



July 30, 2006

**Cearing Up for Greater Effectiveness
Small Books with Big Messages
Jude - Contend Earnestly for the Faith**

Philemon – Model the Power of Forgiveness

2 John – Value the Truth

III John - The Balance of Christian Unity

Three important truths to help us relate to those who believed differently:

I. The Characteristics of False Teachers

A. Inside the church

v. 4 -

B. Operate by stealth

v. 4 – *crept in unnoticed*

C. Presence was predicted in God's Word

v. 4 – *long before hand marked out for this condemnation*

D. Ungodly - v. 4

E. Turn grace into licentiousness – v. 4

F. Deny the Lordship of Christ – v. 4

G. Unstable source of truth

v. 8 – *also by dreaming*

H. Defile the flesh – v. 8

I. Reject authority – v. 8

J. Profane

v. 8 – *revile angelic majesties...*

K. Lack understanding – v. 10

L. Reject the natural law

v. 10 – *they revile... the things they know by instinct.*

M. Grumble – v. 16

N. Find fault – v. 16

O. Follow their own lusts – v. 16, 18

P. Speak arrogantly and in an attempt to flatter – v. 16

Q. Mockers – v. 18

R. Cause divisions – v. 19

S. Worldly minded – v. 19

T. Without the Holy Spirit – v. 19

II. The Future of False Teachers

A. Destruction – like the unbelieving Egyptian armies – v. 5

Hebrews 10: 31 - *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

B. Eternal bonds under darkness for the eternal judgment of the great day – like the fallen angels – v. 6

C. Undergoing the punishment of eternal fire – like the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their gross immorality – v. 7

D. From select historical examples

1. In Paul's ministry

Galatians 3: 1 -3 – *O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you. . . having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

2. In Jude's ministry

3. In John's ministry

4. Protestant reformation

5. The struggle for religious freedom in America

6. The fundamentalist/modernist debate in America

III. The Strategy for False Teachers

A. Don't be caught off guard

v. 17 – *But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand...*

B. Build yourself up in the faith

v. 20 – *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith...*

C. Pray

v. 20 – *praying in the Holy Spirit*

D. Keep yourself in the love of God

v. 21 – *keep yourselves in the love of God*

E. Be looking for the coming of Christ

v. 21 – *waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life*

F. Show mercy to those who are yet without Christ – vv. 22-23