*Saturday, September 5, 2009*

**Earnestly Contend**

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. (KJV)

Jude 1:3

[When I gave all diligence] This phrase, pasan (NT:3956) spoudeen (NT:4710) poioumenos (NT:4160), is a Grecism for being exceedingly intent upon a subject; taking it up seriously with determination to bring it to good effect. The meaning of the apostle seems to be this: "Beloved brethren, when I saw it necessary to write to you concerning the common salvation, my mind being deeply affected with the dangers to which the church is exposed from the false teachers that are gone out into the world, I found it extremely necessary to write and exhort you to hold fast the truth which you had received, and strenuously to contend for that only faith which, by our Lord and his apostles, has been delivered to the Christians." (from Adam Clarke's Commentary)

Strong’s definition for ‘contend’:

NT 1864 epagonizomai (ep-ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee); from NT:1909 and NT:75; to struggle for: KJV - earnestly contend foreign

Hebrews 12:3-4 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (4) Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. (KJV)

Consider our Lord Jesus Christ and all that He did to earnestly contend for the faith and lay hold on eternal life. He did not let it go but He fought the good fight of faith and received His crown of glory and is seated at the right hand of our Father. He is the forerunner who made the way, by giving us the truth that sets us free and keeps us free, giving us life and life more abundantly.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (KJV)

So fight, earnestly contend; keep the faith.