

November 5, 2023

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Title of the message: "Beware of Fake News."

- The secret strategies to avoid being deceived -

Text: Jude 1:8 -16

Introduction

Good morning, everyone.

1) Today, we will read "Jude," for a second time. Let's review.

•Why did the author Jude write this letter?

Jude said the following.

Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

•Jude wrote a letter of warning to the saints who had been greatly influenced by society during the heyday of the Roman Empire. The Bible also contains valuable warnings for the modern society, nation, and world in which we live.

2) Jude first wrote about the blessed status of being a Christian. Therefore, he taught them to stand firm against the forces of evil that threaten the blessed life of obedience to God and stated, "Avoid Unbelief."

① Fight for the faith

• God is always on our side so we are not alone in the fight. Furthermore, it is important to remember that the Lord is with us in the fight.

② Fight against false teaching, heresy.

•Heresy was and still is as powerful as ever. There are false teachings today that seek to seduce and corrupt us.

•He said to remember how the Lord has given victory to our predecessors.

3) Today's teaching is, "Beware of Fake News."

•These days, social networking has developed at a very rapid pace, and with that, "fake news" abounds. How much "fake news" is broadcasted through YouTube? Where on earth is the truth? If the information is not solid, it is very dangerous.

•So today let's consider the warning that Jude issued.

Main Points

1. Beware of the Gospel of the Flesh!

1) Acting Like Animals

Jude 1:8 In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.

- Jude was very disturbed by the fact that, as in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, people were indulging in lewdness and being dominated by unnatural carnal desires. They had come to act as their animal instincts dictated.

- They were spiritually blind and ignorant, and beyond understanding of the Gospel of the glorious God. They were like animals in such a state. The result was as follows.

Jude 1:10 Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.

- The danger that Jude put forth is that when people lose their reason, they are unable to make normal decisions. Brainwashing is one example of this. Once brainwashed, it takes a considerable amount of time for a person's mind to recover, and it is never easy.

- Jude further stated:

2) Abominable Things

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

- Jude brought up 3 false teachers, Cain, Balaam, and Korah, who were representatives of evil men of the Old Testament.

① Cain, who murdered his younger brother, Abel.

- Cain murdered his younger brother, Abel, and is the world's first murderer. He murdered his younger brother for his own benefit. As a result, he incurred God's wrath and was expelled. Likewise, he who deceives and tempts is a murderer of men's souls.

- Cain is regarded as a representative of skeptics and atheists who doubt and do not believe the Word of the Lord.

② The false prophet, Balaam

- When the Israelites came in contact with the Moabites in the wilderness, Balak, king of Moab, requested the prophet Balaam to curse Israel (Numbers Ch. 22 - 24)

At that time, Balaam was in control of his evil desires.

- After that, however, Israel began to worship idols and to be lustful, and it was this false prophet Balaam who tempted them. (Numbers 31:16)

He epitomizes someone who sinned for profit and led people astray.

③ The rebel, Korah

God had chosen Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelites at the time of the Exodus, but Korah did not approve. He did not like being led by Moses and the others and plotted a rebellion. (Numbers 16)

• God could not allow this. As a result, Korah and his family were swallowed alive into the bowels of the earth as the earth split open. They produced terrible destruction. Korah remains to this day a representative of one who does not submit to the authority that God has placed over him and demands more than his share.

* Thus the three false teachers (who taught people the wrong ways) are cited as bad examples.

2. Traits of False Teachers

• Jude identified several traits of false teachers.

Jude 1:12 These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

1) Heresy enters the church

• “Blemishes at your love feasts” The arrogance and greed of the false brothers even entered the church to the point of defiling the holy sacrament. They did not have hearts that feared God. They blemished the holy sacrament. Christian fellowship is supposed to enhance one's virtue, but they were egocentric, seeking only their own gain. As a result, they left a stain on the holy sacrament.

• “They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind” They are made to look like rain clouds that bring blessings, but in fact they are not blessings, and instead are blown away by the wind.

• “Autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted” It describes a dead tree that has not borne any fruit in the autumn harvest and is a tree that has been pulled out and discarded.

• Therefore, heresy never bears fruit.

2) Heresy without fruit

Jude 1:13 They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

• “Wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame”: They are constantly agitating like rough seas. It is also a figure that brings to the surface the unclean desires within the heart, just as the filth in the ocean floats to the surface of the sea. (Quoted from Isaiah 57:20)

•“Wandering stars”: They are either stars that cannot shine on their own or shooting stars that quickly disappear, leaving only a small amount of light behind.

✘ What we want to remember here are the traits of false teachers. It is only about satisfying one's own desires, not about benefiting and guiding others. Likewise, it is important for us to discern false teachers with the eyes of the heart (or spiritual eyes).

•Dear beloved brothers and sisters, it was not only at that time that such heresy raged. No, heresy exists even today. What will God do with this heresy?

3. The Lord is the One who Judges the Wicked

1) Jude 1:14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones.”

•God will surely judge evil. He is the one who has led many saints.

Jude stated, “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones.” The Lord comes with great power and dignity. (Faith)

2) Jude 1:15 to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

•God declared that He would execute merciless judgment on each of the false teachers for their unbelief and arrogant words. (Justice)

3) Jude 1:16 These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

•For those who do not fear God, the world is full of grievances. They do not know their own position, and they do not “mind their own business.” They pursue only profit and finally their lives end in disappointment.

•However, for those who have been made alive through Christ, like Paul, we can live the life we have been given in gratitude.

Philippians Chapter 4

4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

4:12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

4:13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Conclusion

Title of the message "Beware of Fake News."

- The secret strategies to avoid being deceived -

• Fake news is spreading all over the world. It is difficult to distinguish the real from the fake.

How should we live in times such as this?

• The Bible teaches the following: (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

* God bless you !