

Lesson Notes:

## **Contending for our Faith**

We live in a time when our Christian Faith is constantly under attack from television documentaries, films (The DaVinci Code) actors, authors, proponents of false religions, extremists and the list goes on and on. Early in my walk with Christ I honestly didn't care about what others would do and say. I felt that "it was their own problem" that they had not come to see the truth of Jesus Christ and it really didn't matter to me what they thought. But that is not the right attitude to take. If we allow those who are unbelievers go on unchallenged than they may feel they are right and we do not value our faith enough to contend for it. Also, unless we present them with the truth they may never come to know the love of Jesus Christ. Finally, an atheistic point of view in our society leads to continued moral decay and further apostasy toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Following are scripture passages dealing with contending for our faith and the love of Jesus Christ:

### **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) **Be prepared to defend your faith** - Peter tells us in **1 Peter 3:15** to be prepared to give a witness for your faith. Jude tells us in **Jude 1:3** that we are to contend for the faith.

#### **Here's why:**

- 2) **The Holy Spirit has spoken to my heart.** - Paul tells us in **Romans 5:3-5** that God has provided us with the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts. Paul tells us in **Romans 10:14-17** that in order for people to recognize the Love of Christ they need someone to tell them the good news of the gospel. If we are not willing to spread the good news and just stand by quietly than how will they ever receive the good news?
- 3) **His Wonderful Promise** – Jesus told Nicodemus and all of us in **John 3:14-18** why he was sent. In **John 14:1-3** he promises a place for us in Heaven. Therefore Christ paid the price for our sins and he prepares a place for us in heaven. As Christians we want to see all who are made righteous through the blood of Jesus enjoy eternal life with us and the Lord.
- 4) **Christ is the Only Way** – In **John 14:6** Christ tells us and his disciples that he is the way, the truth and the light and he is the only way to God. No other religion can offer us salvation for our sins. No other religion can offer us a way to God in heaven. Jesus is the only way.
- 5) **He is the Risen Savior and resurrected many after his own death and resurrection.** - **Matthew 28:1-10** chronicles the discovery by Mary and Mary Magdalene of the resurrection of Jesus. **Matthew 27:50-53** indicates many were

resurrected by Jesus after his death. As Paul points out in **1 Corinthians 15:14** without this resurrection we would have no hope.

**6) He appeared to many and ascended into Heaven** – Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 15:5-7** that Jesus appeared to over 500 people after his death proving beyond a doubt his resurrection. **John 20:24 -31** and **Luke 24:50-53** chronicles his return to his disciples and his ascension into heaven, further proving Christ's resurrection and victory over Satan and death.

**7) Lives of the Disciples** - They go from hiding (**John 20:19**) to spreading the Holy Gospel with no regard or concern for their own lives. **Luke 24:51-53** describes the great joy the disciples had upon Jesus' resurrection and return. Only the miracle of Jesus Christ can turn 12 men hiding in fear into champions for Christ with a purpose so strong they had no regard for their own lives or personal safety.