summary of truths preparing the early Church for a “test” of evil rising
- B. A review of lessons one through four – Jude 1:1-11
 - 1. **Called** to faith and family – first test in Kingdom manifestation – Jesus is our example
 - 2. **Content** - opposition causes us to clarify our beliefs (apologetics) – for original gospel
 - 3. **Continue** - overcome sinful obstacles by the persevering of the Holy Spirit
 - a. We learn to live under spiritual and natural authority
 - b. Walk in the way of the cross rather than the “way of Cain” – lust of flesh - **pleasure**
 - c. Embracing godliness with contentment rather than greed – lust of eyes – **power**
 - d. Cultivating God’s presence through humility vs. pride of life – **spiritual pride**

II Continuing in the Faith – “wolves in sheep’s clothing” – Jude 1:12-13; Matthew 7:15-20

- A. The reality of false teachers – Dt. 13; (2nd Peter 2:13-19); Acts 2:42; 20:29-31
 - 1. False teachers contrasted with breaking bread, fellowship, and prayer – to lure away
 - a. Jesus used the analogy of growing fruit, “know them by their fruit” (character)
 - b. Peter used similar analogies and – allure through lewdness, promise liberty
 - c. Dt. 13 – a sign, a familiar one, or a whole city/church – an errant movement
 - 2. Paul’s warning to preserve church life in proclamation, equipping, and small groups
- B. Five analogies given by Jude to discern false teachers – church **community** exposes motive
 - 1. Spots or “blemishes” in your love feasts – a motive of **elevating self**
 - a. Love feast purpose was to cultivate fellowship, singing and prayer, enjoy bounty
 - b. Pure fellowship in Christ focusing on others reduces schisms – all participate
 - c. A “wolf” has a different motive – for self, drawing away to themselves, not Christ
 - 2. Clouds without water, carried by the winds – promising rain yet **producing a desert**
 - a. The original gospel cloud is unchanging, fulfilling its promise of peace in the storm
 - b. False doctrine – special knowledge or revelation – promising but not delivering
 - c. Carried by every wind – unstable – changing focus to disguise errors
 - 3. Late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots – **unfaithful life**
 - a. Though there are seasons of dryness and death, faithfulness in the little things
 - b. Late autumn trees shed their leaves, twice dead – naturally and spiritually
 - c. A dead tree is best pulled up by the roots – when confronted they often leave
 - 4. Raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame – **overstatement of hyperbole**
 - a. Faithfulness in the midst of storms is a key ingredient that strengthens the weak
 - b. Embellishments, exaggerations, overstating that draws attention to themselves
 - c. The foam is the excess that attributes itself to pride and insecurity
 - 5. Wandering stars – reserved the blackness of darkness forever – **no investment in others**
 - a. A star is a faithful messenger of God (angels, believers, leaders)
 - b. A “wandering star” is a planet astronomically, does not appear to be a faithful course
 - c. Space is darkness – but we discern planets in light of stars – the community
- C. A church is both a *community* and a *spiritual army* – cultivate the bride before the city!
 - 1. We are a community, an organism, with an order and organization – need both...
 - 2. Part of our protection is **the long-term covenant-keeping community of the Church**