

JUDE: CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Epistle of Jude | 13/14 July 2019



CREATIVE WITNESSES
AS THE SCATTERED CHURCH
GCF Missions Month 2019

Jude: Contending for the Faith

Today's Message (13/14 July 2019, morning services) / *Jude*

CHRISTIANS
ARE CALLED
TO DISCERN,
DEFEND
AGAINST, AND
ENGAGE FALSE
TEACHING.

INTRODUCTION

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”
—Matthew 7:15

“There is no doubt today that a deepening deception and surging apostasy are upon us. What we see in the visible church today is nothing short of shocking. We are witnessing the increase and intensification of apostasy we should expect if the coming of Christ is near.”—Dr. Mark Hitchcock

1. THE CALL TO CONTEND

A. Jude 3: Contend for the faith

1. Jude exhorts the saints to “contend for the faith.”
 - b. Contend (*'agonizomai'*) means to exert intense effort on behalf of something—‘to struggle for.’
 - c. Used of Jesus in Luke 22:44 as he was in “agony” as he prayed in wrestling with death.
 - d. It emphasizes the defense of the faith will be costly and agonizing.
2. “For the faith once and for all given to the saints.”
 - a. The faith is the body of truth taught by the apostles and Jesus.
 - b. “Once and for all given” means the complete revelation of God’s truth is completed.

B. Life applications

1. False teachers and false teaching represent one of the greatest threats to the church.

Sunday English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Baptism (*Morning services*)

Testimony

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Dr. Pat Zukeran (morning)

Greg Koukl (afternoon)

Worship Through Giving

Response Song

Benediction

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2. The Christian will always be in an intense battle against false teaching.

2. THE REASON TO CONTENT

A. "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

1. For certain people have "crept in."
2. The condemnation was designated "long ago" (*Deuteronomy 13:1-5, 18:20, Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:29*).
3. These false teachers are described as "ungodly", "pervert grace."
4. The rejection of morality reveals they were denying Christ.

B. Life application: False teaching enters covertly into the church.

3. HOW TO CONTENT

A. Verses 17-23 present five imperatives explaining how to contend for the faith:

1. "Remember the warnings of the apostles." (*vv. 17-19*)
2. "Build yourselves up in the holy faith."
3. "Pray in the Spirit."
4. "Keep yourselves in the love of God."
5. "Waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."
6. Confronting Apostasy: Three types of people
 - a. Have mercy on the doubting
 - b. Snatch others from the fire
 - c. Show mercy mixed with fear hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

B. Life application: Christians are called to discern, defend against, and engage false teaching.

CONCLUSION

A blessed second weekend of Missions Month, GCF family! This month's theme is called **Creative Witnesses as the Scatterd Church**, and we hope and pray that the many efforts and activities will help illustrate that.

We will continue to listen to missions testimonies during our worship services, to help us understand better why we should continue to support missionaries and missions organizations. This is also our way of reminding everyone that we can give specifically for the missions efforts of the church. While we can do so on any given Saturday night or Sunday, this month it can be your way of participating in the celebration.

Another set of testimonies are those by fellow GCFers like the Pontillas family, who talked about being a witness as a family. We encourage you and your GGs to view the interviews as a group so you can also discuss them (discussion guides are provided in the videos). Please visit the church's Facebook page, YouTube channel, or website for the full interviews. Be inspired by how members of our GCF family live out the gospel in their everyday lives, and be surprised by how you can do or keep doing the same.

The focus of our times of family prayer will be on the missionaries and missions organizations we partner with as a local body. Whether it be the 6:00 a.m. hour of prayer on Tuesdays, the 7:00 p.m. Midweek

Prayer Service on Wednesdays, or the time of pastoral prayer on our weekend services—we will pray for and with them. We hope that by now, you already have a copy of this year's Missions Primer. While in the past we rally the whole church to participate in a mid-year prayer and fasting week, recent years have allowed us to shift to praying for missions with the help of the primer.

The Think Right! Conference already took place last July 12-13, but let us remember that the ongoing Apologetics Class taught by Pastor BJ Sebastian is also for the sake of the Gospel. It is our desire that while the classes hope to help strengthen one's individual walk, it also ought to move us to properly speak of our faith to others in a powerful, loving manner. Take note that we have recently moved the class to the Chapel at the lobby, from Auditorium A.

Next weekend, the Women's Ministry will hold their annual tea fellowship called Mugs 'N' Muffins. This is definitely another opportunity to bring ladies both young and old who have yet to hear the gospel much closer to it. Perhaps it is on July 20 that the ladies of our GCF community will have an opportunity to finally bring a friend, a classmate, an officemate, or even a relative to church and be shared to about Christ through the story of this year's special guest ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



MUGS 'N' MUFFINS: ONCE WORTHLESS, NOW PRECIOUS

with Precious Lara Quigaman

July 20 (Sat), 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

For women 18 years old and above

Admission is free. To get tickets, please visit the ministry information booth. For more details, contact 0917 532 1921.



SUFFICIENT, SUSTAINED, SATISFIED

Connect Ministry Camp for BPO workers

August 2-4 (Fri-Sun), Word of Life Camp Site

Speaker: Pastor BJ Sebastian

Early bird fee: P1,000, until July 7 (Sun)

Regular fee: P1,500, until July 21 (Sun)

To register, please fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/aS9wV3ktAuN356W8A>. Payment is at the information booth at the lobby.



WEDDING NINONGS AND NINANGS FELLOWSHIP

August 10 (Sat), 1:00-4:00 p.m., BM07-07

Inviting all who are wedding godparents to

explore how you can minister to your *inaanaks* in this unique *oikos* relationship.

Registration is at the info booth. For more details, contact 0917 532 7712.



SABBATH

DISCOVERING OUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD

Sabbath Retreat 2019

August 23-25 (Fri-Sun), Hacienda Isabella

For young and middle adults

Fee: P2,500, registration is until August 11

(Sun) at the ministry information booth, or

through sabbath2019.weebly.com. Payment is at the information booth at the lobby.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by Rubelyn Enriquez and the Cross Light Medical Clinic. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express

Mixed group led by Ptr. Emer Manaloto

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rm. B124

GGEx Extreme

Choose any group: Women, Men, Young Men, Youth

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Burning Hearts Chronicles GG

Group for couples

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Rm. B124

Jars of Clay GG

Group for women

Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Rm. B512

Best Together in Christ

Group for couples

Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Rm. B508

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0906 358 1500.

Oikos Bible Study (OBS) Training

Learn how to facilitate inductive Bible studies at your home, school, or office on June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4 and 11 (Suns), 9:30-10:30 a.m., at B302.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / July 2019

JULY	Projected	Rcvd., July 1-10	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Jul 10
General Funds	7,987,263	1,439,407	General Funds	56,643,090	52,102,973
Mission Support Fund	5,059,368	398,699	Mission Support Fund	12,965,555	7,885,731
Others (Designated, etc.)	648,050	122,072	Others (Designated, etc.)	7,838,156	7,563,304
TOTAL	13,694,681	1,960,178	TOTAL	77,446,801	67,552,008

We prepare, but the Lord surprises

BY THE WETFOOT BALER TEAM

We have strategized things the way we thought is best, but the Lord showed His own plans. Most of the things we prepared weeks before we leave were not used.

This is because two days before we left, a training on evangelism was held. We attended and realized that it could be the perfect material to bring to the people of Baler. We asked the facilitators if we can bring the same material. They agreed and even provided all the presentations needed.

On May 1, the training for the church in Baler was held. Youths, adults and church leaders attended it. A two-day house-to-house evangelism was conducted a day after, an opportunity to practice what we have learned in the training. We were blessed to see how obedient the church members were in sharing the gospel.

On May 4, we traveled for an hour-and-a-half to a community of Aetas where we served food and shared the gospel. Kids ages 3 to 12 years old were there as well as some parents.

The challenge for our team was we were advised to conduct a gospel presentation to them just before the event. It was easy to refuse and say that we are not ready. We were not trained to share the gospel to these little kids. But the Lord again provided an idea that we worked on the night before the event.

We prepared crafts that made the sharing meaningful and easy to understand. We were in awe as we saw the kids actively participating in the gospel sharing and how the Lord is working in their lives.

We concluded our mission trip in a worship service to thank the Lord who pleasantly surprised us. The people to whom we have shared the Gospel with in the house



The Wetfoot Baler team

to house evangelism came to attend the Sunday service for the first time, even though the local church had been inviting and evangelizing them for quite some time.

Our hearts are filled with joy and praises to the Lord as He let us witness His faithfulness among His people. We have been blessed with the testimonies of missionaries and workers we have worked with ■

PRAYER
at the Chapel

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Weeknight Prayer Gatherings
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

ON THE COVER: Kaka Constantino being hands-on in helping to rebuild homes of the war-torn people of Marawi (*photo courtesy of Kaka*). Kaka is a missionary-at-large who focuses and ministers to survivors of disasters and calamities. He is presently ministering at Delabayan, Kauswagan, and Lanao Del Norte, among the survivors of the war in Marawi.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we
SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **13/14 July 2019**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *(Romans 3:23)*.
Sin demands a penalty: “For the wages of sin is death” *(Romans 6:23)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” *(Romans 10:9)*.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.