

“Separating the Contenders from the Pretenders.”

Part 2- John 6:41-70

Jude 1:3 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.

I. Pretenders want a Christ of convenience. Vv. 23-27, 34

II. Pretenders want God to endorse their conclusions. Vv. 28-34

III. Contenders for the faith have embraced Christ as God in the flesh. Vv. 34-30

IV. Contenders of the faith also cling to the finished work of Jesus.

I. Pretenders will not _____ to Jesus on His terms.

- A. Many falsely teach that we are _____ of God by birth. Eph. 2
 - 1. The Jews believed they were part of God’s eternal kingdom by right of birth.
 - 2. The only thing we gain automatically is condemnation due to our sin.
- B. The Father _____, the Spirit _____, and the Son _____ sin with His finished work.
 - 1. Naturally we chase after sin, and the desires of this world. Rom. 3:10
- C. Genuine _____ begins with God taking the initiative. Luke 15
 - 1. God passionately pursues us and brings the truth before us.
 - 2. We are ultimately faced with a choice to accept salvation, but God has done so much work within us to lead us to that point.

II. Contenders of the faith have believed and thus _____ the living bread.

- A. Christ has truly become their _____. Eph. 2:20
- B. You can _____ with believers, apply His commands, come from a Godly heritage, and have the ability to communicate the gospel without personally embracing Christ as Savior.
 - 1. Making a claim and banking our lives upon something is not the same thing.
- C. His blood _____ and erases every sin that the believer has committed.

III. Pretenders will _____ truth in seeking to be culturally relevant. 2 Tim. 1-5

- A. Universal absolute truth is ultimately hard for the world to _____.
 - 1. Many today embrace grace and abandon truth in the name of love. I Cor. 13:6
 - Hiding truth for fear of offending is neither loving, nor Christ-like. If we water down truth we have become more concerned with our comfort than lost souls.
- B. Pretenders will inevitably _____ truth to be politically correct.
- C. Jesus further _____ unbelievers to embrace this truth they abandoned Him.
 - 1. After every material motive for following Jesus was taken away they left.
Even clear evidence falls short without a supernatural working of God.

IV. Contenders rest in Jesus Christ alone with absolute _____.

- A. The shrinking size of the _____ does not diminish their faith.
- B. They _____ to their certain hope in the midst of storms and confusion.
- C. They know their _____ Shepherd and follow Him.