



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 12:06:2013

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Studies in Jude

Study 13: A Call To Remembrance

Text: Jude 1:17-19

“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit”.

Ministry Of Remembrance (verse 17)

“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

An essential part of the duties of God's ministers today is to call God's people to remember what God said and did, as that is the recipe to successful Christian living and making heaven at last. The loss of passion and convictions for Christian living, negligence of spiritual gifts as well as the falling away from the faith are all exacerbated by forgetting the important things while being pulled in different directions by trivial things (1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:5-6; 2:14; 2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-3; Jude 1:5). Christian's faithfulness in regular attendance at Church programmes (Sunday Worship, Bible Studies, Prayer Meetings, Evangelism Programmes, etc.), helps them to be reminded of what they could have forgotten, as well as keep them from rusting (Hebrews 10:25; Isaiah 43:26; Mark 11:21; Luke 22:19). Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit will keep the believer fresh and in touch with God, His word and reality (John 14:26). Ministers and members who only run after something “New”, “Higher” or “Deeper”, etc. every time rather than faithfully recalling, developing and applying what the Bible teaches to personal lives run the risk of chasing after winds/shadows and stumbling in the process. They miss out of the essential truth of the unchanging word of God, the old time religion with the accompanying power to save, keep and make one relevant. They end up with a form of religion based on instincts and traditions, which profess to know God but lacks the evidence of the character and power of God (Titus 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:5). Jude simply reminded and applied what the apostles taught to this church – a worthy example for all to follow.

Message To Remember (verse 18)

“How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts”.

There has always been doubters who mock and scoff at the truth about God but their activities are becoming more pronounced in these end times. While ministering at Antioch, Paul, quoting from Habakkuk 1:5 challenged such people “Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you” (Acts 13:40-41). These prophecies speak in advance of these things happening so that when we see them manifest in our times, we will not be surprised but rather encouraged to stand firm in our godly

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beliefs and lives. Prophesying about the end times, Peter elaborated on the work of scoffers, reminded believers of the unfailing nature of the Word of God and challenged them to godliness in preparation for Christ's return (2 Peter 3:1-12). Scriptures must be fulfilled that in the latter days some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons who will be "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Peter 4:1,2). This implies that they are aware of their sins, but ignore the guilt and carry on preaching anyhow. Backsliders are often some of the fiercest critics, mockers and opposers of the Gospel truths; but their teachings make their followers comfortable about their sins based on their wrong interpretation and application of the Bible (e.g. turning the grace of God into licentiousness, etc). Watchfulness and faithfulness will enable us to escape such pitfalls and at the same time do an effective work for God.

Manifestations That Reminds (verse 19)

"These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit".

Jude not only reminded the church of Bible prophecies but interpreted and applied them to show how it was being fulfilled and affecting the church. He identified and pointed out three aspects of its fulfilment in the false teachers in the church, namely:

1. They separate themselves

Their teachings sow discord among brethren that leads to divisions and segregations. They scorn true believers as being naïve, legalistic and dogmatic. Paul warned believers to mark and avoid such people so as not to be deceived by their smooth and alluring speeches as they do not serve Christ (Romans 16:17,18).

2. They are sensual

The dictionary describes sensual as referring "often unfavourably, to the enjoyments derived from the senses, especially from the gratification or indulgence of physical appetites: a sensual delight in eating; sensual excesses:

- a) pertaining to, inclined to, or preoccupied with the gratification of the senses or appetites; carnal; fleshly.
- b) lacking in moral restraints; lewd or unchaste.
- c) arousing or exciting the senses or appetites.
- d) worldly; materialistic; irreligious.
- e) of or pertaining to the senses or physical sensation; sensory".

The Greek word for 'sensual' is 'psuchikos' which also translates as "natural man", which the Bible says cannot receive the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14) nor please God (Romans 8:8-9). They are controlled and driven by passions (lusts) of the flesh which works contrary to the Holy Spirit - preventing them from living right (Galatians 5:16-17). This is why they turned the grace of God into lasciviousness (Jude 1:4).

3. They do not have the spirit

Having not been born again or having lost their salvation, their teaching and practices do not originate nor receive the support of the Holy Spirit; rather they turn the grace of God into lasciviousness and lawless licentiousness. They fit the bill of "having a form of godliness but deny the power of it" (2 Timothy 3:1-8).

**SACRIFICING TRUTH FOR THE SAKE OF
PEACE LEADS TO THE LOSS OF BOTH**

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