

“THESE MEN...” IDENTIFIED
Jude 8, 12-16, 19

INTRODUCTION

- A. Jude challenges to contend earnestly for the faith..., verse 3
- B. Because certain men have crept in unnoticed, verse 4.
 - 1. We have let our guard down.
 - 2. They were marked out for this condemnation.
 - 3. They are ungodly and deny Jesus Christ.
- C. Jude reminds Christians of apostasy.

I. “THESE MEN”... Verse 8

- A. Dreamers.
 - 1. In the Old Testament, dreamers were associated with prophets and received this warning, Deut. 13:1-5.
 - 2. We have always had people who though God had singled them out to bring a special message to the world.
 - a. David Koresh (Waco, TX) considered himself the final prophet.
 - b. Harold Camping predicting Christ’s return, May 2011.
 - c. I receive letters from “*Elijah*” prophesying the Lord’s return.
 - 3. God spoke through Jesus in the last days. Hebrews 1:1-2
 - 4. 2 Peter 1:3-4
- B. They Defile the Flesh.
 - 1. Gnostics taught that all flesh was evil.
 - 2. Nothing really matters but the spirit, so nothing done physically makes any difference.
 - 3. The more sin – the more grace.
 - 4. Titus 2:17
- C. They Reject Authority.
 - 1. They claimed to be free from all authority.
 - 2. We have the same today, rejecting Jesus’ claim to “all authority”, Matthew 28:18.
- D. They Revile Angelic Majesties.
 - 1. They slander heavenly beings.
 - 2. Gnostics believed angels were simply offshoots of Divine energy and therefore inferior.
 - 3. They revile things they don’t understand, verse 10a.

II. “THESE MEN”... IDENTIFIED. Verse 12-13

- A. They are Hidden Reefs in your Love-feasts.
 - 1. Communities of the redeemed ate together.
 - 2. Peter describes what was taking place in these feasts, 2 Peter 2:13-14
 - 3. Caring for themselves.
- B. They are Clouds without Water...
 - 1. Carried along by winds.
 - 2. Expecting rain from the clouds but getting nothing.
- C. They are Autumn Trees without Fruit.
 - 1. Doubly dead, uprooted.
 - 2. Good appearance, but no fruit.
 - 3. This describes those who deny Christ.

- D. They are Wild Waves of the Sea.
 - 1. Casting up their own shame like foam.
 - 2. Following a storm, waves deposit dirt and filth to otherwise pristine beaches.
- E. They are Wandering Stars.
 - 1. For whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.
 - 2. Perhaps nothing more orderly than the celestial system.
 - 3. Imagine a star leaving its path to wander through the heavens – total chaos.
 - 4. Those who leave their path of revolving about Jesus also cause chaos.

III. “THESE MEN”... FURTHER IDENTIFIED. Vss. 15-16, 19

- A. Judgment for Ungodly Men.
 - 1. Ungodly men doing ungodly deeds.
 - 2. Deeds that were done in ungodly ways.
 - 3. They speak harsh things against Christ.
- B. More Characteristics...
 - 1. Grumblers (murmurers). 1 Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14
 - 2. Fault finders (complainers).
 - 3. Following after their own desires. Titus 2:12; 3:3; Jas. 1:14-15; 1 Jn. 2:16
 - 4. Speaking arrogantly – boasting. Jas. 3:5
 - 5. Flattering people for their own advantage.
 - 6. Causing division. Rom. 16:17
 - 7. Worldly minded. 1 Cor. 3:3
 - 8. Devoid of the Spirit.
 - 9. Romans 1:28-32; Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 2:2-7

IV. WHY THE NEED TO IDENTIFY THESE MEN?

- A. Because savage wolves are within the church today.
 - 1. These wolves described by Jude were to be marked. Rom. 16:17-18
 - 2. We are warned to avoid – come out from among them. 2 Cor. 6:17
 - 3. We are instructed to correct and warn. Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20
 - a. Not for the purpose of judging, but to bring them back to the fold.
 - b. Jude 23
- B. To examine ourselves.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 13:5
 - 2. To be sure we have not become as “these men”.