



**JUDE: “The Acts of the Apostates”**  
**Week 4: “The Salvation We Share, Part 2”**  
**May 12, 2024**  
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**Review:**

- A. We continue this week in our study of Jude. This is the fourth lesson of this series.
- B. We spent two lessons learning about ‘The Introduction to the Book of Jude,’ specifically using the “Who?” “What?” “When,” type of questions.
- C. Then, last time, we started to unpack the phrase in **vs. 3** in which Jude confessed that he *“was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share.”*
- D. We’ve taken a slight detour here – to better understand what he meant by this statement.
- E. In our last lesson on Jude, we laid down an important foundation. We explored:
  1. What the Gospel means insofar as being ‘good news.’
  2. We understand from that lesson that one cannot perceive this ‘good news’ without first understanding what the ‘bad news’ is.
  3. If the Gospel is ‘good news,’ then that implies there must be a pre-existing situation which is ‘bad news.’ And indeed, that is the case...
  4. We looked at God’s Word through various passages which explain that man is born into sin, that we are all sinners, and that we are all destined for hell as a result.
  5. And so, the ‘good news’ is God doesn’t want us to be condemned to hell and He has provided a way to eternal life instead.
  6. The message of the Gospel is one of repentance, and it’s one that divulges God’s gift of grace to you and me.
  7. It’s one that reveals how Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross, and His resurrection, paid the penalty for our sins, frees us from this trap we are born into, and provides the only avenue to eternal life.
  8. Said another way, understanding and properly responding to this ‘good news’ means we need to have a right view of who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for us.
- F. We concluded that lesson by looking at several passages which summarize the ‘good news’ of the Gospel in a very succinct way.
- G. **Romans 10:9** was one such passage which distills these elements of the Gospel down to three simple terms: *“If you declare with your mouth, (1.) **“Jesus is Lord,”** and (2.) **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,** you (3.) **will be saved.**”*

**NOTE: This is essentially the process we see with the ‘good thief’ on the cross in **Luke 23:40-42:****

*“But the other (this is the ‘good thief’) rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

**NOTE:** Here, in this short interaction, we see the ‘good thief’ conforming to the simple terms of **Romans 10:9**. Consider the following:

1. He properly recognized Jesus Christ for being WHO He was.
  2. He publicly expressed a proper fear and reverence for God.
  3. He recognized his own sinful condition and that he deserved death for his wrongs.
  4. He saw Jesus Christ as perfect and guiltless – as not deserving to die.
  5. He recognized Jesus Christ would STILL inherit His kingdom. That means He had faith that Jesus’ death on the cross was not the final chapter for Jesus.
  6. He had a proper view of Jesus beyond that present point. He still saw Jesus coming into His kingdom. In effect, he perceived Jesus’ life after death, his resurrection.
  7. He then placed his own fate into Jesus’ hands when he requested, “Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He showed personal humility and a full trust in Jesus Christ.
  8. And for these basic facts which conformed to the terms of **Romans 10:9**, Jesus personally granted the ‘good thief’ eternal life.
- I. Today, I want to return to Jude’s statement in **vs. 3**, “*the salvation we share*,” and I want to look at this issue from another angle. I want to briefly look at how a false Gospel is invading the church and fooling many. I want to briefly explore how many people arrive at a point where they believe they are saved when in fact they are not.
- A. Unpacking the basics of a false Gospel (Cf. Galatians 1:6-9).** There is a great deal of energy being spent amongst believers as they debate the various threats and challenges to the body of Christ.
- B.** If we take the words of Paul in **Galatians** here to heart, and if we acknowledge the larger purpose of the book of **Jude**, I suggest the greatest threat to the body of Christ is “religion” – a devious and false religion which draws us away from the truth and which clouds the basics of the Gospel. Consider the following:
1. Some religions openly oppose Jesus Christ, and they make their stance clear. It’s easy to see them as false. They don’t hide it.
  2. Others are much more subtle. They use language Christians already know, giving their faith a familiar sound. Then, they add to it their own terms and conditions and their own twisted brand of thinking. This is evident in cults like Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and even in some denominations like Catholicism.
  3. Such groups can ‘sound Christian,’ however, a natural question arises: “How can we know if they are preaching “a different gospel”?”
  4. For starters, here are some self-evident false teachings and some heretical posture to watch out for:
    - a. #1: Salvation can be gained through means other than faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.  
**(Cf. Acts 4:12) – “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

b. #2: There is a refusal to see Jesus Christ as God in the flesh, our only Savior. They see Jesus as a good man, or something less than who He really was.

c. #3: There is also the problem of giving more importance to the word of man than to the Word of God

**(Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:12-13)** – “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.”

d. #4: There is the pervasive problem of leaders who do not properly edify and equip the saints. They pursue other good-sounding agendas, but these things do not provide deep and solid Christlike guidance through responsible Biblical instruction.

**(Cf. 1 Timothy 4:6)** – “If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine that you have followed.”

NOTE: (SOUND DOCTRINE issue is very important. Having a desire to dive into SOUND DOCTRINE is a Biblical litmus test to determine the integrity of a church or of a body of believers according to **2 Timothy 4:3** – “For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”

➤ As far as sound doctrine is concerned, this means teachers and pastors won't teach it, and congregants don't want it.

5. These are obvious indications of false teaching and of problem churches according to the Bible. However, what is Paul getting at in **Galatians 1:6** when he refers to “a different Gospel?”

NOTE: The point Paul is making is that this “different Gospel” is not a gospel of the same kind that he preached. So, Paul's emphasis here is it is not the Gospel at all.

a. Paul was calling out the Judaizers who were adding works to the message of the Gospel that he himself had preached.

b. These Judaizers were stressing conformity to the Old Covenants, the rite of circumcision, and so on, in order for a person to get right with God.

c. That was not "good news" but rather, "bad news." It totally undermined the power and beauty of the Gospel of grace.

d. This different gospel was a distortion of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who were promoting it didn't start from nothing and make up a new name for God, they didn't pretend to have found a new Savior, or anything like that.

e. They started with the basics, and then they twisted things from there. They used ideas that were familiar to the Galatian Christians, but then they slightly twisted those ideas to make their own message even more deceptive.

- f. These men were already in the church. Once they were in the fellowship, they added the poison of “JESUS PLUS.”
- g. That means JESUS PLUS works, JESUS PLUS the terms of the Old Covenant, JESUS PLUS circumcision, and so on.
- h. The poison of JESUS PLUS any work, JESUS PLUS any ritual, JESUS PLUS any liturgies, JESUS PLUS any baptism, or JESUS PLUS any candle-lighting, cracker-eating, choir-singing is wrong. That’s not the Gospel!
- i. JESUS PLUS anything else is a perversion of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: By the way, this is exactly the great danger of the Hebrew Roots Movement which is surging today, especially among young people. (From an article on this issue):

*“The premise of the Hebrew Roots movement is the belief that the Church has veered far from the true teachings and Hebrew concepts of the Bible. The movement maintains that Christianity has been indoctrinated with the culture and beliefs of Greek and Roman philosophy and that ultimately biblical Christianity, taught in churches today, has been corrupted with a pagan imitation of the New Testament gospels. Those of the Hebrew Roots belief hold to the teaching that Christ’s death on the cross did not end the Mosaic Covenant...”*

- j. The bottom line is this: the message of the true Gospel is not JESUS PLUS anything. It is, according to Dr. John MacArthur: “trust alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone.”
6. There is the opposite side of a false Gospel as well. If one poison is JESUS PLUS something, then the other poison doesn’t really factor in Jesus at all. We’ll call this one JUST PLUS, the point being Jesus – from HIS perspective - has no real part.

**NOTE:** This is a HUGE problem in many churches today, and this point is made very clear in **Revelation Ch. 3**. This is where Jesus is giving His message to the Laodicean church. This is a real historical church BTW, but also one representing the greater condition of the church just before The Rapture.

In **Revelation 3:20**, Jesus says clearly that He’s really not part of this church at all. He says, “*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*”

- a. In other words, this kind of church might say, “It’s all about Jesus,” but the evidence shows otherwise. He’s trying to get in! This is a church that is JUST PLUS. Jesus isn’t really a part of it.
- b. This ‘knock knock’ appeal by Jesus in **vs. 20** follows earlier verses in Revelation which look at the larger condition of this Laodicean church. It is one that:
  - **Is lukewarm.** It’s not really on fire for God, and it has not totally abandoned all truth. It has little bits of both sides, and so it is detestable to God.

- **Is rich.** That is, it has money, means, resources, programs, campaigns, organization, and so on.
- From a human perspective, it conforms to the things that are conventional and important, but from God's perspective in **Revelation 3:12**, it is "*wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.*"
- **Is unrepentant: (Cf. vs. 19).** This is a church that needs to get on its knees and confess its wrongs. It needs to then get up off its knees and become something different. It needs to repent.

NOTE: All of this brings up the last key attribute of the Laodicean church. **It is deluded.** It doesn't see itself properly.

- c. It has lost the will and ability to properly look in the mirror. With this kind of church, you can point out its problems to it, and it will fervently deny it has them. It believes it is doing just fine instead. Consider the points made in **Revelation Ch. 3** that underscore this delusion:

- It says it's rich – Jesus says it's poor.
- It says it doesn't need anything – Jesus says it needs so much.
- It says it looks great – Jesus says it's naked.
- It says it's "on fire for God" – Jesus says it's lukewarm.
- It says "It's all about Jesus" – Jesus says He's trying to get in!
- It says it's got great vision – Jesus says it's blind.
- It says it's got its act together – Jesus says it needs to be refined by fire.
- It says it has the right fellowship with Jesus – Jesus says there is no proper fellowship with Him at all.

**NOTE:** In summary, the Laodicean Church is focused on many things and many attributes other than a proper relationship with Jesus Christ. This puts them into the JUST PLUS basket. Jesus doesn't really factor in, but a lot of other things do!

**NOTE:** All the things I've said thus far describe many, if not MOST, of the churches today, especially in Western cultures like America. They have either become intoxicated by the JESUS PLUS angle, or the JUST PLUS angle. Both sides end up promoting a false Gospel.

- C. The second major point of this lesson which is how many people believe they are saved when in fact they are not (*Cf. Matthew 7:21-23*).

NOTE: A few basic points from this passage:

1. This is about "many": not "some" and not "a few."
2. This passage says "many" will find out too late they were not really saved.
3. These people thought they had yielded to the true Gospel, but they had yielded instead to a false Gospel: either JESUS PLUS, or JUST PLUS.

- D. This passage's truth underscores what we learned about the Church of Laodicea which, once again, represents that era of the church age just before the Rapture. That's now!
1. The Church of Laodicea was a church Jesus spit out of His mouth.
  2. The Church of Laodicea was filled with people that thought they were good to go, but they were not.
  3. The Church of Laodicea didn't see itself as it needed to.
  4. The Church of Laodicea didn't really have Jesus as part of it like they most needed to.
  5. And all this ties directly into what we read here in **Matthew Ch. 7...**
- E. Here are the things this group of people in **Matt. Ch. 7** have and don't have:
1. They have good resumes. They can point to things they said and did.
  2. They have a list of achievements which conform to "Christian expectations."
  3. They have a knowledge of Jesus Christ.
  4. What they DON'T have is that which is most important. They DON'T have a right relationship with Jesus Christ.
  5. They DON'T have a real faith that has saved them.
  6. And they DON'T have eternal life as a result. Jesus says in **vs. 23**, "*I never knew you. Away from me.*"
- F. Let's tie all this together with some important conclusions:
1. **Jude 4** says, "*Certain men have secretly slipped in among you, who change the grace of our God into (other things)....*"
    - In other words, Jude is saying they have corrupted the true Gospel of Jesus Christ
    - As we'll see through this study in **Jude**, there are problems Jude is going to address with JESUS PLUS, as well as JUST PLUS.
    - But the bottom line is the true Gospel is being corrupted, and false teachers are the ones driving this.
    - As we're going to learn, it's causing many people to be led astray.
  2. **Galatians 1:6-9** says: "*...some people are trying to pervert the Gospel of Christ*"
    - Here Paul is writing to the church, and once again, it is implied that people from within the church are causing others to "*turn to a different Gospel.*" Paul then adds, "*....is really no Gospel at all.*"
    - The context of this passage in **Galatians** emphasizes the dangers of a JESUS PLUS false Gospel.
    - There are no rituals, works, liturgies, or performances we can add to the salvation transaction.
    - Again, it is: "trust alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone."
  3. **Revelation Ch. 3:14-22** (this is the letter to the Laodicean church) says Jesus isn't even IN this kind of church. He's TRYING to get in!

- It's a church that seems to have its act together by all human criteria and assessments, but it's lukewarm, feckless, wretched, and pitiful in all the ways God sees it.
  - It's a church that has become content with 'Christian culture' rather than Christlikeness.
  - It's an unrepentant church, which is a problem that begins with its leadership.
  - It's a church which is deeply deluded. It doesn't, it cannot, and it refuses to see itself as it ought to.
4. Then there is the very frightening passage of **Matthew 7:21-23** which reminds us that there are MANY who believe they are saved when they are not.
- This passage proves that we can appear righteous and proper on the outside, but God is looking on the inside.
  - We can accomplish much, say much, and act a certain way, but in the end, if we do not have a true salvation based on the TRUE Gospel of Jesus Christ, our eternal destiny is in danger.
  - Resumes and achievements mean nothing without "trust alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone."

NOTE: Satan's strategy is seldom to engage in open combat against the truth. As the Bible outlines in many places, his preferred strategy is to subtly deceive, to shrewdly convince, and to slyly steer away from truth.

A false Gospel or 'a different Gospel' is generally one that sounds good or seems good on the surface but causes one to ultimately stand before God and hear, "*Depart from me. I never knew you.*" (In partial truth lays full deception.)

NEXT TIME: We are going to segue into **Jude 4**, and we are going to start dissecting and understanding the nature of false teachers. In that process, we are going to hit four main points: The Source of False Teachers, The Subtlety of False Teachers, The Strategy of False Teachers, and The Sin of False Teachers.