

"Contend Earnestly For the Faith" Part 13: *The Inspiration of the New Testament*

Tuesday Night Bible Study, July 11, 2006

"...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." – Jude 3

--intro / review key points from last week:

--the church is "built on the **foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone...**" (Ephesians 2:20)

--"Jesus Christ... the chief cornerstone..."

--picture the contrast between God's voice introducing Moses to the Ten Commandments and God's voice introducing Jesus Christ who alone fulfilled the requirements of the Ten Commandments... **from God writing the law on tablets of stone to God becoming a man to fulfill the law... this is the backbone of all Scripture, affirmed not only by the apostles and prophets but by the voice of God the Father from heaven!**

--Deuteronomy 10:1-2: "At that time the LORD said to me, **'Hew for yourself two tablets of stone** like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain and make yourself an ark of wood. 2 **And I will write on the tablets** the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and **you shall put them in the ark.**"

--Matthew 3:16-17: "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 **And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

--the central theme of Scripture is God's plan to provide a way for the requirements of the law to be satisfied through Christ.

--Romans 3:19-22: "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 **But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed,** being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, **through faith in Jesus Christ,** to all and on all who believe."

--Paul's exhortation to keep a fresh perspective on the reality of Christ and His resurrection... "Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead..." (2 Timothy 2:8)

--"the apostles and prophets..."

--last week we looked at the Old Testament prophets; this week we're going to look at the New Testament apostles.

--the names of the 12 apostles and the 12 tribes from whom the Old Testament prophets came are memorialized in heaven...

--"Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the **names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**" (Revelation 21:15)

--"...twelve gates... and names written on them, which are **the names of the twelve tribes** of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. (Revelation 21:12-13)

--the authority of the New Testament is rooted in the authority that Jesus gave to the 12 apostles who walked with Him throughout His entire ministry on earth

--all New Testament authors were either one of the original 12 apostles or sanctioned by the original 12

--the word "apostle" is translated from the Greek word "apostolos" which means someone who is an authorized representative or emissary whose word has the authority of the sender.

--unique qualifications of the original 12 apostles:

--received special commission from Jesus at the beginning of His ministry:

--Matthew 10:1-20: "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these... These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, **preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'** 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons... 19 **do not worry about how or what you should speak. For**

it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

--present with Jesus at the Last Supper:

--John 14:25-26 -- "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**"

--John 16:12-14 -- "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

--after His resurrection, Jesus gave them the Great Commission:

--Matt 28:19-20 -- "**Then the eleven disciples** went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, '**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

--the apostles provided the **Scripture by which "all nations" (Matt. 28:19)"to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8) are taught**

--watched Jesus ascend back to heaven:

--Acts 1:11: "The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, **after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen**, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**" 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "**Men of Galilee**, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

--"men of Galilee..." (v.11) – eleven apostles were from Galilee Judas Iscariot was from Kerioth in Judah

--through the New Testament, the apostles were witnesses "to the end of the earth" (v.8)

--insights from the replacement of Judas: window into the life of the early church.

--Acts 1:12-26 -- "Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. 15And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, 16Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." 18(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. 19And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.' 21"**Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.**" 23And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen 25to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." 26And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

--2 Peter 1:16-2:1: "**For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.** 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory:"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ... no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 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..."

--the New Testament is the byproduct of the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to speak through and guide the original apostles "into all truth" by the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-14)

--not just any random person could claim that their writings were the inspired Word of God. New Testament authors had to be either one of the original 12 apostles or someone who was sanctioned by one of the original 12 apostles; therefore **nobody beyond the first generation church qualified**, thus precluding the myriad of false teachers throughout the ages. The door for New Testament authorship was only open while original apostles were alive

--transference of Christ's teachings to all generations... Christ >> apostles / apostle associates (through the Holy Spirit) >> the Bible >> all generations (to whom the Holy Spirit illuminates the Bible)

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS:	AUTHORS:		
Matthew	apostle	Matthew	disciple of Jesus
Mark	apostle	Mark	disciple of Jesus
Luke, Acts	sanctioned by the original apostles	Luke	"fellow laborer" of the apostle Paul
John; 1,2,3 John; Revelation	apostle	John	disciple of Jesus
Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews	"13th apostle" + sanctioned by the original apostles	Paul	direct encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus
James*	sanctioned by the original apostles	James	brother of Jesus
1 & 2 Peter	apostle	Peter	disciple of Jesus
Jude	sanctioned by the original apostles	Jude	brother of Jesus

--James, the brother of Jesus, wasn't one of the original 12 apostles. He didn't believe in Christ until after the resurrection, but he became one of the main leaders of the early church (Galatians 2:9)

--the apostle Paul:

--Paul has been called the 13th apostle (after the original 12) because of His direct encounter with Christ and His approval by the original apostles

--Paul's conversion and commission: "But the Lord said to him, 'Go, **for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.** 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.' And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. (Acts 9:15-18)

--in almost all of his epistles, Paul introduces himself as "Paul... an apostle of Jesus Christ"

--example: Titus 1:1-3: "Paul, a bondservant of God and **an apostle of Jesus Christ**, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3 but **has in due time manifested His word through preaching**, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior."

--Paul's apostleship was confirmed by other apostles (Peter and James, two prominent leaders of the early church, cited in Galatians 1:18,19)

--the apostle Peter categorized Paul's writings as "Scripture" (2 Peter 3:16)

--maybe one reason God chose someone like Paul to be such an instrumental figure in the church and write so many key books of the New Testament was that Paul exemplified how Jesus Christ changes lives... for His glory... "and they glorified God in me" (Galatians 1:24)

--Paul claimed that the gospel he preached came from God (and was revealed to him when he saw Christ for who He really is): "**But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.** 13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism,

how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) 21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. 23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy." 24 **And they glorified God in me.**" (Galatians 1:1-24)

--the continuity of the New Testament is one of the hallmarks of the New Testament's authenticity

--The major doctrines of Christianity depend on multiple passages written by multiple authors, and all the books of the New Testament are built around the central theme that Jesus Himself emphasized right before He ascended back to heaven: "**repentance**", "**remission of sins**", and "**the Promise of the Father**" (the Holy Spirit through whom we have a personal relationship with God after we receive after we repent of our sins and receive remission of sins)

--Luke 24:46-51: "Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that **repentance** and **remission of sins** should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send **the Promise of My Father** upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven."

--Peter's sermon in Acts: "... 38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins**; and you shall receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit**. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:14-39)

--central themes of the New Testament seen in the intro/conclusions of 20 out of 22 New Testament books that cover the period of time after Jesus Christ ascended back to heaven:

Grace... remission of sins / **Peace...** through the Holy Spirit.... / **the Lord** Jesus Christ.... repentance

Introduction to Romans (ch.1, verse 7)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 1 Corinthians (ch.1, verse 3)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 2 Corinthians (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to Galatians (ch.1, verses 3-4)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God the Father and **our Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to Ephesians (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to Philippians (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to Colossians (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 1 Thessalonians (ch.1, verse 1)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 1 Timothy (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace**, mercy, and **peace** from God our Father and Jesus Christ **our Lord**..."

Introduction to 2 Timothy (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace**, mercy, and **peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus **our Lord**..."

Introduction to Titus (ch.1, verse 4)

"**Grace**, mercy, and **peace** from God the Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ our Savior..."

Introduction to Philemon (verse 3)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Conclusion of Hebrews (ch.13, verse 25)

"**Grace** be with you all. Amen."

Introduction to 1 Peter (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** be multiplied..."

Introduction to 2 Peter (ch.1, verse 2)

"**Grace** and **peace** be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus **our Lord**..."

Introduction to 2 John (verse 3)

"**Grace**, mercy, and **peace** will be with you from God the Father and from **the Lord** Jesus Christ..."

Conclusion to 3 John (verse 14)

"**Peace** to you..." 2 John 3

Introduction to Jude (verse 2)

"Mercy, **peace**, and love be multiplied to you..."

Introduction to Revelation (ch.1, verse 4)

"**Grace** to you and **peace** from Him..."

And the very last sentence of the Bible (Revelation 22:21)

"The **grace** of **our Lord** Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."