

REDEEMED TABERNACLE APOSTOLIC INC.

Earnestly Contending for the Faith

A Bible Study on Jude 3 (KJV)

The Definitions

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMAND

Defining "Earnestly"

The Greek: Epagonizomai

This word is rooted in the intensity of an athlete or soldier. It describes a struggle, a fight, or labor with extreme effort. It is the same root from which we get the word "agony."

The Apostolic Implication

It is not a passive defense but an active, vigorous protection of truth. We are called to "agonize" for the purity of the Word, putting our full strength into its preservation.

Defining "Contend"

Stand and Defend

In the 1611 KJV context, to "contend" implies a legal or athletic struggle to maintain a position. It is to challenge anything that seeks to displace the truth.

As a Champion

We are called to be champions of the doctrine. Contending means being willing to stand against opposition, even when it is unpopular or culturally inconvenient.

Historical Background

THE CRISIS OF THE FIRST CENTURY

A Faith Under Siege

Jude wrote during a critical era where the early church was being infiltrated by false teachers. These individuals "crept in unawares," bringing in destructive doctrines.

The Threats:

- Libertinism: Turning grace into a license for immorality.
- Apostasy: Denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Compromise: Blending Apostolic truth with worldly philosophies.



The Scripture: Jude 1:3

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Why We Must Contend



Purity

To keep the Apostolic doctrine unadulterated by modern cultural trends or false "revelations."



Protection

To shield the vulnerable and the "babes in Christ" from being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.



Heritage

To honor the foundation laid by the Apostles and martyrs who shed their blood for this truth.

| The Standard of Delivery

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"Once Delivered"

The Greek *hapax* means "once for all time." The doctrine is complete and final. We do not update the truth; we uphold it. It is the finished revelation of Jesus Christ.

| How to Contend in the *Modern Day*



Know the Word: You cannot defend what you do not know. Study to show yourself approved unto God.



Live the Word: A holy life is the greatest defense against the mockers of grace. Let your light shine.



Speak the Truth: Refuse to compromise Apostolic authority for the sake of cultural convenience.

The Shield of Faith

Contending is both a defensive and offensive act. We hold up the shield of faith to quench fiery darts, but we also wield the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

It requires Apostolic courage, fervent prayer, and a heart totally surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We are the guardians of the flame.



Closing Prayer

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

(Jude 1:21)

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Image Sources



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