



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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Studies in Jude

Study 10: False Teachers Exposed By Their Fruits

Text: Jude 1:8-11

"Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. / Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. / But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. / Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Concerning false prophets and teachers Jesus said "**Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**" (Matthew 7:20). This provide Christians the means to identifying and avoid being deceived by them. The verses in our text feature the fantasy of false teachers, their characteristics, drive and consequences. Peter warned that "...there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Peter 2:1-2)

Fantasy of False Teachers

"Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh ..." (Jude 1:8). Jude describe them as filthy dreamers probably because of their pretensions in prophecy (2 Peter 2:3), teachings from their imagination rather than from the Bible, carnal lifestyle in a dream world motivated by drive to gratify every lust of the moment through experimentation and exploration of their passions as well as lightness of Spirit and carefree attitude. Their imaginations are evil all the time. They plot evil in their beds at night and implement them in the day time.

Features and Fallacy of False Teachers

Jude 1:8-10 "...defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. / Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. / But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves".

Living in a dream world may start in a small way like pornography, but it triggers a downward spiral that ultimately defiles their flesh through presumption and self-will as well as give birth to other sins such as:

1. Despising dominion – through disrespect, rebellion and rejection of godly authority including the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 13:17).
2. Speaking evil of dignities – by being abusive and slandering spiritual beings in arrogance (2 Peter 2:10,11; Zechariah 3:1-5; Matthew 23:2-3).
3. Speaking evil of things that are beyond their level of understanding – through belittling, criticisms or discarding as worthless or irrelevant (I Corinthians 2:14).

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4. Corrupting themselves regarding things they know – through acting like brute beasts e.g. in immorality (2 Peter 2:12); and consequently losing the faculties they refuse to use (Romans 1:25-32).

Future of, and Fuel for False Teachers

“Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core” (Jude 1:11).

Their actions are fuelled by:

1. Error of Cain who despised God's order, and through search for self-significance became the first murderer (Genesis 4:2-8). Despite God's warning, he failed to exercise restraint in his hatred of his brother (1 John 3:15).
2. Greed – the error of Balaam; a covetous false teacher with animal instincts for reward, satisfaction and gratification for the flesh (Numbers 22-25; 31:16; Revelation 2:14). In his error, he built a money-oriented ministry and made relationships that best served his personal interests rather than God's because “he loved the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Peter 2:15).
3. Gainsaying of Korah (of the tribe of Levi) who through pride, self-exaltation and twisting of the scriptures incited 249 others to join him in rebellion against Moses' leadership and attempt to usurp divine authority (Numbers 16:1-35). Through humanistic tendencies they claimed “human rights” that God did not give them (Matthew 20:20-21).

These all defied legitimate authority and preferred to go their own way rather than God's. People who do similar things today under the pretext of being under “grace” and not law, are falling into the same error. The consequences of their licentious live-styles attract the divine judgement of “Woe unto them!” (Jude 1:11; Matthew 23:13).