

CREEP CHARACTERISTICS

Jude 11-13

A church creep follows wicked men and becomes proficient at wicked works

I. CREEPS ARE NOTORIOUS: “They have gone ...” (11)

- Their decision is to travel the way of other notorious apostates

A. IN THE WAY OF CAIN: *Defiance* - Gen. 4:3-7

1. He was not careful about his worship (3-4)
2. He did not care about God’s approval (5)
3. He demonstrated stubbornness with God (7, 16)
4. He was overcome by a hateful and murderous spirit of envy (8)
5. Apostates follow the exact same course

B. IN THE ERROR OF BALAAM: *Greed* - Num. 22:7-17

1. He wandered off the right path and led others astray - See Rev. 2:14
2. He was covetous and disobedient to God’s command - See Num. 22:12, 21-22
- He loved the wages of wickedness - II Peter 2:15
3. He gave wicked council whereby Israel would sin - See Num. 31:16 with 25:1-6
4. Apostates like this plunge into the pit of degradation.
- Exp: Judas Iscariot in Mt. 26:20-25

C. IN THE REBELLION OF KORAH: *Insubordination* - Num. 16

1. He promoted discontent against the God-appointed leadership (2)
2. He sought to usurp the spiritual authority of Moses and Aaron’s family (1-3)
3. His followers disrespected Moses’ summons (12)
4. His crew brought false accusations against Moses (13-14)
5. He was swallowed by the earth (31-33) and his 250 other followers were destroyed by fire (35)
6. Apostates like this are as good as dead!

D. NOTE: GODLESS MEN LIKE THESE HAD COME INTO THE CHURCH

1. They are bent on recruiting followers
2. They are determined to defy God’s work
3. They declare a man-centered religion
 - a. Cain: Do your own thing!
 - b. Balaam: Get what you can!
 - c. Korah: Be your own boss!

II. CREEPS ARE DESPICABLE: “These are the men who are ...” (12-13)

- Their depravity is vividly pictured in metaphors from nature

A. HIDDEN REEFS: Dangerous (12a)

1. They have no fear of being squatters on God’s sacred ground
2. They serve only themselves – selfish shepherds - cf. Ez. 34 (esp. vs. 2, 8, 10)

B. RAINLESS CLOUDS: Deceptive (12b)

1. They are worthless
2. They are directionless: Carried along

C. FRUITLESS TREES: Disappointing (12c)

1. They are doubly dead: Fruitless and rootless
2. They are judged: A wise farmer destroys this kind - cf. Mt. 7:15-20
3. They are useless: Failing to fulfill their purpose

D. RAGING WAVES: Degraded (13a)

1. They are unruly - Going everywhere and nowhere at the same time
2. They are impure - Foaming their shamefulness; bringing pollution to the surface – Is. 57:20
- They spoil and soil rather than beautify or edify

E. WANDERING STARS: Doomed (13b)

1. Unpredictable and un-chartable
2. They become engulfed in darkness

III. CREEPS ARE CONDEMNED: “WOE” (11a)

- They are marked men

A. AN INTERJECTION [“ouai” literally – they have poured themselves out]

1. Expressing grief or lament - Luke 21:23
2. Expressing judgment - Matt. 11:21 and Matt. 23
3. Expressing alarm - Rev. 12:12 and 18:20
4. Expressing action - I Cor. 16:22 and Gal. 1:8-9

B. OUR INSTRUCTION

1. God is not surprised or passive about these creeps
2. The godly are made aware of their presence

CONCLUSION:

We must be careful about creepy and worldly philosophies that seek to deceive us!

- See Colossians 2:6-8

Let us be: Walking in Christ (6), firmly rooted in our faith (7) and free from deception (8)

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