

## DEFENDING THE FAITH

"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

Jude 3-4 (NASB95)

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, not a man-made collection of philosophical writings.

- It is a necessary tool for successfully living in a condemned, fallen world (2 Timothy 3:1-13).
- It is a necessary tool for imparting wisdom and salvation (2 Timothy 3:14-17).
- It is a necessary tool for combating false teaching (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

The "Gospel" is about individual salvation, not "social justice."

- Paul provided an inspired definition of "Gospel" (1 Corinthians 15:1-11).
- His expectation was that this chain of testimony would be carefully continued (2 Timothy 2:1-2).
- "Good deeds" are a natural by-product of the Christian "religion," not its "Gospel" core.
  - James 1:26-27
  - Ephesians 2:1-10
  - Titus 2:11-14

The "Gospel" is confrontational, not "conversational" – It calls for an absolute response: "Repent!"

- By John (Matthew 3:1-2)
- By Jesus (Matthew 4:17//Mark 1:14-15)
- By the Apostles (Acts 2:37-41)

A genuine church is always devoted to three things; things which false churches either corrupt or marginalize (Acts 2:42-43).

- Teaching from the inspired Word
- Fellowship among believers
- Prayer