

Review

Vs. 1-8 Warns about false teachers w/ Historical examples

Vs. 8-16 Jude describes ungodly actions, what motivates them, why do they teach false doctrine.

Vs. 17-25 Jude is going to address his audience of believers.

I. Jude Reminds Believers That False Teachers, Ungodly are Nothing New

Read 17-19

Vs. 17 **“But You.....”** A shift in attention

- Vs. 4 **“certain persons”**, **“Those** who were marked”
- Vs. 7 **“in the same way as these”**
- Vs. 8 **“In the same manner as these men”**
- Vs. 10 **“these men”**
- Vs. 11 **“woe to them...they have strayed”**, **“they** have rushed into the ways of Balaam”
- Vs. 12 **“these men”**
- Vs. 14 **“about these men Enoch prophesied”**
- Vs. 16 **“these are grumblers finding fault”**, **“they** speak arrogantly”

Vs. 17 **“You ought to remember”** This is NOT “hey friendly little reminder”

- **YOU MUST** remember what the apostles spoke beforehand.
- Jude also uses this as a contrast to the ungodly.
- Ungodly don’t know or understand the prophecies. **You** are expected to recall these.

Jude’s Reminder is Akin to His Statement in Vs. 5 “You Know This But I’ll Remind You”

Matthew 24 (misc. verses) Acts 20:28-32 II Peter 2:1 I John 4:1-2

Vs. 18 **“In the last times”** What is Jude referring to here?

- Almost all Bible version translates this the same way. “Last Times”
- It simply means in the time leading up to Christ’s return.

Jude Describes These Ungodly Men “These Are the Ones Who Cause Divisions & Chaos”

Vs. 19 **“These are the ones who cause divisions.....”**

- Greek word used for division = to divide off and separate, or make distinction
- Only used once here in the New Testament

In Other Words – The Agenda Is to Purposefully Separate & Make Distinctions

- Every false teacher sets himself up as wiser for discovering this mysterious truth never seen
- Every false teacher sets himself up as holier for getting new revelation from God.
- The very nature of cults is exclusivity & separation from those who “don’t have it”

Jude Gives 2 Reasons for WHY These Men Cause Divisions

1st Reason = **“they are worldly minded”**

James 3:13-16 They rely on the wisdom of men, not Godly wisdom.

2nd Reason = **“devoid of God’s Spirit”**

Col. 3:1-3 Not fixed on things above because they are not saved IN CHRIST

They Do Not Have God’s Holy Spirit In Them Because They Are NOT In Christ.

- Jesus promised that he would not leave us alone, he would send the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin
- The Holy Spirit gives us understanding of God’s wisdom
- The Holy Spirit intercedes and prays for us
- The Holy Spirit also brings unity to the Body of Christ.

Jude NOT Referring to Christians In Disagreement & Trying to Correctly Handle Word of God

- Vs. 19 **“devoid of the Spirit”** literally meaning they are without God’s Holy Spirit.
- **I John 2:18-19** This is a clear distinction that these are not believers.

II. Jude Gives Instructions to Believers In Light of the Ungodly

Read 20-23

Instruction #1

Vs. 20 *“But you, beloved,.....keep praying”*

- What a contrast!!! Jude immediately identifies believers as those **with Holy Spirit**

Jude Uses The Activity of Believers As His Descriptor/Identifier of Them

Vs. 20-21 *“....You beloved, who are building yourselves up on your most holy faith”*

- Jude is actually using the action of building as a participle that describes these believers
- He’s addressing them as “you people who already do this, keep praying & waiting on God”

“Building Yourselves Up”, “Praying” Are Descriptive & Somewhat Secondary to Jude’s Command

- Vs. 21 **Primary Command** is *“Keep yourselves in God’s love by waiting on Jesus.”*
- Vs. 21 **Keep** = Guard, protect, yourselves in the love of God by waiting anxiously on Jesus Christ
 - Vs. 1 (perfect passive) God is the One Who keeps us for Jesus & will never let us go.
 - Vs. 21 (active command) to guard God’s love by rejecting false teaching.

Instructions #2, #3, #4

Vs. 22-23

Instruction #2

- Vs. 22 *“have mercy on some who are doubting”*
 - Vs. 21 Notice the *“mercy”* believers have in Christ Jesus
 - Jude says that our response to those who are struggling should be the same as Jesus’ mercy for us
 - We should have mercy & compassion on those who are doubting.
 - Come alongside these people who are questioning this false teaching.

Instruction #3

- Vs. 23a *“save others, by rescuing them from fire”*
 - Jude doesn’t describe these people beyond fire
 - We can infer from context that it is a greater level of commitment to false teaching
 - These are not just doubting but have probably bought in & embraced bad theology.
- Jude is not implying that we are responsible for their eternal salvation – this is always God.
- Jude is saying that we are commanded to play a role in their rescue.
 - James 5:19 *“Anyone who turns a sinner back to truth and away from the error of his ways will save his soul from death.”*

Instruction #4

- Vs. 23b *“have mercy with fear, even hating the garment polluted by flesh”*
 - Jude’s main caution here is the danger this person has for influence.
 - From the context this is obviously a very committed person to apostate-like teaching
 - We should have mercy & love for them just as Christ loved us while we were sinners BUT..... we must despise the activities of the flesh.

Illustration: Rob Bell doctrine no eternal condemnation. We feel for him, but its corrupt thinking

III. Jude's Closing of His Letter

Read 24-25

1. Jude Ends His Book Similar to the Way He Began It Addressing Believers

- This is a beautiful statement as a bookend to how Jude began.
- Vs.1 ***"To those who are called, beloved in God, & kept for Jesus Christ."***
 - **"Keep"** slightly different variation because it refers to the act of stumbling
 - God is able to preserve us in such a way that we are presented blameless before Him
- **II Corinthians 5:21 The great exchange**
 - Jesus became my sin, & I became his righteousness
 - My sin did not disappear. He took it and assumed it on my behalf.
 - My righteousness that I gained was not earned by me. It was given to me.
- ONLY God can transact this and preserve it until they day we see him face to face.

2. Jude Praises God By Contrasting The Exact Qualities That the Ungodly Deny & Reject

- Vs. 25 ***"to the ONLY God our Savior, Through Jesus Christ our Lord, be majesty, dominion, & authority before all time and now & forever. Amen"***

Jude Highlights The Very Things The Ungodly Reject

- Vs. 4 ***"These men deny our only master & Lord Jesus Christ"***.
 - Vs.25 ***"to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord"***
- Vs. 8 ***".....these men defile the flesh, reject authority, & revile angelic majesties"***
 - Vs. 25 ***"to Christ be majesty, dominion and authority. Before all time and now and forever. Amen"***

Conclusion

1. We are to guard our faith. We do this by remaining in the Word of God and continueally checking and evaluating what we hear against the Word of God. The more we leave our Bibles at home the weaker we become in dfending and/or recognizing truth.
2. We re to be continually praying. Paul tells us in Romans that there will be times when we don't even know what we should pray. The Holy Spirit promises to give us understanding. The Holy Spirit's assignment in our lives is to convict and align our will with God's will.
3. We should be on guard against false teaching & when we recognize individuals who are struggling we are expected to come alongside them just as Christ did for us when we were ignorant. Our mercy for such people must be rooted in the mercy we have been extended.
4. We must also exhibit wisdom & discernment as to who we are dealing with. Do we risk a danger of being influenced by such a strong committed individual advocating false doctrine?