

# Contend for the Faith

## Light a Candle

Jude and 2 Peter gave examples of those who did not contend for the faith but went back to looking at things the way the world does. They gave themselves over to carnality and turned their backs on the way of righteousness and the results were disastrous.

Let us take all of that and put it into the setting of our day. What is going on in the world? How are we as Christians reacting to these events? Do you see any similarities?

**1 Thessalonians 5:4-5** calls us children of the light. We were not called to respond to the world's events the way the world does.

**1Thessalonians 5:8** *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith (**in Him Jude 1:1**) and love (**His love for us that we pass on to others**); and for an helmet, the hope of salvation (**deliverance**). **9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ **11** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

We are not called to be promoters of Gods wrath.

**1Thessalonians 5:15** *See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is **good**, both among yourselves, and **to all men**.*

**Good** intrinsic- that which belongs to a thing by nature-**Jude 1:1** sanctified by God and preserved in Jesus-the Value God gives all men

**1 Thessalonians 5:15 Mirror Word** *No-one is to requite evil with evil, regardless of how much someone may seem to deserve retaliation! Never allow the old “law and judgment language” to influence you again! At all times, under all circumstances, let that which is good set the pace in your dealing with every single person, both those who are “in” as well as the so-called “outsiders”!*

We are the light in a dark world. Jesus delivered us from this present evil world. Our light becomes the deliverance for those still trapped in this world's system

**Galatians 1:4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver **(rescue, deliver, pluck out)** us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

His light shines through us. If we want men to see God, we are going to have to let our lights shine!

**Matthew 5:13** *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

**1 John 2:10** *He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.*

We have been trying to drive the darkness out using principles of the law but it doesn't work that way.

Queen Elisabeth quote taken from her New Years speech when referring to the current events that are impacting the world- ***It is better to light the candle than curse the darkness!***

**1John 2:5** *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

**1John 2:8** *Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.*

We have the power to turn on the light in the midst of darkness

**John 15:9** As the Father has loved me. . .

Antichrist? What is our concept of who that could be?

**1 John 2:18** Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. **19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Antichrists go out in the name of Jesus but they are not true representations because they don't correctly represent the light- antichrists were grace men who are now but are promoting a powerless perversion of the truth that denies that we are sanctified by God and preserved in Jesus. They go out from us but they are not of us.

Antichrist-one who denies or contradicts Christ- doesn't see the success of the cross- goes back to law thinking- one who doesn't see the value of all mankind

**1John 2:22** *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? (expected deliverer, rescuer, savior) He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

We say that Jesus is our savior, but we don't live it!

**1 Corinthians 2:2** I determined to know nothing among you. . .

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees!

**Luke 12:1** *In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*

Hypocrisy-condemnation that comes from pretending to believe something you do not have

**Galatians 5:9** *A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. AMP A little leaven (a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers) leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church].*

This is what we have to watch out for!

**Luke 12:4** *And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*

Beware! Fear those who are representing God with a perversion that will throw others into confusion and condemnation and will make both the Father and the son seem powerless to bring deliverance.

The real problem is not coming from the "outsiders." It is the perversion that is coming from within! From those who originated in grace!

**Galatians 1:6 AMP** I am surprised and astonished that you are so quickly turning renegade and deserting Him Who invited and called you by the grace (unmerited favor) of Christ (the Messiah) [and that you are transferring your allegiance] to a different [even an opposition] gospel. **7** Not that there is [or could be] any other [genuine Gospel], but there are [obviously] some who are troubling and disturbing and bewildering you [with a different kind of teaching which they offer as a gospel] That is perverting and distorting the Gospel of Christ (the Messiah) [into something which it absolutely is not].

If we respond to the issues at hand the way the rest of the world is responding to them, we will get caught up in them and will experience the same sense of condemnation and confusion that the people of the world are experiencing!

**Luke 12:45** *Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat **(strike with repeated blows-sift as wheat-pierce with many holes-Luke 22:31)** the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;*

If we begin to apply the laws way of determining ones value We will pummel those we minister it to with condemnation and guilt

**46** *The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will punish him and cut him off and assign his lot with the unfaithful.*

**Ephesians 5:8 AMP** For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light]. **9** For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light or the Spirit [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life. **10** And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him]. **11** Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness, but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose and reprove and convict them. **12** For it is a shame even to speak of or mention the things that [such people] practice in secret. **13** But when anything is exposed and reproved by the light, it is made visible and clear; and where everything is visible and clear there is light. **14** Therefore He says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine (make day dawn) upon you and give you light. [Isa 26:19; Isa 60:1-2] **15** Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), **16** Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.