

Jude: Kept By His Power
2024-05-05

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Like Jude, God **changed the original** purpose of this sermon (to celebrate salvation) **to deal with heresy** (See note at end: Evangelical Deconstruction).

- The **Lord will keep you by His power** during **times of apostasy and heresy**.

Jude, the author, is the **brother of James** and **half-brother** of Jesus.... This book was written around **69-80 AD**.

- This book was **not written** to a **particular individual or church**, and includes the **same themes** as **2 Peter**:
 - **To expose** and warn of **false** teaching, and **encourage** Christians **stand firm**. See outline at the end.

Peter states false teachers are **coming**, **Jude** states that they're **already here**.
Jude 3-4, 2 Peter 2:1, 3:3

- The Scripture "**once for all delivered**" pertains to the belief **doctrine content** of Christian **faith** is **finished, nothing needs to be added**.
- **False teachers pervert** and distort the **grace** of God. "**Jesus paid for sins! Feel free to sin!**"

Their **false teaching** or **sinful lifestyle** may **not** be **evident initially**, but it **eventually reveals** itself. Jude 4b, 8, 16-19, Matthew 7:15-16

- **False teacher's doctrine** often claims **special knowledge** or interpretation that is **different** from **orthodoxy**.
 - **They reject the authority** of **Scripture** and **past or present Christian leaders and theologians**.
 - They claim **some sin not sin!** Homosexuality is a good example.
 - And eventually **attack Jesus'** person and work.
- **Morally**, false teachers **distort grace** and claim Christians have freedom **live** any way they **want**.
 - They live by **old sin and passions**. 1 John 1:6, John 14:15, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Sin wasn't meant to be a **part** of our **lives**. Sin **entered** at the **fall**.

- **Jesus came** bring us **back to true fellowship with God**, like before the fall, and **gave us the Holy Spirit** to help **fight sin** and **live a life pleasing and honoring to God**...it's **how we're made to live**.
 - **Not free to sin** but free to **not to sin**.

False teachers are **destructive**, selfish, have **nothing** of **eternal value** to offer!
Jude 12-13

- They claim be Christians yet think and live ungodly.... Jude uses the word **ungodly** 5 times. Ungodly is only **12 times in the whole New Testament**

All are called to "contend" These words are **not written** to the pastor but to all who are "called". Jude 1, 22-23, Romans 2:4

- The Greek meaning of "contend" is to **fight** or struggle **intensely**.
 - Stand for "the faith" **even if** standing **offends or upsets** some.
 - Speak **truth** but do it **in love**.... Jesus' **honor is at stake!**

Be godly and **love** those who are **deceived**... **doubt** but do **not** yet **join false teachers**.

- **Encourage, do not criticize** doubters. **Build them up, do not tear them down**.
 - **The Devil is the enemy, not the person.** John 8:44b, Ephesians 6:12, 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - **Many** are deceived **like Paul was**...as he was killing Christians, Paul **believed he was honoring God**.
- **Be CAREFUL, many would-be rescuers are drowned themselves**.
 - **Personal** experience.... **pull off chair!**

There are **four ways listed to protect** yourself and **prepare** to contend: Jude 20-21, Romans 8:27-28

1. **Fight lies with truth and build** yourself **up** in the **doctrine** of Christian **faith**.
2. **PRAY** in the **Holy Spirit**, **not in tongues**, but **according to Scripture**.
3. **Keep hope alive and wait anxiously** for Jesus' **second coming**.
4. **Keep yourself** in the unconditional **love of God**. **Abide** in Jesus Christ.

knowledge of God's call, JC unconditional **love** & His **keeping** you by His power **brings assurance/peace** in **times of apostasy/heresy**. Matthew 24:24, Jude 1-2, 24-25

- **Jude returns to original intent** of the letter.... Reminding us of the **greatness of Jesus Christ**.
 - **Keep hope not in your ability** to **fight falsehood**, but in the **Lord**.
 - **You are kept** by the **power** of our glorious, majestic, omnipotent **Savior!**

Faith/Evangelical Deconstruction:

A postmodern process of rethinking your faith without regarding Scripture as the standard. *It can lead to the conviction that certain orthodox Christian beliefs must be adapted or altered.*

Outline of Jude:

- 1-2 GREETING
- 3-4 PURPOSE FOR LETTER
- 5-19 DANGER OF FALSE TEACHERS
 - 5-7 God's Past Judgment of False Teachers

8-13 How to Detect a False Teacher
14-19 God's Future Judgment of False Teachers
20-23 HOW TO DEAL WITH FALSE TEACHERS
24-25 DOXOLOGY