1 – Contending For The Faith

Jude 1-3

2 - **Fight The Good Fight – 1 Timothy 1:18**

Because…

1. Some will **teach** **strange doctrines** nor understand what they’re teaching. Vs. 3-7
2. Some will **practice things contrary** to God’s will. Vs. 8-11
3. Paul personally understood **what the truth of God’s word can accomplish**. Vs. 12-17
4. **Some have turned back** and suffered “***shipwreck of faith***”. Vs. 19-20

3 - **Jude 3**

Jude in like manner writes ***“appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”.***

4 - Because of “**Our Common Salvation**”

* **Same lost condition** – Romans 3:23;
* **Same message preached** – 1 Corinthians 4:17
* **Same faith exercised** – 2 Peter 1:1; James 2:14-26
* **Same obedience rendered** – Acts 2:38; 8:12
* **All added to one body** – Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41, 47.
* **There is only one way! (Matthew 7:13-14; John 14:6)**

5 - **Contending Earnestly for the Faith**

**“Contend” defined:**

* + *W. E. Vines*: “ep**agoniz**omai - signifies “… **as a combatant**…The word "earnestly" is added to convey the **intensive force** of the preposition.”
	+ *Wuest*; “…used of athletes contending in the athletic contests… a **vigorous, intense, determined struggle** to defeat the opposition.

6 - **What Is “The Faith”**

We learn in scriptures what “the faith” is w**hat God has revealed to us** - **Galatians 3:23**

**Compare the expressions used in Acts 13**

* + **The word of God** (vs. 7);
	+ **The faith** (vs. 8);
	+ The teaching or **doctrine of the Lord** (vs. 12)…

All refer to **the same body of revealed divine knowledge**. (cf., **Galatians 1:11, 23)**

7 - **Once For All Delivered**

* The complete revelation has come – **1 Corinthians 13:9-10**
* God has already given us **“all things”** that pertain to **“life and godliness**” – **2 Peter 1:3**
* God’s scripture is able to make man to be “**furnished completely**” – **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
* Any other gospel is accursed**. - Galatians 1:6-9; 2:5**

8 - “**Contend” by whom**?

* **Elders** – Titus 1:9-11
* **Preachers** – 2 Timothy 4:2-4; 1 Timothy 4:15-16
* **Parents** – Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9
* **All Brethren** – 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Ephesians 4:11-16

9 - **What is the purpose when we “Contend”**?

* **Not just to win arguments , justify ourselves or seek personal gain –** 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 20; 1:3-4; Luke 16:15; Titus 1:10-11
* **It is about the salvation of souls -** Jude 3, 20-24; Romans 10:1; Acts 26:16-18; Luke 19:10
* **It is about defending the truth of God’s word -** 1 Timothy 3:15

10 - **What Is The Manner Of Our Contending?**

* **Earnestly** - Jude 3; Titus 2:14
* **Honestly -** 2 Corinthians 1:12; 2:17
* **Humbly** - Acts 20:18-20; Gal. 6:1-2; Eph. 4:2
* **Lovingly -** Ephesians 4:14-15; 1 Cor. 13:1-3
* **Courageously & Boldly –** Eph. 6:18-20
* **Patiently -** 2 Timothy 4:2
* **Gently** - 2 Timothy 2:24-26

11 - “**Contend” against whom**?

* **Satan** –1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:12-15;
Revelation 12:9-11;
* **False Teachers** – 2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:16; Acts 20:29-32; Acts 18:24-28; 2 Timothy 2:23-25
* **Brethren in sin** – 1 Corinthians 5:1-2;
Galatians 2:11-14; 6:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:19
* **Self-will** – 2 Corinthians 13:5; Matt. 16:24; Gal. 5:17

12 - **With What Do We Contend?**

* **The scriptures** - Acts 18:28; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Eph. 6:14-17; Isaiah 55:8-11
* **With logic, reason and persuasion**. Acts 17:1-2; 18:4; 26:24-29.
* **With spiritual wisdom and not human wisdom**.
1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

13 - **Personal Application**

* I am personally responsible for knowing what God has revealed.
* I am personally responsible for believing and obeying the faith.
* I am personally responsible for contending for it in my life.