

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Fight is Real and Near

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

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Scriptures:

Jude 12-23

Theme: Contend for the faith because the fight is real and near.

Introduction: Scripture makes clear that we are in a fight to the death. We must fight against our own sinfulness until the day we die. Though we are settled and secure in Christ, we also feel some sense of precariousness because of our indwelling sin. And we must also beware of those false teachers who seek to take advantage of the church for their own selfish gain. Our fight of faith includes our opposition to false teachers.

Jude shows us the 2 contenders in this fight of faith:

1. The Intruders

Jude spends the bulk of this letter hammering on the intruders, those false teachers who were harming the church. He uses at least 17 different terms to highlight their wickedness.

The great danger of these intruders is that they are saying one can remain in immorality and be right with Christ.

Insidiously, these false teachers would've had good standing with some in the church. They would've appreciated and looked to them.

Jude's strong language should affect us so that we take a similarly strong stance against those who claim the name of Christ but teach and live contrary to his word. Gospel distortion is evil.

2. The Church

Jude reminds the church that the apostles had predicted the rising of such scoffers. The church was forewarned and should have responded accordingly. Scoffers despise Christian orthodoxy and Christian living, and mock it in their teaching and/or practice.

Scoffers are marked by enormous pride and they inevitably produce division. True Christians, on the other hand, should keep ourselves in the love of God by seeking to grow in holiness and faith. Our lives should be marked by prayer and God's word.

Questions:

1. Have you ever had a misplaced compassion? What motivated that?
2. Do you ever oppose false teaching and practice? Are you aware of its presence and effect on your life?
3. Are you actively pursuing growth in Christian maturity? How are you seeking to grow?