

The Faith Once Delivered

Jude 3

Jude 3 - Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. (NAS95)

Introduction:

- A. The popular concept today is that there are "many faiths". "You believe what you want to believe and I'll believe what I want to believe" has become very popular, even in the Lord's church. After all, it is argued, we are all trying to get to the same place, just taking different roads to get there. In the United States alone, there are approximately 2500 different religious groups all believing their practices are acceptable to God. If we include all the religions of the world I suppose that the number would be well over 5000.
- B. When we look at each of these groups, we find that each one practices a different kind of faith. And most of the different practices conflict with each other. The religious world has become so confusing that many people have simply given up. Is this acceptable to God? What does the Bible reveal?

I. One Faith - Eph 4:5

Eph 4:5 - one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

A. Revealed in the Word of God

1. The truth promised by Christ

a. Revealed from God to the apostles - Jn. 14:26

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

b. All the truth - Jn. 16:13

John 16:13 - "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

c. Prayed for their unity - Jn. 17:20-21

John 17:20-21 - "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

2. Preached by Paul - Rom. 10:8

Romans 10:8 - But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your heart" -- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

a. The gospel of Jesus Christ - 1 Cor. 15:1

1 Corinthians 15:1 - Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, (NAS95)

b. No such thing as another - Gal. 1:6-7

Galatians 1:6-7 - I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. (NAS95)

c. The faith=the gospel - Gal. 1:11, 23

Galatians 1:11 - For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. (NAS95)

Galatians 1:23 - but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy." (NAS95)

B. A single pattern

1. Sound words - 2 Tim. 1:13

2 Timothy 1:13 - Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. (NAS95)

- a. Instrument of exhortation - Tit. 1:9

Titus 1:9 - holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. (NAS95)

- b. Instruction for daily living - Tit. 2:11-13

Titus 2:11-13 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, (NAS95)

2. The words of Satan

- a. Contrary to gospel= sin - 1 Tim. 1:9-11

1 Timothy 1:9-11 - realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted. (NAS95)

- b. Destructive - 1 Tim. 6:3-5

1 Timothy 6:3-5 - If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. (NAS95)

- c. Are not the truth/sound doctrine - 2 Tim. 4:3-4

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (NAS95)

II. *A Completed Body Of Truth*

A. An organized body of facts

1. Designed to generate faith - Jn. 20:29-31

John 20:29-31 - Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (NAS95)

2. Unchanging history - Heb. 13:8

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (NAS95)

B. "Once delivered," not twice or continuing

1. A man dies once - Heb. 9:27-28; 1 Pet. 3:18

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. (NAS95)

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; (NAS95)

2. No place for latter revelation

a. Infallibility - Catechism pp. 229, 230

b. Mary's assumption - p. 160

c. Tradition - p. 47

C. Clear warnings against tampering - Rev. 22:18-19; 1 Cor. 4:6

Revelation 22:18-19 - I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book. (NAS95)

1 Corinthians 4:6 - Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. (NAS95)

III. *Entrusted To The Saints*

A. Those who are set apart

1. Accomplished by the Word - Jn. 17:17

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. (NAS95)

2. People who are obedient - Acts 6:7; 1 Pet. 1:22

Acts 6:7 - The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. (NAS95)

1 Peter 1:22 - Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, (NAS95)

a. To Believe in Christ - Jn. 8:24

John 8:24 - "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (NAS95)

b. Repent of sin - Acts 17:30

Acts 17:30 - "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, (NAS95)

c. Confess Jesus - Matt. 10:32

Matthew 10:32 - "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. (NAS95)

d. Baptized into Christ - Acts 2:38

Acts 2:38 - Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (NAS95)

e. Added BY the Lord - Acts 2:47

Acts 2:47 - praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. (NAS95)

B. Creates an obligation

1. To know the truth - Jn. 8:32
John 8:32 - and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (NAS95)
2. To watch and protect it - 1 Cor. 16:13-14
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (NAS95)
 - a. From the inside -Acts 20:29-30
Acts 20:29-30 - "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. (NAS95)
 - b. From the outside -2 Pet. 2:1-3
2 Peter 2:1-3 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. (NAS95)

Conclusion:

- A. "The faith was given by the Holy Spirit to the inspired writers. It has been given that we know how to be acceptable to God. Peter tells us that God has granted to us "everything pertaining to life and godliness..." (2 Pet. 1:3). If that is the case, then there can be no other revelation that will be acceptable to God. After all God is not the author of confusion, Satan is.
- B. SO, "...Contend earnestly for the Faith..."