

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 8



*Contend
for the faith
which was
once delivered*

*to the saints
Jude 1:3*

MOCKERS IN THE LAST TIME

Scripture Text: Jude 18

This text of Scripture is a continuation of **verse 17**. In **verse 18**, Jude has given us an insight to the attitude that apostates hold toward “the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.” They mock the Word! A true indication that one has succumbed to the spirit of apostasy is when he begins to deride the truth and the message of the Word.

MEMORY VERSE: *Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favor (Proverbs 14:9).*

Unity of a True Ministry

How that they told you. This phrase holds a very beautiful truth. In **verse 17**, Jude revealed to us that when the church holds Christ in His rightful place, as “Lord Jesus Christ,” He will have a divine government in place. There will be ones who are called and “separated unto the gospel of God” (**Romans 1:1**) to fill divinely ordained offices, and their words will be inspired.

The truth **verse 18** reveals is this: when these offices are filled by divinely called individuals, they will operate their gifts under the unction of the Holy Spirit. When they speak, their words will be in harmony with every other one who speaks under divine unction. There are many messengers (“apostles” in **verse 17**) bearing one message. **Isaiah 52:8** states, “Thy watchmen [plural] shall lift up the voice [singular]; with the voice [singular] together shall they [plural] sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.”

The phrase *how that they told you* shows the beautiful unity of the morning-time brethren. Paul admonished them to “speak the same thing” and be “perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (**1 Corinthians 1:10**). What a force in this unbelieving world! Unity will convince the world! Read **John 17:21-23**.

The Mockers and Scoffers

There should be mockers in the last time. The Apostle Peter said in **2 Peter 3:3**, “There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.” These words are almost identical to what Jude alluded to in our text. Notice, both Jude and Peter spoke of *the last time*, or “the last days.” Immediately when these words are read, men’s minds begin to think of a time in the future. Jude let the saints of his day (A.D. 66) know that what had been prophesied of as a future occurrence was already a present reality. **1 John 2:18** says, “Little children, it is [present tense] the last time . . . even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”

Biblically, the last days began with Pentecost. **Acts 2:16-17** states: “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days . . .” That which was spoken of in our text is not something reserved for some time in the future, but rather it was experienced in the apostasy of the first century and has been experienced in every other century whenever these conditions have occurred.

Jude reminded the ones in our text that nothing had occurred that they had not already been warned of. He said that there would be *mockers in the last time*. This may be startling, but truth should have *mockers*! It is through the assaults and attacks upon the truth that many individuals are convinced of its authenticity. The centurion who stood beside the Cross saw and heard how ones were reviling Christ. When Jesus cried out and then died, the centurion said, “Truly this man was the Son of God” (**Mark 15:39**). When a person is being mocked and derided for the sake of the truth, the Spirit of God will use that very persecution to show honest hearts the reality that that one possesses.

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The word *mockers* comes from the Greek word *empaiktes*. The only other place this word is used in the Bible is in **2 Peter 3:3**. There it is translated *scoffers*. This word means “a derider; to jeer at.” Peter used it in reference to those individuals who ask, “Where is the promise of his coming?” (**2 Peter 3:4**). This tells us that the people who go after their own ungodly desires are blind to spiritual realities. They do not understand that they cannot follow their ungodly desires and follow the Spirit too. **Galatians 5:16** says, “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” This is true—and the opposite is true: if you walk after lusts of the flesh, you will not fulfill walking in the Spirit.

Bondage of Ungodly Lusts

Who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. This phrase reveals the sad condition of apostates. Jude said they *walk after*. The meaning of these words, as they are used here, portrays a beast being led about by a ring in its nose. In **verse 10**, Jude stated that these men operate “naturally, as brute beasts.” One scholar has said that just as an animal walks obediently behind its master, so do these *walk after their own ungodly lusts*. Neither the captive bull nor the enslaved apostate has any choice. Both must go wherever they are led. They might claim that they are free; but they are not. They are slaves to their own lusts!

What Are Ungodly Lusts?

Ungodly lusts. The Greek word for *lusts* is *epithumik*, which means “a longing, a desire.” These *ungodly lusts* are not the common kind that bind a sinner. Remember, these are apostates. **2 Peter 2:18**, in the Amplified Bible, states, “For uttering loud boasts of folly, they beguile and lure with lustful desires of the flesh those who are barely escaping from them who are wrongdoers.” The *ungodly lusts* that dominate apostates keep them constantly working to separate others. They are consumed with an insatiable desire to draw others away from the truth, promising them enlightenment, liberty, and greater truth, but only giving them bondage. This is what is being depicted in **2 Peter 2:18-22**.

We should ever be mindful of Jesus’ words: “If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch” (**Matthew 15:14**). You should always consider the spiritual condition of individuals who might presume to give you spiritual guidance. If they are following a wrong spirit, you could be affected by their influence. Beware of ones who speak against God’s order in the church, His Spirit, His Word, or His man. Following their *ungodly* thinking will cause you to become a slave to a spirit of apostasy.

JUST A THOUGHT

“It is better to err on the side of caution than to disregard caution and err.”