

1) Moving on then to the final section of Jude’s letter...

**Jude 17–19 (NASB 2020)**

**Keep Yourselves in the Love of God**

<sup>17</sup> But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>18</sup> that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” <sup>19</sup> These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

2) Jude now brings the word of the Lord himself to describe these false teachers.

- a) In doing so, he quotes the “apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ”.
- b) There is an authority here that I think must have been universal in the early church.
- c) Paul lays this out clearly in his letter to the Ephesians...

**Ephesians 2:19–22 (NASB 2020)**

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

- d) As time progressed toward the canonization of our scripture, the idea of apostolic authorship became one of the primary considerations
    - i) The question became, was the writing in question written by or under the auspices of one of the apostles.
  - e) So, all that is to say that when Jude makes this statement, it definitely has weight far beyond anything else he could have said.
- 3) He concludes here in vs. 19 by saying simply what Jesus through the apostles had described in that quote were the very people he was describing.
- a) He does level one more additional charge against them – they were “devoid of the Spirit”.
  - b) When we think about anyone who is truly to be considered a false teacher, I personally think this is a true statement.
  - c) One who has the Holy Spirit and is trying to live under His power could not intentionally go against the teachings of our Lord.

**Agree / Disagree?**

- 4) At this point, Jude has done all he can with his words to get these folks to see who these false teachers are, how to recognize them and the seriousness of allowing them to continue to teach and infiltrate their numbers.
- 5) He now concludes with words of encouragement – ideas that will help them in their fight against these false teachers.

**Jude 20–23 (NASB 2020)**

<sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, looking forward to the mercy of

our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And have mercy on some, who are doubting; <sup>23</sup> save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

- 6) Jude began this letter with the intention of discussing “the salvation we share”. He obviously is vectored off to a more pressing matter “urging them to contend for the faith”.
- 7) He has, as clearly as possible, described those who are teaching falsely who have infiltrated this church or churches and as such are the reason for their having to “contend for the faith”.
- 8) He has equally well described their intent – the corruption of the very foundation of their faith – the teachings of our Lord through the apostles.
- 9) So, looking at this short letter, what are some things that we might take away from it?
  - a) The whole idea of detecting false teachings in the first century was probably more difficult than in our churches today.
    - i) We have the complete New Testament that they did not have.
    - ii) We have an inherent maturity that they did not have both in areas of leadership and our own knowledge.
  - b) Today, we have other things that make the process of contending for the faith in light of false teachings difficult.
    - i) Complacency – taking scripture for granted and not being as grounded in it as perhaps we should.
      - (1) Perhaps not considering it as important as we should.
    - ii) The society of the first century was a problem. However, I am not sure that it was as invasive as today’s societal norms are to us.
      - (1) We are bombarded by commercials, videos, news, and so much more that in many cases tempt us to believe wrongly about how we should live.
    - iii) In a different area all together, I personally feel that in some (not necessarily all) instances, we are being burdened by traditions which, though not necessarily bad in themselves, are detrimental to our efforts to spot false teachings.
      - (1) Separating “traditions” from “false teachings” is sometimes very difficult.
        - (a) In some cases, the “tradition” is based on a single, dare I say, out of context scripture that appears to be perfectly correct.
        - (b) But when taken in context we find them not so “cut and dried”.
    - iv) There are probably many other details we could share about the difference between us and our first-century brothers and sisters.
    - v) However, Jude gives us and his original readers the absolute most solid methods for dealing with false teachings whatever their source.
- 10) Beginning in verse 20, he says “... **building yourselves up on your most holy faith.**”
  - a) Faith of course being that body of doctrine which Christians have believed from the earliest days of the church.
    - i) We have in our hands everything we as individuals and/or congregations need to refute and expose any and all false teachings – we must only know it well enough to do so.
    - ii) This is what I think he means by “building yourselves up.”

- b) He continues by saying “**pray in the Holy Spirit.**”
  - i) We must always depend on the strength of the Holy Spirit in us and in our congregations to help us see the truth.
  - ii) This was a promise to the first apostles and to us today.
- c) Moving on to verse 21, Jude says “**keep yourselves in the love of God.**”
  - i) Jesus made this point clear in ...

***John 15:9–10 (NASB 2020)***

***<sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.***

- ii) The bottom line here is the net result of God’s love for us and our love for Him will be obedience.
  - iii) Obedience means not ever listening to false teachings and exposing and removing those who promote them.
  - d) In the last half of verse 21, Jude reminds us to continue to “**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.**”
    - i) We have had an extraordinarily long wait, but our reward will be if nothing else, the proof of God’s word.
    - ii) The proof that all he has told us is true and will remain true throughout eternity.
- 11) Jude concludes this section by defining what they and we must do next.
- a) Our responsibility does not end with handling the false teachers and teachings.
  - b) He tells us that we must also deal with those who have been led astray by them.
    - i) have mercy on some, who are doubting
    - ii) save others, snatching them out of the fire
    - iii) In other words, we need to bring those influenced by the false teaching back to belief and trust in God’s word.
  - c) The final responsibility is to those who may have been the false teachers.
    - i) on some have mercy with fear hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.
    - ii) This is really the hard one – we are to try to convince those who are teaching wrongly to stop and try to bring them back as well.
    - iii) But! We must be careful!!!!

12) We then get to Jude’s closing words...

***Jude 24–25 (NASB 2020)***

***<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, <sup>25</sup> 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.***

13) These final verses are a beautiful and magnificent doxology.

- 14) Beautiful by itself – absolutely – more meaningful in light of the previous 23 verses – equally true.
- 15) In this context Jude is lending a super shot of confidence in what he has been saying to us and his original readers about our source of power in dealing with these false teachers and teachings.
- 16) God is our protector!
- 17) If we will only continue in His word and trust Him in all circumstances, He will never let us down or let us fail.