**Contending for the Faith**

 **And Our Allegiance to God**

A Brief Commentary

by

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 **And Our Allegiance to God**

As born again Christians, we become part of the family of God. Therefore, our allegiance should be to our new family, and no longer to the things of this world.

*Romans 8.14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint‑heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Adoption is accomplished when the Holy Spirit places us in the Body of Christ, at the time of our salvation. Then, **God is our Father,** and we are His heirs, and Joint heirs with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: last part of verse 17 *“...if so be that we suffer with Him, that we be also glorified together.”*

(THAT being **EXPECTED** that we suffer with Him.) In order That we may share in His Glory hereafter. How could we share in His Glory if we did no suffering? When our **allegiance** is to **CHRIST**, we **will** **suffer wrong** because the world will hate us.

The world will hate us because we have **given up** our Allegiance to this sinful world, and yet we still remain in it. Our allegiance is now to God and our heavenly home. But God does not expect us to sit idly by while sin runs rampant all around us, and while the unsaved blaspheme our Lord.

Hebrews 12:1 tells us to *"...Run with patience the race that is set before us".*

Revelation 3:2 tells us to *“be Watchful,...”*

And Jude Verse 3 to ***“...earnestly contend for the faith...”***

In John 17:14-16 Referring to the saved, we read **the words of our Lord, as He prays to His Father in Heaven:**

*“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because* ***they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.******I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*** *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”*

**This is part of that precious prayer of Our Lord to The Father in Heaven.** (Read the entire 17th chapter of the Gospel of John.)

Note Verse 16 above: *“****They are not of this world*** *even as I am not of this world.”*

Also the last part of verse 14 says the same thing. **In verse 15 He asks The Father not to take them out of this world.**  We **were** of this world, indulging in all the sins of this world. Now that we are saved, we are no longer **of** this world.

We have in that sense **disavowed our Allegiance to this World**, and now have given our **Allegiance to GOD.**

Our HOME is no longer here, **we are now just pilgrims passing through**.

Our **allegiance** is no longer here. Certainly the World **HATES** us.

The **cry** of this world is, GO HOME, LEAVE US ALONE, your allegiance is in another place, you don’t belong here, you have turned from us, go away and leave us to do as we please.

A few years ago in Japan the cry was **Yankee go home.** We had defeated them in war, and our allegiance was not to them, but to our own country and they did not want us there.

In our Christian School the kids pledge Allegiance to **The Bible, God's Holy Word**. **God's Word means something to those kids.**

BUT it really doesn't mean anything if we don't obey it. Many times our Allegiance to God requires us to **“Contend for the Faith.”**

*Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly* ***contend for the faith*** *which was once delivered unto the saints.*

We must contend for the faith because the world, under Satin’s rule is trying to destroy anything good, anything that relates to God.

Many Patriotic Americans have died for their Country. and many others were willing to do so if necessary.

All will remember the Cry of **Patrick Henry** (Then Governor of Virginia) **"As for me give me liberty, or give me death."** His allegiance was no longer to England, but to the new Colonies of America.

**Nathan Hale**: As he was being hung by the British cried out: **“I can only regret that I have but ONE life to give for my Country.”**

**John Paul Jones**: When his ship was sinking and he was called upon to surrender, he said **"I have not yet begun to fight."** He lost his ship, but captured the British ship and won the battle, a very decisive victory in our war for independence.

Did you know? Our **Christian forefathers** were some of the most influential and most courageous fighters of our war for independence.

Did you know? Rhode Island (founded by roger Williams, a Puritan, who became a Baptist in 1639) withdrew and declared their independence from Great Britain on May 4, 1776, two months before the rest of the Colonies?

Did you know? Baptists had to **Contend for their right to exist as a Church** before that war, and they, the Baptists, made it a condition of their fight for independence, **that all faiths,** including Baptists, should have full liberty to preach the Gospel. They wanted a free country in which to worship, but their allegiance was to God. So for them, it was necessary to **“contend for the faith.”**

Did you know? Prior to that time it was deemed unlawful for a Baptist preacher to preach the Gospel. Yet Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians , could start a Church and then all the people including the Baptists were taxed to support it. This was the same type of system they had left England to escape. Many Baptist preachers were jailed for preaching and when jailed, they preached from the jail windows as John Bunyan did in England. In some cases the government built walls around those prisons so those outside couldn't hear the preaching of the Gospel and get saved.

**Those men had to “contend for the faith.” Those men knew how to stand for what they believed. They had given their allegiance to God.**

Today there are many sound Churches of many denominations who also have to contend for the Faith in order to preach, because evolutionists, and other atheists are making their voices heard.

**Are we as Christians really contending for the Faith here?** Is our allegiance really to God?

What do we mean Contend? To Contend is to **Stand, and To Stand does not mean stand still,** but to **stand firm**, and that takes action. It means being on the offense. Any military leader will tell you the best defense is a good offense.

**What must we do?**

We must let our voice be heard. We must preach the Word of God no matter what the cost. **We must stand for the truth.**

**Lets look at what it means to stand:**

**Noah** was 120 years building the Ark, and all that time he was preaching God’s Word among those who would ridicule, and blaspheme.

**Moses** stood against Pharaoh, to deliver God's people:

*Hebrews 11:25,26 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*

**Joshua & Caleb**, after spying out the land made an honest report and the people wanted to stone them. *Numbers 13:30-14:10*

**Gideon,** found it necessary to contend, when God called him to destroy the false idols of his neighbors*(Judges 6:24-30.)* But his allegiance was to God, and he followed God’s direction, even though the men of the city wanted to kill him for it

**Daniel,** continued his practice of prayer to God, even though the King had signed a decree forbidding it, and as a result was cast into a den of lions.

**John Baptist,** stood before King Herod and confronted him with his sin, for which he was beheaded.

**Paul,** confronted the silversmiths of Ephesus when he spoke out opposing the goddess Diana who the people were worshiping (Acts 19). As a result the people sought his life.

**Apostle John** was tortured (boiled in oil) and exiled for the Word of God.

Many others were beaten, many suffered, many died.

**BUT THEIR ALLEGIANCE WAS TO GOD**.

They knew what it was to CONTEND FOR THE FAITH.

They knew what it was to SUFFER WITH CHRIST.

And they know what it means to BE GLORIFIED WITH HIM.

First do you know HIM? **Is your allegiance to HIM?**

Have you really Suffered with and for HIM?

**If you have,** then you know a little of the GLORY of **serving GOD.**

**If not,** you have **missed BLESSINGS** and perhaps missed salvation.

*Romans 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Don't miss out. Make sure of your salvation, then make sure where your Allegiance is.

Make sure you are “Contending for the Faith.”

God knows the trials we must face, and He uses them to make us stronger.

**In Conclusion:** “Contending for the faith” **does not mean**, working for our salvation, but rather it means standing true to God, after we are saved. It means giving our allegiance to God. And God even gives us the strength to do this.

*Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer*.

*Psalm 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.*

We have a Wonderful GOD to serve, and He blesses us even in our trials.

**And He promises never to leave us or forsake us.**