

# Contend For the Faith

## Session 3: Smiting the Ass

**Numbers 22:32** *And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand (**oppose**) thee, because thy way (**path or course, conversation**) is perverse before me:***35** *And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. **34 AMP** Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me.*

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.**10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

One in Christ

SAVED BY GRACE: He does it all! We are Sanctified by God and preserved in Jesus!

Earnestly contend for the faith because the flesh creeps in unawares!

People who don't have a revelation of the truth speak evil things of the Spiritual things they don't understand. They speak things based on their carnal understanding that sounds good. They turn grace into works. They convert others to their way of thinking and everyone involved begins to experience the fruit of the false belief system.

**2Pe 2:10** But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. **2:12** But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed,

speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; **2:13** And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness

*This involves defying what God has spoken. Those that God calls Holy are criticized and called unholy-all based on what appears to be true in the flesh.*

We judge people according to the flesh. We neutralizing what God has spoken. We accuse one another. **We do what even angels don't dare to do!**

**2Peter 2:11** *Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.*

Through the deception of the flesh they have have a unknowingly abandoned the right way and have slipped into error. **Galatians 3:3**

**2 Peter 2:15** *Which have forsaken [abandon] the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;*

**Jude 1:11** *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

These false prophets have gone back to teaching the law and works, laying aside the *finished* work of the cross. Balaam's mission was to to pronounce a curse on those people that God had called blessed. Cain slew his righteous brother Abel. Core or Korah was guilty of gainsaying (disagreeing with the truth).

**Numbers 22:32 Balaam** *And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me:**35** And the angel of the LORD said unto*

*Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.*

**1 John 3:12 Cain** *Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

**Numbers 16:13 Korah** *Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness, but you must also make yourself a prince over us?*

**A false prophet** returns to the things of the law and calls unrighteous what God has called righteous, and defies God' Word.

### **James 3:8-10**

The teaching that puts the focus on man's works sounds good because it appeals to the flesh, but it is worthless because it brings those who were once set free by grace back under the bondage of the law and they are worse off than they were before.

**2 Peter 2:20** *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled [involved] therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. **21** For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. **Hebrews 6:1-6***

**Jude 1:17-19** Remember: This is going to happen. There will be false teachers who will turn the grace of God into works. Don't listen to them. You keep yourself in the love of God!

**Jude 1:20** *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your*

*most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, **21** Keep yourselves [guard from loss or injury] in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

**Hebrews 10:23** *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (**for he is faithful that promised;***

**Jud 1:24** *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy*

*What is the message we are presenting to the world?*

*Psalms **106:4** Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou hearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; **5** That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.*

*Are we reminding people of their sin or are we reminding people of the favor that God has towards them? Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world and promises them an inheritance. They just don't know that.*

**Colossians 4:6** *Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

*Grace always connects people to the power of God and takes the focus off of the flesh. Is your speech seasoned with grace or is it seasoned with accusation?*

**2Peter 1:12** *Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.*