

Walking in the Tension | Jude 17-23

But you just remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Main Idea: Contending for the faith means that the church is not to walk ignorantly among one another, but diligently with another for the sake of the gospel.

Contending Means Remembering

1. The teachings of the apostles of the Lord Jesus:
 - a. Doctrine of Christ;
 - i. The redeeming work of Christ for sinners;
 - ii. The necessary sanctification of those in Christ

 - b. Deception of False Teachers (scoffers):
 - i. They cause division
 - ii. They produce worldly people
 - iii. They are empty of the Holy Spirit
2. The clarity of the Church
 - a. Remembrance provides the church with a clear view of doctrine and deception. Therefore the church cannot be idle or ignorant. To do so is to neglect the work and implication of the gospel for our lives and those within our body.

Contending Means Remaining

1. We must remain in the love of God
 - a. Building ourselves up in the holy faith;
 - b. Praying in the Holy Spirit;
 - c. Worshipping while we wait

Contending Means Rescuing

1. We must contend by being ready and alert to address false teachers

- a. Demonstrating mercy to those who doubt;
 - i. "I am speaking the truth in Christ--I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit--that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh." (Romans 9:1-3)
- b. Responding quickly to those who are being led astray;
 - i. "My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." (James 5:19-20)
- c. Showing mercy because of diligence;
 - i. Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments. (Zechariah 3:3-4)

Benediction | 2 Timothy 4:2-5

Preach the word: be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.