

Contending for the Faith, Once-for-all Delivered

Summary: We have been given an ancient and longstanding faith, a faith which was once and for all delivered to the saints. Jesus is the founder and completer of this faith, [Heb 12:2] and it is by His blood that God's word, The Bible, is secured and proved to us as true. The word of God is secured in Jesus' blood who came to fulfil every jot and tittle of it. It must therefore follow that God's word, which pictures and points to Jesus Christ, cannot change – for then Jesus would need to fulfil that word too. Any addition to God's word would contradict Jesus' claim to have fulfilled every jot and tittle of it. Our God does not change, nor does His word. His character and His word are everlasting and unchangeable. Therefore, we are to stand uncompromisingly on the truths of scripture, on those truths which affect the glory and character of God: namely, Jesus. And we are to stand up to the face of lies and evil, not compromising our views or character, regardless of how the winds may blow.

I. Introduction

- a. Jude 1:3 – *We must earnestly contend for the faith*
 - i. Jude was compelled by The Spirit. The Spirit forced/urged him so that it was necessary to change course and talk about something else.
 - ii. Once-for-all delivered
 - 1. Hebrews 1:1-2
 - 2. John 14:26
 - a. We study and learn through what has been said. New revelations, which change/alter scripture (and thus God's character or Jesus), are not to be accepted.
 - i. Psalms 119:89
 - ii. Romans 12:2
 - iii. Romans 8:29
 - iv. Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17
- b. 2 Timothy 4:2-4 – *Because the time has come where people will not endure doctrine, therefore speak sound doctrine*
 - i. Don't lower standards or soften message because people's ears are dull. Do the opposite.
 - ii. Galatians 1:10 – *We are not here to please men, but God*
- c. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 – *Be strong; be a man.*
- d. 1 Peter 3:15 – *Be ready to give an answer. Always.*

II. Examples from Jesus' life

- a. John 6:53-71 – *Jesus spoke hard truths and let people leave if they wanted, versus compromising truth*
 - i. No miracle, no food, no quick fix: just Jesus and the firm, unwavering truth.
- b. Mark 10:21 – *Refused to compromise on truth to gain followers, money, etc*
 - i. John 12:21-28, Luke 9:57-62 – *Jesus would not compromise to get followers*
- c. John 2:13-17, Matthew 21:12-17 – *Jesus stood up for truth and the purity of The LORD, His people, His things, His truth, etc*

III. Examples from others' lives

- a. 2 Kings 18:4-6
 - i. Removal of high places

1. A place of worship or devotion to Jesus, but done in a way as not to offend the world.
 2. Worship or devotion done or said using the concepts/teachings/methods used which the world does
 3. A place of devotion to Jesus which is modeled after secular organizations or religions
 - a. Business-model churches or ministries
 4. Gatherings and fellowships where worship or devotion is done in a setting or location that is worldly
 5. Worship or devotion which leaves scripture's banner/umbrella
- ii. Removal of the bronze serpent
 1. Objects, methods, traditions, locations, etc
- b. 1 Kings 22:1-30, 34-35 – *Micaiah and the false prophets*
 - i. Michaiah stood up against 400 voices which were plenteous and fervent, but wrong.
 - c. Numbers 13:25-14:10 – *Caleb, Joshua, and the people of Israel*
 - i. Numbers 14:24 - *Caleb/Joshua, having another spirit than the people, stood up for God's promises and word.*
 1. The people's words, attitudes, etc...
 - a. Enemy is too strong; too great
 - b. We don't have the ability
 - c. God is not able
 - d. God's promises are not true or reliable. God is not reliable
 - e. God's promises are not attainable nor accessible
 - f. The past was better.
 - i. Even if we were spiritually worse off, it was better
 - ii. Better to be less spiritual, less life, than to have more struggles
 - g. The world is more comfortable and more easy
 - d. 1 Kings 18:16-40 – *Elijah and the false prophets*
 - i. Elijah opposed almost the entirety of Israel
 - ii. No more wavering
 1. C.f., James 1:6
 - e. Daniel 3 – *Fiery furnace*
 - i. Stand up for truth
 - ii. Do not conform/submit to the world, its idols, its ways of doing something
 - f. Daniel 6 – *Lion's den*
 - i. Refusal to change/conform to culture/world
 - g. Acts 4:18-20; 5:28-29 – *Stand up for and do what is right, no matter who says differently*