



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Latter Days Deceptions in the Church ... by Billy

READ JUDE 11 - 23

- **N**ow we need pay attention to the marks of false teachers. Jude gives us 3 examples from the OT in v.11, Cain, Balaam and Korah.
- Cain became a murderer because of his anger against his brother and against God. Gen.4:5-8 Balaam looked for a reward for himself at any cost (Num.22:7,21). Korah rebelled against the authority of Moses and Aaron. (Num.16:31-33).
- These marks will not be obvious at first but eventually rebellion and selfish greed will come to the surface. Do you see someone who is always in a state of striving against authority, frequently contradicting someone else, remember then they are not on a good path.
- Jude uses some powerful images to describe the hidden danger of the false teachers. Notice again they are described as clouds without water. They failed to produce what they promised. Because the deceivers had no firm foundation they were '*swept along by the winds*' of doctrine (Eph.4:14).
- Jude also describes them as being twice dead in the sense that they have no fruit now and no promise of future fruit because they are uprooted from the True Vine.
- In v.13 Jude likens them to the raging sea. 'wild waves of the sea casting up the foam of their own shame.'(ESV). Then the word of God says they are like wandering stars (shooting stars) which are short-lived and useless for navigation. (R C Sproul).
- These powerful images give us a picture of what God is opposed to.
- Jesus spoke repeatedly of deception as being one of the key signs of the last days (Matt.24:4,5,11,23-25). There are three distinct tell-tale marks. In other words, clues to their true identity.
- V.19 - They cause divisions (by setting themselves against the leadership); they are worldly in spite of claims to be spiritual. (They have certain goals in view- reputation, success, greed) and they are devoid of the Spirit. These are not true believers (Rom.8:9).
- They follow their natural instincts because they do not have God's Spirit dwelling within. 'Keep yourselves in the love of God' (v.21), ie., in the conscious sense of God's love.
- Have mercy on those who doubt' There are those whose faith is wavering because they are always questioning and over analysing when they should just accept by faith. We are to deal with doubters in a merciful way by using gentle exhortation and encouragement.
- There are others who are to be snatched from the fire by direct proclamation of sound teaching. We are to be careful not to be influenced by the evil that we are trying to correct (Gal.6:1) 1 Cor.5:11 says don't keep company (2 John 10-11 and Rom.16:17). Remember we are all brands plucked from the fire (Zech.3:1-4). ■

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Issue 21

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Final call for those** who want to attend the Castledaly church weekend on June 8-10th. For those who are unable there will be a normal Sunday morning meeting taking place.
- ▶ **Certain items are appearing** in the church and as space is limited, we would ask if the owners could reclaim them. For example, there is a fold away bike in the basement for some months now.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3 - 7 year olds in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11).

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13:2).