"THE TASK OF THE BIBLE CHURCH"

THE TASK TODAY

Jude 3, 4, 17, 20-24

INTRO:

A.-Their Attention:

1 Cor. 15:1-5 (1)

It was Sunday morning and the same old crowd was gathered in the same old place they had gathered on Saturday night-----only the beverages had been changed.

As a newcomer arrived one seedy character looked up from his coffee & spoke thru a headache: "YOU'RE LATE. I WAS WORRIED YOU'D GONE TO CHURCH!"

With that, several heads swiveled for a moment & snickered briefly. But the comeback was even better: "I DON'T HAVE TO. I ALREADY KNOW HOW TO VOTE."

This got an even bigger laugh from the group gathered for the weekly ANTI-WORSHIP service; perhaps because it had touched upon the reason they were there..... .....instead of IN CHURCH

B: That Convention:

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE TASK OF THE CHURCH"

Recently, an invitation to attend a national convention crossed my desk. Its sponsors made the appeal so broad that almost anyone could fit under its "theological umbrella". Repeatedly it appealed to unity. A religious periodical is before me. One of its featured articles makes a similar **appeal for unity** The author quotes Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." No one quarrels with the concept of unity. It is pleasant for brethren to dwell together, and unity should be encouraged wherever and whenever possible. **But** when its attainment requires **compromise**; when clear-cut biblical theology must be offered on the altar as a sacrifice to achieve unity, it becomes a **unity without substance**—a veneer or charade at best. God still says, "To obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22). *Unity at any price is* **too high** *a price.*

The divine exhortation is as applicable today as it was when first God "breathed" nineteen hundred years ago. . . . **Earnestly contend** *for the faith."*

We are not instructed to be contentious, but we are commanded to contend—to vigorously, intensely and with determination, defend "the faith". By God's grace, that's exactly what we intend to do.

C. My Intention:

1-TASK of the Bible Church (believing)

--Not to change the culture of society

--Not a changing task in the face of

** Modern intellectualism

** Shifting morality

** Everyday relativism

--But a return to BASICS !

2-This message

--What we Have as a Church--3 Heritages

--What we are to do as a Church--4 Imperatives

--Let's look at the Task of the Church under these headings

I.-WHAT WE HAVE AS A CHURCH-----3 HERITAGES!

A.-Heritage No. 1-----"Our Common Salvation (Jude 3):

1-Not a salvation that's common--in its cost
--in its acceptance

2-But a salvation which all true believers share
--Our common property
--Shared regardless of skin color
--Shared regardless of land geography
--Shared regardless of denominational label
--We are PARTNERS in the "common salvation"

3-No one is more or less dear to the Lord than any other

4-Emphasis in common salvation is on FELLOWSHIP
--1 Jn. 1:3--"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."
--Characteristic of the early Church in Jerusalem
--Acts 2:42--"And they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, & in breaking of bread, & in prayers
--We mutually participate in our common salvation AS EQUALS!

B.-Heritage No. 2-----"Our Common Faith" (Jude 3):

1-Jude's writing
--Intended to write on our common salvation
--Compelled to lay that aside & write about the common faith as he was pressured by the circumstances he saw and the leading he felt from the Spirit
--Wanted to write at leisure
--Pressed to write at once

2-"The Faith"--Which was once (for all) delivered unto the saints
--Not previously revealed, but now made known
--Not personal faith
--But an OBJECTIVE STANDARD-----"The faith"
--Lk. 18:8--"...Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"
--1 Cor. 15:1-2-----Fact
--1 Cor. 15:3-5-----Content

3-Common faith--Doctrine of the Word; Acc. to Scripture
--Doctrine of Christ; Substitution & Deity
--Doctrine of Justification; How we're saved
--Doctrine of Resurrection; Proof of hope
--Eph. 4:4-6

C.-Heritage No. 3-----"Our Common Danger" (Jude 4):

1-"Certain men crept in unawares"
--Didn't come thru the DOOR
--Jn. 10:9--"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved..."
--Came in ANOTHER WAY
--Jn. 10:1--"Verily verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief & a robber."

--This is **Modernism's way**, by stealth & dishonesty ——— APART FROM Christs blood.

2-**Danger** of these men

--**Not** in their presence---they might get saved

--But in their attitude & action when they are given equality & places of responsibility & ministries **PRESTIGE**

--**Described** in 2 Cor. 11:13-15

** "transformed"

** changing the outward expression by a disguise that does not spring from an inside condition of character--**A MASQUERADE !**

--**Liberals** have done this

** Using evangelical terms (faith, salv., regeneration, atonement, resurrection)

** Putting them forward with their **private meanings** which **NEGATE** the orthodox meaning

Also being done by the COMPROMISERS who engage in "dialogue"

--Do not trust such a one any farther than you would trust a **RATTLESNAKE** ! A rattlesnake will give you warning before it strikes, but not a liberal.

--The eternal welfare of **your soul** depends upon what you believe regarding the person & work of our Lord on the Cross

3-**Character** of these men (Jude 4 is **EXPLICIT**!)

--**UNGODLY** ** Rom. 1:18--"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness & unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

** Ungodliness is an attitude

** Ungodliness is a disregard for God

** Ungodliness has to do with the inner life

--**PERVERT** the grace of God into lasciviousness

** Can't abide salvation by grace

** Bent on perversion

** Bring in that which **leads to license**

** ILLUS--Local area church which in former days stood for the truth, & now puts on dances on Saturday nights & first-run movies for its youth

Causes "lasciviousness" = Lawlessness, Wantonness, Immorality

--**DENIES** CHRIST

** As Sovereign of the universe

** As Master of life — Deity denied

** As Savior of souls

** As the Promised of God

4-Because they are **FALSE TEACHERS** they cannot avoid teaching their perversions of ungodliness, which is **FALSE DOCTRINE**

5-Peter describes them--"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who shall privily bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them..." (2 Pet. 2:1)

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

6-So we see--Our Common Salvation--in Christ
--Our Common Faith------in the Word
--Our Common Danger-----in Apostates
--Out of this grows.....

II.-WHAT WE ARE TO DO-----4 IMPERATIVES!

A.-Introductory Explanation:

1-Imperatives are to the CHURCH in its LOCAL manifestation
2-Imperatives are to the church thru its members
3-What is said to ALL is said to EACH
4-ILLUS---Drill sergeant gives his commands
--Addressed to the group
--Imperative to each one in the group
5-WHO does Jude address?
--Jude 1
--"Beloved"---Vss. 3, 17, 20
--Includes ALL and EACH
--To these Jude addresses ** What we are to do
** 4 Imperatives

B.-Imperative No. 1-----"Earnestly Contend" (Jd.3):

1-What contending IS NOT
--Not contending with one another ABOUT the faith
--ILLUS---Muddites from John 9
--Anti-Muddites from Luke 18
Difference of opinion
2-What contending IS
--"one involved as a combatant" acc. to Greek
--Involvement as of an athlete in a contest to the death
--Source of our word AGONY
--Contending is "FOR" the faith
--Can't contend FOR without being AGAINST some things
3-Examples of what "Contending for the faith" IS NOT
--Not democracy
--Not anti-communism / Anti Islam
--Not "party" loyalty—Democrat or Republican
--Only divine government is a MONARCHY under the King of Kings in Millennium
SIN
False Doctrine
IMMORALITY
False brethren
ECUMENISM
compromise
4-Examples of what 'Contending For the faith" IS
--Every time you strengthen the hand of a godly Pastor
--Every time you give an unflinching witness of the Gospel
--Every time you withold support & encouragment from those who compromise or deny the faith
--Every time you speak out against "another gospel"
--Every time a S.S. teacher is true to the Word
--Every time a missionary lives and preaches Christ in the midst of paganism
PRAYER to God
5-This Book of Jude & its message of CONTENDING
--Not widely preached in the past
--Not thoroughly written on in the commentaries
--Appears written especially for the needs of TODAY
6-Let's be earnest about contending
--IN the battle as a combatant
--1 Pet. 3:15
--ILLUS---Bill Gilmore in joining Westbrae cited Rev. 3:2--"Strengthen the things that remain"
HE'S BEEN FAITHFUL AND HOW FAITHFUL!

C.-Imperative No. 2--"Remember Ye The Words" (Jd. 17):

1-Includes O. T. & N. T.--Words of Prophets
--Words of Christ
--Words of Apostles
--Heb. 1:1-2

2-Believers are to "REMEMBER the words"
--Call it to memory
--DWELL upon it
--2 Pet. 1:12, 15; 3:1

Begins w/ the adversative "BUT" = "But as for you, in contradistinction to the Apostates"

3-Words are authoritative !
--2 Tim. 3:16-17
--2 Pet. 1:21
--1 Cor. 2:13

Choice of Pastor + Elders
--To run your Board meetings
--To choose your officers
--To govern your church
--To discipline your children
--To order your life

"When they deliver you up, do not be anxious about how or what ye shall speak for it shall be given you in that hour..."

Every facet of it !

4-The reference here is not necessarily to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual Scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind with Scripture----See also Mt. 10:19

5-Imperative that we who are "Beloved" obey the Word, not reject it as did the Apostates

Our practice must be different if we are not to end up joining them.

D.-Imperative No. 3----"Keep Yourselves In The Love Of God":

1-Gk. word order--"Yourselves in the love of God keep watch upon"

2-You can't escape His love

3-But make sure you are reciprocating His love !

4-John 15:9--"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."

5-HOW?----John 15:10--"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love..."

6-Keeping yourself is the result of obedience to the Word

7-How that is accomplished:
--Jude 20-21
--BUILDING UP yourselves — DIET
--PRAYING IN the Holy Spirit — DEVOTION
--LOOKING FOR Christ's coming — DETERMINATION
--Thus we accomplish the task of the church as it relates to ourselves

8-Let's now look at the outreach of that keeping of yourself in.....

E.-Imperative No. 4----"Have Compassion....And Save" (Jd. 22-23):

1-We are commissioned for evangelism
--Passion is feeling
--Compassion is action
--This does make a difference as we reach out
--ILLUS---Good Samaritan had compassion

Can't be obedient without it

Reached out to meet a NEED

2-Compulsion as well
--Some need to be PUSHED !
--Snatched as brands from the burning
--Some will receive Christ easily, but some must be SCARED into salvation---& that's legitimate

3-Caution is in order
--Not caustion in approaching people about Christ
--But caution lest you be drug down into their sin
--Tenderness toward the fallen
--Fear for ourselves lest we become ensnared

4-Commision is for this salvation to be shared
--Mt. 28
--Mk. 16

5-ILLUS Attached story — "LOVE WARNS!"

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

1-What We Have------3 Heritages
--Our Common Salvation
--Our Common Faith
--Our Common Danger

2-What We Are To Do---4 Imperatives
--Earnestly Contend
--Remember the Words
--Keep Yourselves in the love of God
--Have Compassion....And Save

3-An O.T. ILLUS --Neh. 4:17-18
--Fighting enemies on 1 hand
--Carrying on God's work with the other
NB --Parallel to today's TASK OF THE CHURCH is remarkable!
--Swords of steel then & Sword of the Word of God now
--Built the wall then & we must build ourselves up
--Listened for a trumpet of warning & we listen for a Trump of God for deliverance

B.-Our Task:

1-MORE than preaching the gospel
2-Pressures & issues are different today than in 66 A.D., or 1517 or 1930
3-But what we are FOR is the same.
--"The faith"
--Larger sphere than just the gospel
--Not enough to agree on a minimal level
--Let's be CONTENDING FOR IT ALL
There is no Second class truth
4-ILLUS-Christian lawyer in Wausau, Wisc. took a full page newspaper ad in which to share his testimony!
--That's contending!

4-Questions--Am I IN the faith?
--Am I FOR the faith?
--Am I CONTENDING for the faith?
--Am I GROWING in the faith?
--Am I SHARING the faith?
--The answers to these questions are involved in making christianity relevant, & fulfilling the CHURCH'S TASK

(7)

5 ALTERNATIVES:

--Drifting (Heb. 2:1--"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip")

OR

--Involved (Lk. 11:23--"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth")

--My answer to the TASK OF THE BIBLE CHURCH is that by God's grace I'll be obedient to these 4 imperatives

--What's your answer?

Turn these IMPERATIVES into YOUR RESOLUTIONS

① Earnestly contend
③ Remember ye the Words
⑦ Keep yourselves in the love of God
④ Have compassion... Save some.

Westbrae---6/66 176 "Holy Bible, Book Divine" 460 (179)
11/29/71 491 "Hiding In Thee" 421 (282)
Pinole 10/1/72
2/26/78- Daniels MBCh 341 "Work For The Night Is Coming" 410 (439)
Blue
Grace Gospel Church, Beaver, WV - 5/25/88 OR "Rescue The Perishing" #397
Harper Heights Bapt. 504
3/5/06