

“Keep yourselves in God’s love”

INTRODUCTION:

1. Read Jude 20-25
2. Jude was half brother to Jesus and full brother to James. Mary and Joseph were his parents. His other siblings are named in Mark 6:3; They did not believe in Jesus until after the crucifixion, John 7:2-5. Acts 1:13-14.
3. James and Jude however were raised by Jesus; their Father Joseph is not mentioned after Jesus turned 12 (Luke 2:41-52). As the eldest boy, the children were his responsibility. They were taught by Jesus all their lives; the apostles had three years of direct teaching.
4. We should not therefore be surprised that the epistles of James and Jude are very practical in nature. Listen carefully to their writings and you’ll hear the voice of Jesus.
5. It is this voice we hear in the selected verses of our lesson. Jesus stresses individual responsibility.
  - a. Jude tells us what to do – contend for the faith, vs. 3
  - b. Jesus tells us how to be successful at it, “Keep yourselves in the love of God.”
6. Neither Jude or myself is advocating that the responsibility involved is any way related to working for one’s salvation. That cannot be done, Eph. 2:8,10;
7. The lesson is about living out the salvation we receive in Christ Jesus. A salvation or lifestyle that the Holy Spirit says must be lived out. Eph. 2:10; Eph. 4:11-12;
8. We entertain this lesson because Jesus wants each of us to be recipients of His grace and to inherit the riches of His glory.
9. Jude gives three things we must do:
  - a. Stay alert by remembering and properly identifying the enemy, v. 17
  - b. Keep yourselves in the love of God, v. 21
  - c. Show mercy to doubters, v. 22

Discussion: Let us now look in greater detail at these points--

- I. Stay alert by remembering and properly identifying the enemy, v. 17
  1. Remember – you were forewarned by the apostles
    - a. Why? The grace of God was being used as a cloak for license, Rom. 6:1;
    - b. Knowledge of God as a substitute for obedience, I John 2:4-5.
    - c. Warnings from the apostles, I Tim. 4:1-6.
  2. Ungodly persons can be identified
    - a. They are scoffers
      - i. Peter – the judgment will not happen 2 Pet. 3:2-
      - ii. The resurrection will not happen.
      - iii. They scoff at the virgin birth; the miracles of Jesus.
    - b. They live by sight not by faith; they are carnal. 2 Cor. 5:7
    - c. They divide Churches; I Cor. 1:10.
- II. Keep yourselves in the love of God
  1. Build up yourself in the holy faith.

- a. The holy faith is that of vs. 3 – the body of teaching left by Jesus and the apostles, Acts 2:42; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 John 9.
- b. How do we build ourselves up?
  - i. Grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. 2 Pet. 3:17-18;
  - ii. 2 Pet. 1:5-8.
- 2. Pray in the Holy Spirit
  - a. We must be a praying people, I Thess. 5:16-18.
  - b. The Spirit aids our prayers, Rom. 8:26-27.
  - c. Our battle is spiritual; requires spiritual weaponry. 2 Cor. 10:3-5
- 3. Wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a. I Cor. 15:58
  - b. Gal. 6:9
  - c. John 14:1-3.
  - d. He brings us into eternal life, the eternal victory of our Lord.

### III. Show mercy to doubters

- 1. Hate the sin, love the sinner. Gal. 6:1
- 2. A loving approach; a carefully thought out Christian position, Eph. 4:15.

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Jude's epistle is an exhortation for us to contend/stand up and defend the faith, that is the teachings of Jesus Christ. He ensures however that we know how to defend the faith in a Christ like manner. To do this he says:
  - (1) Remember the warnings of the apostles so as to indentify the enemy.
  - (2) Keep yourselves in the love of God.
  - (3) Show mercy to others.
- 2. Are you in the faith that Jude speaks about? To get into that faith, we must—
  - (1) Believe in Christ
  - (2) Repent of our sins
  - (3) Confess our faith in Christ Jesus
  - (4) Be baptized/immersed into Christ for the remission of sins.