

Intro:

VI. Survival in Times of Apostates

A. Reasons for a lack of discernment in contemporary Christianity

1. The minimizing of the importance of Doctrine
 - a. a false unity based on lessening the importance of doctrine
 - b. Brings about many false professions due to watered down gospel
2. The Church has less objectivity due to replacing unconditional truth with moral relativism and post-modern subjectivity
 - a. instead of seeing truth in terms of black and white, many treat truth as a gray area
 - b. The Bible makes absolute distinctions between right and wrong, truth and error
3. The Church has abandoned its commitment to the power of the scripture
 - a. becoming like the culture doesn't win the culture - Jas 4:4; 1 Jo 2:15-17
 - b. Preaching the gospel is God's method to bring people to faith - Ro 1:16; 10:17; 1 Co 1:18-25
4. Because of the above, there is in the Church a failure to properly study and interpret scripture
 - a. pastoral laziness, exegetical sloppiness, and a general attitude of indifference to God's word bring error
 - b. The Berean's example show the proper desire to know truth - Ac 17:11
5. The general abandonment of Church discipline - Mt 18:15-18
 - a. we teach by what we do, if we will not confront sin and error in the body, wickedness will grow
 - b. The church will become a place comfortable for unbelievers, which will increase the wickedness
6. All of the above lead to a rampant void of spiritual maturity within the church

B. Remember - vs 17-19

1. remember the words which were spoken before
 - a. by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: - 2Pe 3:2
 - b. they predicted the coming of apostasy
 - i. Christ's prediction - Mt 7:15; 24:11
 - ii. Paul's prediction - **2 Co 11:12-15**; Col 2:16-19; 1 Th 2:14-16; 2 Th 2:3-12; 1 Ti 4:1-3; 6:20-21; 2 Ti 2:17-19; 3:1-9; 4:1-3
 - iii. Peter's prediction - **2 Pet 2:1-2**
 - iv. John's Prediction - **1 Jo 2:18-19**; 4:1; 2 Jo 7; 3 Jo 9-11
2. how they told you that there would be
 - a. mockers in the last time
 - i. *empaiktes* - a derider, a false teacher--mocker, scoffer.
- Appears only here and 2 Pe 3:3 in NT
- suggests Jude is quoting Peter
 - ii. the last time is a technical term referring to the time between Christ's first coming and His second - Ac 2:17; Gal 4:4; 2 Ti 3:1; Heb 1:2; 1 Pe 1:5
 - b. who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.-- already established in vs 4,15-16
 - c. These are sensual persons,
 - i. *psuchikos* - sensitive, animate (in distinction on the one hand from 4152 - *pneumatikos*, which is the higher or renovated nature; and on the other from 5446 - *phusikos*, which is the lower or bestial nature):--natural, sensual.
 - ii. Jude is exposing them as religious terrorists who lack self perception
 - d. who cause divisions,
 - i. *apodiorizo* - to disjoin (by a boundary, figuratively, a party):--separate.
 - ii. Refers to the motivations behind the false teachers behavior

e. not having the Spirit. - Jo 3:5; Ro 8:9; 1 Jo 3:24; 4:13

C. Remain - vs 20-21

1. building yourselves up on your most holy faith, - Col 2:7; 1Ti 1:4

a. *epoikodomeo* - to build upon, to rear up:--build thereon (thereupon, on, upon).

i. imperative sense - meaning not optional

ii. Refers to personal edification and spiritual growth

b. most holy faith - as in vs 3, the objective body of biblical truth

2. praying in the Holy Spirit, - Eph 6:18

a. refers to praying for that which is consistent with the Spirit's will

b. that will is revealed in the scriptures - Mt 4:4; Lk 11:28; Jo 5:39; Ro 15:4; 2Ti 3:16-17

3. keep yourselves in the love of God,

a. remain in the sphere of God's love, the place of His blessing - Ro 5:5; 8:39; 1Jo 4:16

i. practically, it means be obedient - Jo 15:9-11

ii. When disobedient, instead of blessing, chastisement - Heb 12:3-11

b. looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

i. *prosdechomai* - to admit (to intercourse, hospitality, credence, or endurance); to await (with confidence or patience):--accept, allow, look (wait) for, take.

ii. Connotes awaiting with great expectancy or living with anticipation of Christ's return - 1 Co 1:7; Phil 3:20; **1 Th 1:10**; 2 Ti 4:8; Tit 2:12-13; 2Pe 3:1-13

D. Reach Out - vs 22-23

1. Dealing w/ the Confused - vs 22

a. And on some have compassion,

i. some say b/c of the seeming contrast between some and others

- on some bring to conviction and confession of sin; reprove them b/c of doubts

- Others - have compassion, showing mercy and kindness on those who are confused or doubting

ii. Who are doubting - not in the NKJV, but in other manuscripts

- who do false teachers look to deceive but those who are vacillating, weak, unsure, and mired in doubt - 2 Ti 3:6; Jas 1:6-8

- those who are strong must show mercy, exhorting such people with the truth

b. making a distinction

2. Dealing w/ the Convinced - vs 23a

a. but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire,

i. *harpazo* - to seize:--catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force). - 1 Th 4:17

ii. Following Amos example - Amos 4:11; Zec 3:2,

b. dealing w/ someone having stayed from the truth - Jas 5:19-20

3. Dealing w/ the Committed - vs 23b

a. have mercy on others with fear,

i. indicates the sobering nature that reaching those people includes

ii. One might be corrupted by the same lies - not unlike Gal 6:1-3

b. hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

i. *chiton* - a tunic, shirt:--clothes, coat, garment. Worn under their outergarments

ii. *spiloo* - to stain or soil:--defile, spot.

iii. The idea is stained undergarment, which no one wants to handle