



Tweets from Heaven

#10 Jude: Part 2

I. Introduction

Remember, this is Jesus' half brother warning the early church

II. Contend earnestly for the faith (vs. 3)

A. "To contend" – like the intense effort found in a wrestling match, it's a present infinitive, meaning the Christian struggle is continuous.

B. "The faith"

This is the faith which one believes. It's the doctrine, the teaching, the creed, the gospel, and the divine truth in which one has placed the confidence of his/her heart.

1. It was delivered to us

We didn't manufacture and discover it for ourselves.

2. It was once and for all delivered to us!

The fact that Jesus Christ came into the world, lived and died to bring salvation to men is unchangeable. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

3. It was entrusted to God's consecrated people

It's the possession of the church (the Body of Christ), not an individual. It's not reflective of anyone's private interpretation.

4. It must be rigorously defended (contended for)

"Epagonizesthai" contains the root of our English word for agony. "The defense of the faith may well be a costly thing..."

III. Keep yourself in the love of God (vs. 21)

A. "Keep yourself"

1 Cor. 16:13 "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

Col. 4:2 "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

1 Tim. 5:22 "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure."

James 1:27 "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

B. Building up yourself ("minding nets")

(See also Eph. 4:12)

2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

C. "Have compassion on some"

Rom. 15:1 "We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

D. "Save some"

Prov. 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise."

IV. Jude's summary

He who is able to keep us from stumbling...

He who is able to "present us without fault..."

He who is able to present us with great joy....

Be glory, majesty, power and authority.

V. So what? For what will you contend?

What exactly do you believe (and why)? What do you believe about the following:

- A. Definition and existence of God?
- B. Genuineness, credibility and canonicity of the Scriptures?
- C. The origin, character, and fall of man?
- D. The person and purpose of Christ?
- E. The conversion, regeneration and sanctification and perseverance of the believer?
- F. The church, its organization, ordinances and mission?
- G. The second coming of Christ, the Tribulation and the Judgments?

Discussion Question

Consider the attached creed and sample Doctrinal Statement. Can you "contend for it?"

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he arose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Doctrinal Statement

1. Stoneybrooke believes the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, John 20:31, Matthew 25:35)
2. Stoneybrooke believes that there is one God, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14)
3. Stoneybrooke believes in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory. (Matthew 1:20-21, John 10:30-38, Matthew 26:28, Hebrews 9:14, 1 Peter 3:22, Philippians 2:9, Revelation 19:11-12)
4. Stoneybrooke believes that for salvation of the lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary. (Romans 8:11, 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 10:9-13, 1 John 1:9)
5. Stoneybrooke believes the Lord Jesus Christ died for men's sins according to the Scripture, and all who believe in Him have the forgiveness of sins through His blood (1 Cor. 15:3, Eph. 1:7). We believe an individual becomes a child of God by being born of the Holy Spirit by the word of God through a personal faith in Jesus Christ. (John 1:12-13, 1 Cor. 3:16).
6. Stoneybrooke believes in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (Romans 8:16, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 3:24, 1 Corinthians 3:16)
7. Stoneybrooke believes in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (Hebrews 9:27, 2 Peter 2:9, Revelation 20:12, Psalm 96:13)
8. Stoneybrooke believes that heaven and hell are definite places. (Luke 11:12, Acts 7:49, John 14:2-4, Hebrews 11:10)
9. Stoneybrooke believes in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:23, Ephesians 5:30, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Deuteronomy 14:2)