

TOPIC The Unchanging Call

THEME Contending for Your Faith

SPEAKERDSP Chua Seng LeeDATE15 & 16 Sep 2018

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In contending for our faith, the book of Jude gives us some handles to understand:

- 1. **The Unnoticed Compromise** (v1-7) of unbelief, rebellion and sexuality immorality that exists in the carnal/bargaining/controlling (vs mature) Christian
- 2. The Unheard Corruption (v8-16) where bad theology results in bad behaviour
- 3. The Unchanging Call (this week's sermon)
- 4. The Ultimate Comfort (next week's sermon)

As God's beloved (v1,3,17,20), we are called and kept for Jesus through an unchanging call, such that while we appear the same on the outside, we are to be different.

BE DIFFERENT

We heed the unchanging call to be different as such:

1. REMEMBER THE WARNING (v.17-19) -> BE <u>PREPARED</u>

Mockers who follow their own *lusts* rather than God's *love*, are worldly-*mind*ed and devoid of the *Spirit*. They who focus on *precision* rather than the *Person* of Truth, are already in our midst but may not be easy to recognise. We need therefore to be discerning based on their fruit.

The church is not "safe place", but it is supposed to be a "saving place", as it is full of sinners who bring our sinfulness in. Therefore, we need to *not* be influenced into being divisive, worldly or devoid of the Spirit.

2. RETURN TO THE BASICS (v.20-21) -> BE <u>PERFECTED</u>

Your response to the Word determines the outcome of your life.

How? Action to Take	Counters	Implications
1) Build up on our most holy faith (1 Kgs 18:30) Hear and act on the Word of God such that when calamity comes, we will not fall as our foundation is on the Rock instead of sand (Mt 7:24-27)	Compromise & corruption	The self must die

2) Pray in the Spirit (Eph 6:18) Trust God for the Holy Spirit and have the Truth guide our prayers (Rom 8:15,26)	No spirit (devoid of the Spirit)	The Spirit must lead – as the first recourse, not the last resort
3) Keep in the Love of God (Jn 15:10) Love God, not the world (1 Jn 2:15, 4:19)	Lust & sensuality (worldly)	The Saviour's love must be kept
4) Wait for God's mercy and eternal life Humble ourselves before God, acknowledging Christ in our victories and challenges	Pride (divisive)	The Salvation must be in Christ

CONCLUSION

We are called to be different – a different kind of disciple. To do so, we have to be both prepared and perfected.

Do we *dare* to be different?

QUESTIONS

1. How would you rate yourself in terms of heavenly vs earthly mindedness, and why?

2. What is one way you can (continue to) be perfected? Which of the 4 action steps do you find the most challenging?

3. How different are you as a disciple of God? What is a recent issue that God is calling your attention to, to respond and arise in?