FBS “One Hit Wonders: Beware of the False, Be Faithful to the Truth” 7-16-17

Joel Breidenbaugh (Jude)

**Intro.** (Walk up during Kriss Kross “Jump” song). The song “Jump” by Kriss Kross was one of the “One Hit Wonders” of the 1990s. Other “One Hit Wonders” from that decade include Vanilla Ice’s “Ice, Ice, Baby” (89-90), House of Pain’s “Jump Around” (92), Tag Team’s “Whoomp! (There It Is)” (93), Los Del Rio’s “Macarena” (93), Big Mountain’s “Baby, I Love Your Way” (94), Adam Sandler’s “Hannukah Song” (96) & just missing the 90s but still technically part of last century was Baha Men’s “Who Let the Dogs Out?” (2000). When we turn to the Bible, we find 5 single-chapter books, what I call “One Hit Wonders.” They are Obadiah, Paul, 2 John, 3 John & the one we look at today, Jude, on the topic “Beware of the False, Be Faithful to the Truth.”

Theme: Defending the Faith

Background: Many scholars believe this Jude was the ½ brother of Jesus—he doesn’t reference that to pull rank, but to highlight himself as the servant of Jesus Christ. He writes to believers (the called), beloved of God & kept for Jesus.

* Jude planned to write about their common salvation, but he learned some news about some false teachers & needed to write to warn them about the dangers of heresy while urging them to fight for the Christian faith
* How do we contend for the never-changing faith (3)?

**1. Beware of false teachers who twist God’s grace in Christ (4-16)**

* I’m not saying we have false teachers at Sweetwater, but it could happen—we certainly see some on television who should be avoided—Joel Osteen, Benny Hinn, Creflo Dollar—these all hold to a health, wealth, prosperity gospel; cult leaders also twist God’s grace, claiming you have to do certain things to gain favor with God

**a. The Lord Jesus judged sinners in the past (5-13)**

 **1) Great judgment came to unbelievers & the sexually immoral (5-7)**

* Jesus got credit for delivering Israel from Egypt, but He destroyed those who didn’t believe—they rejected God & Moses His servant & disobeyed
* Certain angels fell & sinned against humans, probably in reference to the “sons of God” and “daughters of men” of Genesis 6—the Lord has kept them in the lowest level of hell until the judgment
* Sodom & Gomorrah were known for sexual immorality through homosexuality & God rained down burning sulfur on them

Illus: We live in a society which has become very welcoming to the LGBT movement, often promoting it through the media. But God is clear about the definition of marriage as one man & one woman for life & He is clear that homosexual practices will be judged—it was judged in the past & will be judged again in the future

**2) Such sinners were judged because of their self-reliance & pride (8-11)**

* They lived as though they didn’t need God’s grace to save them, because they were self-reliant (their dreams) & didn’t need authority & defiled the flesh through immorality
* Even Michael the archangel would not blaspheme Satan in fighting over Moses’ body but looked to the Lord to do the rebuking
* But these sinners blaspheme what they don’t understand, because of their self-reliance & pride
* They walked in the way of Cain (rejecting God’s Word), followed Balaam’s error (seeking profit) & perished in Korah’s rebellion (in rising up against God’s leader Moses)

Illus: We take pride in our country & rightly so, because of what we stand for in freedom, but we must be careful to swallow our pride or we think we are self-reliant & rejecting of authority—whether that be a pastor or simply the Word of God. Instead, accept God’s authority & rely on His grace

 **3) These sinners were self-destructive (12-13)**

* Such dangerous heretics may bring others down with them, like a hidden reef
* They feed themselves but not others—they really only care about themselves
* They are waterless clouds, swept along by winds—they have nothing good to provide like a helpful rain but they make you think they are helpful
* They are like fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted—they aren’t fruitful when they should be, but they are really doubly dead, since they don’t have healthy roots in the true gospel of God’s grace
* They are like wild waves of the sea, producing a grimy foam—they not only lack good works, they are specialized in evil ones
* “wandering stars”—probably the idea of wandering planets—unreliable guides in travel & unreliable guides in pursuing the Lord

Illus: On July 13, 1801, the 112-gun Spanish warship *Real Carlos* exploded off of Gibraltar. 15 minutes later, so did its companion *San Hemenegildo*. But enemy fire was not to blame. Over a skirmish with the British a few days earlier, the French-Spanish alliance were trying to get back to safety in Spain. One British ship, the HMS *Superb*, slipped up beside them & fired & one of the cannon balls sailed over the *Real Carlos* & struck the *San Hemenegildo*. They thought a British ship got in between the two of them in the fog & opened fire. The *Real Carlos* fired back. Both ships destroyed each other, not realizing they were fighting on the same side (*Bad Days in History*, 251-53)—we might laugh at such mindless self-destruction, but it is all-too-common in churches where people begin attacking each other rather than the real enemy.

**b. The Lord Jesus will judge all the ungodly in the future (14-16)**

* Even before the Flood, Enoch prophesied of the coming judgment on all the ungodly—their ungodliness is underscored throughout the text (6x in vv. 4, 15, 18)
* Those who grumble & are not content bring ruin to themselves & those they influence—don’t follow them (vv. 17-19)

**2. Be faithful to the truth of the Triune God & His plan of salvation (17-25)**

* The Lord calls us to be faithful to our calling & to Him & what He’s done for us
* **Each Member of the Godhead has a role in salvation**

**a. God the Father preserves His own through grace & love (1, 21, 24-25)**

* God is able to keep His own, those He has called—He calls & keeps through grace & love—aren’t you thankful for the grace & love of God the Father?

**b. God the Son preserves through mercy toward eternal life (1-2, 21, 24-25)**

* Jesus Christ keeps His people & will show them mercy instead of judgment & that mercy will lead them to eternal life—aren’t you grateful for the mercy of Jesus?

**c. God the Spirit indwells believers & guides & grows them in the faith (19-20)**

* The false teachers were devoid of the Spirit, but believers are indwelt by Him & He helps believers pray (guiding them) & be built up (grow)—aren’t you thankful for the leadership of the Holy Spirit?

Illus: Mark Hatfield tells of touring Calcutta with Mother Teresa and visiting the so-called “House of Dying,” where sick children are cared for in their last days, and the dispensary, where the poor line up by the hundreds to receive medical attention. Watching Mother Teresa minister to these people, feeding and nursing those left by others to die, Hatfield was overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the suffering she and her co-workers face daily. “How can you bear the load without being crushed by it?” he asked. Mother Teresa replied, “My dear Senator, I am not called to be successful, I am called to be faithful” (sermonillustrations.com)—be faithful & leave the results to the Lord

**Conc.** We have noted several “One Hit Wonders” from the music industry over the last few weeks (it’s hard to say if singers from this century will be 1-hit wonders, but so far some have categorized the American Authors’ “Best Day of My Life” [2014] & Walk the Moon’s “Shut Up & Dance” [2015] as “One Hit Wonders) & we have looked at some “One Hit Wonders” in Scripture—single-chapter books which pack a powerful message. The fact of the matter is the vast majority of us will never have a “One Hit Wonder” of any kind—song, book, movie, invention—we will never be known by millions of people, but that’s okay. We have the privilege of serving the Lord Jesus Christ, who was no “One Hit Wonder.” He performed wonder after wonder & capped them all off by dying on a cross for our sins & rising from the dead. He is the long-awaited Messiah. He is the Lord of all. He is the Son of God. And while many listening have already surrendered to Him & must continually rely on His grace & accept His authority & be faithful to Him, some of you have yet to do so. Will you turn from your sins & trust in Him?