**Postcard Epistle Series August 21, 2022**

**Contending for the Faith – Jude 1-4**

Background to the Book of Jude

* Written by the **half-brother** of the Lord Jesus
* Jude did not initially believe Jesus was the **Savior**
* Jude became a Christian after Christ rose again from the dead

Major Theme of the Book of Jude

* Warning to those who appeared to be Christians, but were “falling away” from the faith
  + They were **never genuine Christians** to begin with
  + Their falling away was an indication of their **true nature**

What is a bond-servant?

* One who is **solely committed** to another

To whom is Jude writing?

* **“**To those who are the called” (Jude 1b)
  + Those who are **set apart** by God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone
  + It is God’s sovereign will to call those to Himself to receive eternal life
    - God the Father draws people to His Son (John 6:44)
    - The Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8)
    - Jesus died on the cross (1 John 2:2)
* “beloved in God the Father,” (Jude 1c)
  + Beloved means that God has called people to Himself out of and through love that was demonstrated in Christ
* “and kept for Jesus Christ.” (Jude 1d)
  + Through God’s omniscient power, He knows His sheep
  + By God’s omnipotent power, He guards & protects His sheep
* God provides to the believer:
  + Mercy – saving us from the **penalty of sin**
  + Peace – contentment with God, self & others
  + Love – the very nature of God

Contending for the Faith

* Contend: to **exert intense** effort toward a goal

How do we contend for our faith?

* To **prepare answers** for those who have questions (see 1 Peter 3:15)
* To **make more followers** of Jesus Christ (see Matthew 28:18-20)
* To daily grow in our faith (see Hebrews 12:14)
  + If the church is not growing, **it’s dying!**

Warning Against False Teachers

* One day God will punish (“condemnation”) those who are leading people astray
  + These are “ungodly persons” – they have nothing to do with the true Good News of Jesus Christ and His salvation
  + They give license (“licentiousness”) to do anything that a person wants
    - They are teaching cheap grace (see Eph. 4:19)

**What does this mean for me?**

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* Warning to those who appeared to be Christians, but were “falling away” from the faith
  + They were **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to begin with
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What is a bond-servant?

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* To daily grow in our faith (see Hebrews 12:14)
  + If the church is not growing, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**

Warning Against False Teachers

* One day God will punish (“condemnation”) those who are leading people astray
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