

Do You Contend For The Faith?

Jude wrote, *"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (vs. 3). The duty of a disciple of Christ is not only to believe the Bible, but to live by it and contend for it! That means a worthy servant of the Lord will dispute error. Sadly, many do not do this today.

God calls upon believers in Jesus to be advocates of the cause, not passive observers. The Lord said, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ..."* (Matthew 28:19-20). Advocacy is the duty of all believers. Every Christian is to *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine"* (2 Timothy 4:2).

Those who truly love the Lord and *"walk worthy of the vocation"* (Ephesians 4:1) will contend for the faith, the truth, against the doctrines and commandments of men. When one fails to do this, he is unworthy and has no right to be called a disciple of Jesus. In fact, the Holy Spirit said, *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8). Notice in this list of sinners, cowards lead the whole bunch! Those who lack the backbone to stand for the truth are unworthy to be Christians and face a stern judgment at the end of the world.

It is sad, but true. Many will not stand up for the Lord and His truth. Of these, Jesus will be ashamed (Mark 8:38). Are you one who desires sermons and teaching filled with "feel-good" stories and "heart-warming" tales, while lacking conviction and willingness to call sin "sin" and error "error"? When was the last time you studied to expose and condemn the erroneous teachings and practices of others? It may sound harsh and unloving to the world, but Paul did this in several places throughout his writings.

Do you do what Paul did? If not, why not? Are you afraid of offending people? Does you seek the approval of men above that of the Lord? If so, you are unworthy of the Lord and of your brethren's respect. Paul said in Galatians 1:10, *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."* Jesus never promised freedom from opposition in His. We must have strength and faith to fight the good fight. Jesus said, *"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall*

reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake"
(Luke 6:22).

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