

## Constant church in an inconstant world

I wouldn't want to live in a hurricane affected area. It's hard enough to find shelter in our hailstorms! (They board up, prepare for flooding, evacuate, etc.)

We enjoy fellowship, we advance the gospel, we stand against opposition, as we advance the gospel as a true church for Jesus.

### **Jude 3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

We have a faith that is alive, and we are **to contend for this faith**. (We are given this faith to deliver, not just have!)

Have you ever watched someone's kids, pets, home? Secret service to a President, what about clients that depend on you, or employers? (We must be responsible with this faith, therefore!)

### **1 Timothy 4:1-2 (ESV)**

**4** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, <sup>2</sup> through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

- **Depart**- "to set sail", or "leave the port". **Faith**- assurance or guarantee.
- Why would anyone walk away from the guarantee of eternal life?
- Because of the influence of "*deceitful spirits and teaching of demons*." (Seducing spirits that are opposing the faith that we contend for.) Supernatural warfare.
- Seared consciences- they influence, not intellect, influence from forces that are gone/seared.

1. **Steadfast people in steadfast churches**- (Philippians 1:27)

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

- Manner of life/conversation in KJV- Should point towards Christ, our faith.
  - a.) **Standing firm, in one spirit, one mind, striving**. (Action words)
  - b.) One spirit- because of truth (This is why we disciple, evangelize, fellowship, worship, and pray.

Ephesians 4:1 (ESV)

**4** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

- We have a call, walk accordingly!
- 2. **Striving together**- (this word means labor to exhaustion)

- a.) This labor is to be side-by-side. One spirit.
- b.) We are going against the enemy together. (Laboring to exhaustion, in truth)

Ephesians 5:11–21 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

c.) We will be opposed, but our assurance will speak of our faith.

3. **Walking confident with Christ**- (28-30) Does the current flow of this world scare you when you think of standing for Christ? (Work, life, friends)

and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

a.) Opponents/adversaries- tells us that we will face opposition.

b.) **Our stand for God** tells the world that **we don't back down**, there is **something bigger than us guiding us**, and shows **something lacking in them**.

(Coach at Mississippi State- stated recently that his team was scared of the very name “Alabama”, therefore they had lost before they ever stepped on the field.

1 John 4:1–6 (ESV)

### Test the Spirits

**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the

world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

(Confess the truth of Jesus- Savior, Lord, God) No other name in which we must be saved!

Close

- We live by the truth of our faith in Christ.
- How do we know they don't listen to God's Word? Not listening, trusting, no faith.
- We will face opposition, but we must strive together for the faith.
- It is not meant to be "lone ranger" striving.
- It is churches like us that have been given this charge. (Not alone, not some organization that tries to supplant our churches.) Not accomplished in a weekend.
- It is time for us to see just what churches like us are really to be! (We need fellowship, and discipleship, evangelism)