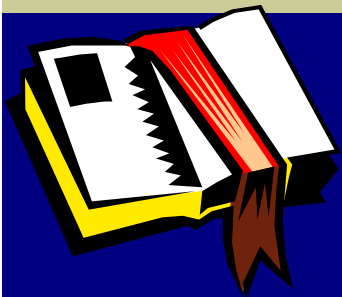


Sunday

April 25, 2010



ESSEX VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Reflections

“Contending for the Faith, part 1”

By: Wayne Jackson

One of our most important duties as Christians is to “earnestly contend for the faith.” Unfortunately, this idea is often misconstrued and misapplied. The following excerpt from an article by Wayne Jackson discusses the subject, as enumerated by Jude.

Jude was in the process of planning a correspondence—or perhaps actually writing—to his fellow Christians concerning their common salvation when suddenly (obviously under the impulse of the Spirit) he was constrained to urge his brothers to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints” (v. 3). It becomes obvious from the subsequent information in this small epistle, that the danger of false doctrine threatened the security of the early church. There are several important truths in Jude 3 worthy of serious consideration.

The Faith—A Unified Body of Truth

Jude’s warning concerns “the faith.” The term “faith” is used in several different ways in the New Testament. It is sometimes employed in the sense of **one’s personal level of trust**. Christ did not “trust” himself to certain people for he knew of the evil disposition that characterized them (John 2:24). One reads of great faith, weak faith, etc. (Matthew 8:10; Romans 14:1).

Frequently, however, “faith”—especially the expression “the faith”—is used objectively for **a body of doctrine**, i.e., the gospel system. We learn of those who were “obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7), of preaching “the faith” (Galatians 1:23), of denying and falling away from “the faith” (1 Timothy 5:8; 4:1). It is in this latter sense that Jude uses the expression “the faith.”

We must also observe that the term “faith” is singular. The New Testament does not sanction the idea of “many faiths,” or “the faith of one’s choice,” as that notion prevails in the denominational world. The biblical concept is that of “one faith” (Ephesians 4:5). This certainly contains the implication that Christians can believe and teach the same doctrine (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10). When one believes and obeys the truths of the “one faith,” he will be a recipient of the blessings of that “common salvation” alluded to in the opening portion of Jude 3.

The Faith—Divinely Given

We must also observe that “the faith” was “delivered” unto the first-century saints. The expression “was delivered” is a passive voice form which reveals that the doctrine of Christ is not a human production; rather, it is from heaven. Note Paul’s affirmation concerning the origin of the gospel in Galatians 1:11-12:

For I make known unto you, brethren, as touching the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man. For neither did I receive

*continued on page 3

Church Office : 843-556-1792

Church Fax: 843-556-6085

Email: evcoc@bellsouth.net

Website: www.essexvillage.org

Sunday

Class: 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

7:00 pm



**For the Record
Week of 04-18-10**

**Elder for the Month
of April**

**Program of
Worship**

*Helen Embry
Mark Embry
Polly Fowler
Leonard McNeill
Lois Ott*

Bible Classes: 73
AM Worship: 134
PM Worship: 36
Wednesday Evening: 49
Contribution: 4,267.00

Larry Casbeer: 795-0429



Preparing communion: Mary Ann Googe

Baptismal Garments: Jean Hilton

Announcements:
Eddie Haselden

Song Service:
Keith Dee

Opening Prayer:
John Such

Communion:
Herman Porter

Serving:
Eric Zink
John Jenkins, Jr.
Bill Ragland
Larry Polutta

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
George Brown



We Are Praying For...

Military
*Robert Bagley
Kristopher Black
RJ Boris
Adam Bowles
Chris Branham
Adam Carlucci
Russell Coble
Ryne Collins
James Dalton
Ellis Flenoid
Steven Hilton
Michael Hilton
Matthew Lemieux
Katie McCaskill
Derrick Menrique
Kevin Mitchell
Scott O'Connor*

Larry Casbeer had hip replacement surgery on April 22nd at MUSC. The surgery went well and he is in room 214.

Judy Cox, the mother of Natasha's friend, has advanced stage 4 colon cancer. She is undergoing another round of chemo treatments.

Maxine Doll has congestive heart failure and diabetes. Maxine is Pam Ragland's mother.

Emily Fowler, Scott Fowler's mother, has some health problems and would like our prayers.

Duke Gregory, Doris and Janie's brother, has been moved to a medical facility in McMinnville, TN.

NHC Healthcare
928 Old Smithville Road
Room 213A
McMinnville, TN 37110
Tel # 931-474-2929

Clara Haselden has cancer and is receiving chemo treatments.

Esther Lamm is having some health problems.

Val Mabry, Ann Mabry Standefer's aunt, has Alzheimer's.

Nell McIntire has cancer and is the sister of Lois Ott.

Angie Ashburn Schooff is undergoing tests and procedures for cancer. Presently, tests indicate containment and surgery will be scheduled soon.

Sam & Barbara Truscello, Raymond Boynton's neighbors, are in need of prayers. Sam has health problems and Barbara is the caregiver.

Verdie Whitson is having some health problems.

Paul Quesenberry, Clara Haselden's nephew, had surgery to remove a tumor on his spine and is in serious condition.

**Vacation Bible
School 2010**

**Vacation Bible
School
will be held on
Wednesday, June
9th—Saturday, June
12th.**

**The theme will be
"Jungle Journey—
Exploring the
Nature of God".**

**Please be sure to
mark your
calendars and make
plans to attend with
your friends &
neighbors!**

Here is what is happening...

Soup Kitchen

If you would like to help prepare the noon meal at the soup kitchen on Monday, April 26th, please Ray Boynton.

2010 Graduates

If you are an upcoming graduate for 2010, (high school or college), please notify me as soon as possible. Information needed: Name of high school or college, future plans for college or career, tech school, or military service; also need school invitation, card and wallet size photo. I do not want to miss anyone. Janie

Directory Update

If you would like to update your picture or need to have your information updated in the directory, please see Janie. She is available most Sundays to take your picture and will be happy to update your info.

VBS volunteers needed!

Our VBS is fast approaching and we need everyone to be involved for this to be a success! There are sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the hall way for anyone interested in helping.



Happy Anniversary!

4/27
Bryan & Shannon
Wakeland

4/28
Jim & Esther
Lamm



Happy Birthday!

04/26
Shelli Mugnaini

4/28
Brittany Herman
Agnes McLawhorn
Jimmy Snyder

4/29
Deron Casbeer

5/1
Raymond Boynton

5/2
Jordan Cooper
Chase Wakeland

Thank you!

Dear Essex Village,

My many thanks to you for your thoughtfulness. Thank you for the calls, cards, food, flowers & most of all the prayers offered on my families behalf.

In Christian love,
Ruby Cooper

Dear Essex Village,

Mac & I would like to thank you for your prayers, support, cards and the flowers. We appreciate all of our Christian friends very much!

In Christian love,
Mac & Agnes McLawhorn

Article continued...

it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ.

As a divinely given system, therefore, “the faith” is not subject to addition, subtraction, or modification in any form.

The Faith—Its Finality

Further, Jude asserts that the faith was “once for all” delivered to the saints. The Greek term is hapax, and it means “once for all time.” Thayer comments that the term is “used of what is so done as to be of perpetual validity and never need repetition” (1958, 54). For example, Christ was offered “once” to bear the sins of many (Hebrews 9:28; cf. 1 Peter 3:18). Jude thus affirms, in anticipation of the completion of the Christian body of doctrine, that there would be no need for continuing revelation. God’s system of truth was fully and finally made known within the New Testament record. There is, therefore, no ongoing revelation, with accompanying spiritual gifts, today (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10; Ephesians 4:11-16).

Bulletin Board

Annual Zoo Trip

Our annual trip to the Riverbanks Zoo is scheduled for May 1st. Anyone interested in having a great day at the zoo, please be at the church building by 8:00 am. You can catch a ride in one of our vans or caravan with the group. We will depart Essex Village by 8:30 am so that we can arrive in Columbia no later than 10:00 am. There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer so that we can get an idea of how many vans we need to reserve.

Ladies' Day

Date: Saturday, May 1st from 9:00 am—12:30 pm
Speaker: Sheila Butt from Columbia, TN
Theme: "Spiritual Beauty"
Where: St. Andrews Road Church of Christ
425 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Palmetto Bible Camp Senior Week

Grades 7-12 Date: July 18—24, 2010
Check it out on the web at: www.palmettobiblecamp.org

Palmetto Bible Camp

Keith will be a counselor and Sandy will be running the canteen at Palmetto Bible Camp during the week of June 20th—26th.

ELDERS

Larry Casbeer 795-0429
Howard Streets 766-7727

MINISTER

Stefano Mugnaini 329-3704

DEACONS

Rick Porter 556-2679
Activities
Jim Lamm 556-6756
Benevolence
Lloyd McLawhorn 556-6709
Worship
Roddy Akers 559-3565
Song Service
Larry Polutta 795-5266
World Bible School
Bill Ragland 810-0227
Building Maintenance
Hilton Googe 766-4670
Lynn Smallwood 766-8579
Grounds
Eddie Haselden 991-5020
Financial
Durwood Collins 869-4199
Youth Activities

Essex Village Church of Christ
736 Savage Road
Charleston, SC 29414