

Jude 1:4-7 – Reasons to fight the Snakes

GreekLexicon, Gill, Gaebelain, Robertson, Poole, TSK, Geneva, Trapp, JFB, Calvin, Henry, Clarke,
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Having experienced the wonderful love of Jesus Christ in their hearts, the Lord expected his people to contend for their new found faith. They had to fight against those who were creeping into the church by stealth and introducing false doctrines (doctrines mixed with truth), intending to deceive the people of God. In order to fight for the faith, God had to prepare his people and equip them with everything they needed. He equipped them with mercy, peace, and love, in abundance. He urged them not to tolerate these wicked people (not “live and let live”) but to get rid of them and their teachings. That was last week. Today you will hear how God motivated his people to fight false doctrines and false teachers.

Our headings are: Reality of the Crawlers爬行者, and Motivation to fight the Crawlers.

Our goals are: That you will identify false doctrines, weed them and the people who advocate them out of the church, so that the church can continue its quest探索 for dominion on the earth for Jesus Christ.

Reality of the Crawlers

4 For certain men have **crept in unnoticed**, who long ago were **marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men**, who turn the **grace of our God into lewdness** and **deny the only Lord God** and our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Wicked – perverse men – in this early church, were seeking to corrupt it with false doctrines. These men were not misguided – being poorly instructed as an Arminian today might be deceived by false doctrines. Crawling into these churches was their stated goal. They were reflecting their father – the father of lies – the sneaky snake. These men were a clear and present danger to the church. These were men who “varnished over” things or “masked” their errors and so were not easily recognized. But once identified, true believers had to fight them. One man said: “There is no greater danger to the church than false “brethren.”” It is hard to think that someone who is a member of the church, even next to you, would do so wickedly...but these wicked people are always in the church!!! There are also snakes in the national church who may be on television...or have written many interesting books about God.

2. How did these men get into the church in the 1st place? They crept蹑手蹑脚 in by **pretending to be believers**. They probably made clear profession of faith and fooled the elders, but their hearts did not mean what their mouth said. These are wolves in sheep’s clothing. They literally came in “alongside of others.” They were like the 911 terrorists who were nicely dressed and look like normal fliers – beards shaved and everything – until the planes took off and they pulled out their box cutters. Consider a few other examples:
a. **Ananias and Sapphira** were hypocrites who were judged by God. They were members of the church but were pursuing worldly acclaim. They were not genuinely helping the poor. God killed them.
b. **Absalom** won over the hearts of Israel as a means of taking away the kingdom from his father David. He did not really care about the needs of the people. He just pretended. God killed him.
c. **The unnamed prophet** pretended he was a true prophet of God and that he heard from God. He deceived the true prophet and called him into his house, even though God told the true prophet not to stop on his way home. The wicked unnamed prophet cared about his own honor; he did not care about the welfare of the true prophet.
1Kings 13:18 He said to him, “I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, ‘Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.’” (He was lying to him.)

You know the rest of the story...this false prophet caused the true prophet to be killed by a lion. Other snake passages!
2Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched蛊惑 you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

Because of the reality of these snakes, it is a good warning for elders to work hard not to allow someone into the church who is not a true believer. A hypocrite could bring in much mischief伤害 into the church and it is hard to get rid of him. At one time we had to refuse membership even of a former minister for the same reason.

3. These snakes were marked for condemnation. There were 2 ways they were marked for condemnation.

a. **These snakes were foreordained to destruction.** God determined not to save them, so without God’s mercy they were destined for destruction. You can see this with Eli’s sons. God foreordained their destruction.

1Samuel 2:25 “If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?” Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.

b. **These snakes were condemned by their own deceiving actions. There is an exacerbation of their sins as they deceived** new or young believers. These men were fully responsible for their actions. Yes, the plan for their destruction was from God, but the cause of their destruction was themselves.

4. These snakes were ungodly. Why were these snakes identified as ungodly? They were identified as ungodly because they were notorious sinners. This word is especially used to describe the worst type of sinners. It is translated: “destitute of reverential awe towards God.” Sins directly against God are worse sins.

5. Specifically, what did these snakes do?

a. **They changed God’s grace into a license to practice and promote immorality**放荡, particularly an encouragement to commit sexual immorality. Their argument went like this: “Since you are saved, you can live however you like!” Calvin called this “profane粗俗liberty.”

2Peter 2:1 But there were also **false prophets among the people**, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will **secretly bring in destructive heresies**邪说, **even denying the Lord** who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. **2 And many will follow their destructive ways**, because of whom the **way of truth will be blasphemed**. **3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive**骗人的**words...**

Look at another passage that showed the same concerns:

2Peter 2:19 While **they promise them liberty**, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also **he is brought into bondage**.

b. **These snakes denied the sovereign Lord**. This meant that they lived contrary the law of Jesus. They denied either the humanity or the Deity of Jesus. Either way, denying of the sovereign Lord was a natural cause for them to encourage lewdness. If God isn’t seen as God, it is easy to ignore his law.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

1John 2:22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

Virtually every major modern heresy had to do with the Trinity. Jehovah Witnesses, Mormon, SDA’s, Unitarians... And while some modern churches don’t deny the Trinity, they tend to exalt one person over the others. Charismatics, for example, emphasize the Holy Spirit over the Son and the Father...often directing their prayer to him. Deism sees God as Creator who has abandoned the world. Look at some modern day quotes from people like this: Joyce Meyer: “*The Bible can’t even find any way to explain this. Not really. That’s why you’ve got to get it by revelation. There are no words to explain what I’m telling you. I’ve got to just trust God that He’s putting it into your spirit like He put it into mine.*” And another from her: “*He could have helped himself up until the point where he said I commend my spirit into your hands, at that point he couldn’t do nothing for himself anymore. He had become sin, he was no longer the Son of God. He was sin.*”

6. Question: Why doesn’t God destroy these wicked people? God sometimes leaves these people in the church to use them as purifying challenges.

Motivation to Fight the Crawlers

5 But I want **to remind you**, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having **saved the people out of the land of Egypt**, afterward **destroyed those who did not believe**.

1. It is important to remember the work of the Lord in redemptive history. So Jude gave them 3 historical illustrations for their remembrance. Peter reminded his readers also!

2Peter 1:12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

And it is important that the sermons you hear give practical instruction in identifying and fighting these snakes and their venom. Theory is good, but there must be application.

2. Remember the Lord’s Judgment on Egypt and his remarkable rescue of his people. God

miraculously gave Israel his law and entered into covenant with them. They did nothing to merit their rescue. It was God’s covenant love that did that. Yet, they rebelled against the Lord. They complained against him. They made idols and worshipped them. They intermarried with wicked women. Israel was punished so she would become purified. The extreme wicked ones he killed.

1Corinthians 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for **their bodies were scattered** in the wilderness. 6 Now these things **became our examples**, to the intent that we should **not lust after evil things as they also lusted**. 7 And **do not become idolaters** as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." 8 **Nor let us commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did, and in one day **twenty-three thousand fell**; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were **destroyed by serpents**; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition...

Can you imagine how these snakes hindered the work of evangelism to the neighboring nations?

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode. He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

3. **Remember God's judgment on 1/3 of the angels for the purification and preservation of heaven**

2Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Those wicked angels are waiting their full judgment in hell forever. Sadly, there were members of the church who were acting like the rebellious angels, as today, and you must stop them.

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

4. **Remember God's destruction of the people of Sodom in order that his Saint be preserved**保存!

Sodomites thought that they were beyond the judgment of God and so suffered the consequences.

2Peter 2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries.

Conclusion:

There always have been and always will always be snakes in the church—people who desire to destroy. They pretend to believe the same as you, they'll dress the same way, even act like they believe, but they will try to get you sin...to break the Sabbath...to commit adultery...to ignore faithful worship...etc.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. If you deny the presence of snakes in the church you expose yourself to great danger. Snakes are everywhere. The snakes weren't afraid to go after Jesus Christ, so they won't be afraid of you either. Snakes write books. They are on TV preaching health and wealth. They have sermons online. They are in the church. 2. How do you guard yourself against these enemies? How do you destroy these snakes and preserve the church? You must have God's mercy, peace, and love. And then you must be established in the truth – which strengthens you for battle. Truth – which expresses God salvation – is the most potent weapon...the only potent weapon against lies. Consider: Ro 15:4 "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." 3. Ask the Lord for a discerning heart...to identify and attack those who advance false doctrines in Christ's church.

Finally, if you are not a Christian it is because the Devil has a veil面纱 over your eyes...but you don't know it. If you call upon Jehovah God and plead to him he will remove the veil, show you your sins, and give you faith so you can receive salvation from your sins. How sweet that would be!