

SHORT & SWEET

Letters To The Early Church



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JUNE 22, 2025



SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

How to Contend for the Faith in a Culture of Compromise

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Jude 20-21

How to contend for the faith...

- Watch out: Scoffers will tempt you. (vv. 17-19)
- Live loved: Jesus is for you. (vv. 20-21)
- Show mercy: Some will hear you. (vv. 22-23)
- Trust God: He will guard you. (vv. 24-25)

We keep ourselves in the love of God by...

... building
... praying
... waiting

To whom do we show mercy?

- Doubters
- Seekers
- Tempters

JUNE MEMORY VERSE

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. -Hebrews 13:8

CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND TEACHINGS

1. Orthodox Doctrine Alignment – Does their teaching consistently align with historic creeds, catechisms, and our church’s statement of faith?
2. Scripture-Based, Not Speculative – Do they base their teachings solely on Scripture, avoiding claims of secret knowledge, novel interpretations, or personal prophetic declarations like “God has said to me...” that elevate their own authority over Scripture?
3. A Theology of Suffering – Do they preach the whole counsel of God, addressing all aspects of Scripture—including suffering—rather than selectively focusing on health, wealth, or personal success?
4. Rejection of the Prosperity Gospel – Do they reject the prosperity gospel, emphasizing grace, spiritual growth, and endurance over material wealth or physical well-being?
5. Financial Integrity – Is the teacher’s ministry free from excessive personal wealth accumulation, avoiding signs of extravagant financial gain?
6. Support for the Local Church – Do they affirm and support the importance and authority of the local church in guiding and discipling believers?
7. Embodied, Transparent Leadership – Is this teacher a real, embodied leader—someone I can see, hear, and connect with in real life, rather than just a YouTube, Instagram, or TV personality? Do I know who has influenced them, and can I verify where they received their training?

Suggested Resources:

Study Bibles

ESV Study Bible.

NLT Study Bible

The NET Bible, Full Notes Edition

Systematic Theologies

Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem

Christian Theology, Millard Erickson

Systematic Theology, John Frame

Commentaries

New Bible Commentary, 21st Century Edition, Wenham, Motyer, Carson, and France

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible

New International Bible Commentary, F. F. Bruce

CVC's Curated Resources at 10 of Those

<https://us.10ofthose.com/partners/cvconline>