

## EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

### Jude 1:3 Exhortation to **Earnestly Contend for the Faith**

In 2008 we need some men from this church to earnestly contend for the faith.

If you think you are called to preach or not, your young or old, a man or a woman, you need to earnestly contend for the faith

You do NOT contend for the faith in here. You contend for the faith out there, in the world.

Jesus said in Mark, Go YE into the world

-not many visitors come to our church

-virtually no lost people come to church

-Thus Jesus rightfully says, Go Ye to Them!

What are we to do when we go unto them? One word: PREACH!

Preach the gospel. God manifests his word through preaching (Titus 1:3), and saves people by the preaching of the cross (1 Corinthians 1:21-24) Romans 10:14-17.

This church needs some men to GO, STAND, and PREACH to the people of St. Augustine. Our preaching is not to please men, for verily the preaching of the gospel pleases not the unsaved man, but it does please the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. As Jesus said to the Apostles in Acts 1, Ye shall be witnesses unto ME right here in Jerusalem, over there in Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth.

Yet what did the apostles do at first? They stayed in Jerusalem and neglected Samaria and the ends of the earth. Acts 8:1-5 The apostles neglected Samaria and the ends of the earth, but is our Church neglecting our Jerusalem, St. Augustine. I think so.

Why do we neglect our Jerusalem, Why do disobey the Lord in this matter? I know why. It is summed up in these words. You want a "Respectable Christianity"

Some of you won't go, stand up, and preach for Jesus Christ because you are ashamed of him. You are concerned about your reputation. You're concerned about what people might think. You DO NOT want to bear Christ's reproach. You do not want to partake of Christ's sufferings as we are commanded of the LORD to partake of them that we might know him. You are afraid of being thought of as peculiar, strange, fanatic, and crazy. HEY, What did they say of Jesus? Jesus said if they think I am of the house of Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Jesus said Blessed are ye when men revile you, hate you, curse you, separate themselves from you for the Son of man's sake: for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. In Acts 7:51-52 Stephen said, Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted. Its true, all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

You want to keep the faith in a building which God commands to be shouted from the roof tops and in the cities and streets of our world: He said Lift up your voice be not

afraid, and cry aloud and say to the cities of Judah, BEHOLD YOUR GOD! The harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few: where are the laborers?

Listen, the most Biblical way to evangelize is not by tracks, though they are good, not by door knocking, though that is good, not by inviting people to church, though that is good, not even by witnessing individually, though that is good. YEA ALL these are good and needful. Yet what God has chosen and the most biblical and efficient way to reach the most people without spending a dime is by PREACHING! All of the prophets and apostles and the LORD JESUS CHRIST preached publicly and taught publicly, why don't we?

It's because we are ashamed, we are embarrassed, and we make every excuse under the sun why we cannot go, stand, and preach. The LORD of hosts saith, FEAR NOT, neither be afraid of their faces, but go and speak unto this people ALL the words which I command thee WHETHER THEY WILL HEAR OR FORBEAR, for they are a rebellious house and stiffnecked.

Hebrews tells us to go without the camp and bear Jesus Christ's reproach. Take up your cross says the Saviour and follow him. The life of Jesus was one filled with sorrows. Isaiah says he was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, despised and rejected of men.

There was...

No room for him in the inn

No room for him in his family

No room for him in the Temple

He died outside of the city

Why do you expect to be accepted everywhere?

How is it that the world couldn't get on with holiest Man that ever lived and can get on with you and me? Are we compromised?

You want a respectable Christianity instead of Biblical Christianity. You want a respectable Christianity because it is acceptable to the world, even praised by it sometimes, and not often mocked or scorned or persecuted, specially in America. There is no shame, reproach, or suffering in respectable Christianity.

Biblical Christianity is not so: it is an enemy of the world and strives against wickedness and sin, it is not ashamed of Jesus Christ, it does not care about its reputation, it goes, stands, and preaches the gospel of the grace of God, it wants to please God not man, it is a servant, it is persecuted, afflicted, cursed, slandered, despised, rejected, and lastly the minority.

Biblical Christianity is not what you're going to get out of God, but it is what God is going to get out of you: and that is glory.

The Scripture says, we labour and suffer reproach because we trust in the living God

We need to as Paul said to Timothy, FIGHT the good fight of faith! We need to be strong as men and fight a good warfare. We need to stand and not be moved. There are a lot of well educated people that fight for causes that don't really matter. Yet we have the most noble and holy cause of all time yet we won't stand. Is Jesus Christ real to you? Is he not risen from the dead and alive for ever more? Do not we know the living God and have his Spirit dwelling in us?

Listen, we can fight against abortion, we can fight against homosexuality, we can fight against social injustices, and fight against the liberals and democrats, BUT THAT IS NOT preaching the gospel and can NOT be substituted for preaching the gospel. God commanded us to preach the gospel, why aren't we?

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

The Love of Christ SHOULD compel you to LIVE FOR HIM! The only way a man will be willing to go, stand, and preach publicly is because they love Jesus Christ. His love urges you to live for him and that means obeying him.

I am not saying all the men have to preach, but what I am saying is that you all need to publicly confess Jesus Christ and contend for the faith. Can you hold a Scripture sign, can you pass out tracks, can you sing hymns: sure you can. Come out and serve the LORD according the Scriptures and be not afraid and bear his reproach: for he is worthy.

This church needs some godly men to obey the LORD and go, stand, and preach. You want revival? Stop talking about it if you won't go out there and do something for Jesus Christ. Revival will NOT happen in America because the church of Jesus Christ is sleeping and lazy and scared. God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love and a sound mind. Let us go forth as the saints of old sowing precious seed and let God give the increase.

The purpose of the church is threefold and is found in Ephesians 4: first of all for the perfecting of the saints, secondly for the WORK of the ministry, and lastly for the edifying of the body of Christ. We are the workers, where are the labourers, where are they? There is a lot more to serving the LORD than by coming, sitting in a pew for an hour, and then going home. That is God ministering to you and not you ministering to God. You are expected to come to church. Why not DO SOMETHING for your Saviour? Is he NOT WORTHY of your service?

I don't feel I'm called, I don't think I can do it... Stop making excuses, you are like Moses and Jeremiah. But finally they obeyed the LORD and preached the word. I know I'm talking to many in this room tonight. A Call to preach is NOT going to college to learn about the Bible and after 4 years pastor someone else's church. A preacher MUST preach and that is done in the WORLD, NOT in a building. Listen Jesus Christ and Paul preached in synagogues BUT they also preached in the streets and cities and mountains. Who can honestly say tonight they are following those two examples?

Listen there is nothing I can do or say to persuade you to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact I don't want anyone to minister the word that does it because they are doing it out of duty. I want people on St. George Street to minister the word because they love the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why we do it, because we love him. Jesus said, If any man love me, he WILL KEEP my commandments. We should always do what we do because we love the Lord Jesus Christ and for no other reason.

I want to close with a line from an early American Spiritual.

Who the cause of Christ will yield,  
Who will leave the battlefield,  
Who will cast away his shield  
Let him basely go,

Who for Zion's King will stand,  
Who will join the faithful band,  
Let him come with heart and hand,  
Let him face the foe