

JUDE 1:5-25

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Jude chapter 1 as we continue our study through the Word of God, and we will finish up this letter this evening.

In our last study of Jude, we covered the first 4 verses of this letter, kind of an introduction.

And we saw Jude start out this letter by writing about the common salvation we have in Jesus Christ.

But, as he began to write the Holy Spirit redirected him to write about the false teachers, the pretenders within the church and how we must earnestly contend for the faith, for the truths of God found in the Word of God!

And Jude went on to say, the warning and the admonishment you might say, **“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Jude 1:3-4.

The warning is simple. False teachers, with their false doctrine are no longer outside the church but they have crept into the church unnoticed to spread their doctrines of demons.

The admonishment is also simple. We are to fight against what they are doing, take a stand and with all our might, in the power of God, fight for the faith that has been entrusted to us!

And that idea of false teachers Jude will cover in Jude 1:3-16 in a section I call - ***THE APOSTATES ARE UNMASKED!***

And, as we will see, Jude's warning is that God's judgment is coming upon these apostates who have crept into the church with their destructive doctrines. And to show that they will not escape this judgment, Jude is now going to give us three examples of what happens when you turn from God.

I like the way one writer puts it. He looks at the idea of how the people of the past seem to keep showing up in the present. Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

Thomas Mann, in his masterwork *Joseph and His Brothers*, pauses occasionally to consider history and time. Especially enchanting is Mann's way of expressing the connections between the past and the present. He shows how the great distance separating the ancient world from our own is at times transparent. He writes:

History is that which has happened and that which goes on happening in time. But also it is the stratified record upon which we set our feet, the ground beneath us; and the deeper [we] go down into the layers that lie below and beyond . . . in our moments of less precision we may speak of them in the first person and as though they were part of our flesh-and-blood experience.

Did you catch Mann's sense? People from long ago can be said to rise up again in the present. Each of us can imaginatively step back in time and find a connection with someone whose situation not only mirrors our own but permits us to call it our own. We pull the past into the present; we push the present into the past. We can read history and at moments find ourselves present. On this enchanted ground all centuries become one.

The mesmerizing inference from Mann's creative genius is this: ancient archetypes, men and women who lived long ago, are today walking around in our world. They have come to life again, as it were, only under a different name.

- David R. Helm, 1 & 2 Peter and Jude, p. 303

These false teachers with their false doctrines have been around for a long time and they will continue to be around but make no mistake about it, judgment is coming for them and Jude is going to give to us examples from the past of how God dealt with false teachers as a warning in the present day!

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Jude chapter 1, beginning in verse 5 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

JUDE 1

VERSE 5

Here is a problem with this little letter, if you can call it a problem. Jude uses these examples from the Old Testament with the idea that you already know these stories, that they are very familiar to you.

Thus, Jude makes his point but if you don't know what he is talking about, it can be confusing.

Now, if you don't know these examples, maybe the Lord is telling you that you need to get into the Word of God more, you need to deepen your understanding of the Bible.

Spurgeon wrote, *“As for the root facts, the fundamental doctrines, the primary truths of Scripture, we must from day to day insist upon them. We must never say of them, ‘Everybody knows them’; for, alas! everybody forgets them.”*

And Calvin said, *“The use of God’s Word is not only to teach what we could not have otherwise known, but also to rouse us to a serious meditation of those things which we already understand, and not to suffer us to grow torpid in a cold knowledge.”*

So it is important for us to read the Word of God, study the Word of God, apply the Word of God and to be reminded of the things in the Word of God!

We see here that the first example is of the children of Israel and their deliverance from their bondage in Egypt.

They saw how God brought them out, over two million people.

They saw how God allowed them to cross through the Red Sea on dry land and yet as the Egyptians came after them, the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea as the waters came down upon them.

They saw how God provided food and water for them and-so-on.

Then, as they came to the boarder of the Promise Land, as they came to Kadesh Barnea, the twelve spies returned with their report of this land that God had given to them.

But ten of the spies said that there are giants in the land, the people are great, the cities are fortified, and they would be destroyed if they tried to enter in.

Thus, these ten spies discouraged the nation from entering in even though the other two spies, Joshua and Caleb tried to encourage them to enter the land that God had given them, but they refused to listen.

And in Numbers 14:22-23 we are told, **“because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.”**

Also, in Psalm 95:10-11 we are told, **“For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.’ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’”**

Thus, all those who were twenty years old and up died in the wilderness because of their unbelief, except for Joshua and Caleb who walked by faith believing in the promises of God.

And the point is this. Just as the unbelieving children of Israel were judged by God, so too will these men who have crept into the church with their doctrines of demons, these pretenders. They will not get away with what they are doing!

Does that mean all those people who died in the wilderness were not saved?

I don’t believe so, but they were judged. They did not finish strong. But there were those who did die apart from the God of Israel due to their unbelief.

Warren Wiersbe sums it up like this for us,

This was rebellion against the will and the Word of God, and God cannot tolerate rebellion. As a result, everybody in the camp twenty years and older was destined to die at some time in the next forty years. Their unbelief led to their extermination.

Keep in mind that Jude was using a historical event as an illustration, and we must not press every detail.

The entire nation was delivered from Egypt, but that does not mean that each individual was personally saved through faith in the Lord.

The main point of the account is that privileges bring responsibilities, and God cannot lightly pass over the sins of His people.

If any of Jude's readers dared to follow the false teachers, they too would face the discipline of God. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor 10:12).

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 1024

Again, the point here is that God will judge these apostates, these false teachers, just look at the example of Israel in the wilderness!

VERSE 6

Here is the second example that Jude gives to us regarding the judgment of these apostates, and it is related to these fallen angels!

So who in the world is Jude speaking of here?

Obviously, as we are told, the angels who sinned against God and some believe this is related to their rebellion with Lucifer against God.

The problem I have with that is Jude tells us that they are chained until God will allow them to be released during His judgment.

Thus, Satan still has his demons or fallen angels working with him, so they are not chained, not all of them at least.

Then who are these angels that are chained?

I do realize this is controversial, but I believe these angels are the same ones spoken of in Genesis 6:1-4 where we are told, **“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.”**

That phrase **“sons of God”** or BEN ELOHIYM is spoken of angels.

We see that in Job 1:6 as that same phrase is used.

Thus, I believe these fallen angels cohabitated with women and produced **“giants”** or fallen ones.

You see, it has to be sexual sin, they left their proper domain, the boundaries that God has set, and in Jude 7, as he speaks of the sexual sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, he says their sin was similar to these angels, why?

Because they too left their proper domain or the boundaries that God had set, they went after strange flesh, men having sex with men and women with women, these cities were filled with this sin!

Thus, these angels are bound until Judgment Day, and I believe they are going to be released from the bottomless pit, part of the fifth trumpet judgment spoken of in Revelation chapter 9, those demon locusts!

Now why would these angels cohabit with women in the first place?

Because Satan knew that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, would come from the seed of the woman.

Thus, to contaminate the gene pool, which would prevent the Messiah from coming, these fallen angels cohabitated with women.

But the gene pool of Noah was not infected or as we are told in Genesis 6:9, “**This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.**”

Thus, judgment came upon the entire world, except for Noah and his family. And yes, these fallen angels were judged, they are chained awaiting that Day of Judgment and then they too will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

And so, if God judged these angels who sinned, He will certainly bring judgment upon those who come into the church with their false doctrine, these apostates, leading people away from God!

And if you want to look at this more closely, see our Genesis 6 study and our I Peter 2 study from Thursday evenings!

VERSE 7

The third point that Jude makes regarding the judgment of these apostates and how God has judged sinners in the past, is that of Sodom and Gomorrah!

You can read of the moral depravity of Sodom in Genesis chapter 19, but their main but not their only sin was that of homosexuality.

We know that from Genesis and Jude tells us that they went after “**strange flesh**” and the Greek word for “**strange**” is HETEROS and it means that they went after something that was not natural to fulfill their lustful desires, to satisfy the flesh!

It is as Paul said of those who reject God in Romans 1:26-27, “**For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.**”

Yes, they had a short time of pleasure but suffered an eternity in the fires of Hell.

Yes, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the others were completely destroyed by God’s judgment, all of the people and you can’t even find a trace of those cities today!

And as bad as that was, the eternal judgment of God is far worse.

You see, these men with their false doctrines may enjoy fame and fortune for a time, but they will not escape God’s judgment, you can’t live in sin, rebellion against God and survive!

As we read on, we will see Jude speak of the characteristics of these false teachers, what is manifested in their lives!

VERSE 8

When you read what is seen manifested in the lives of these apostates, you can clearly see that this is not the fruit of the Spirit, but it is the works of the flesh.

Jude starts out by saying that they are dreamers or they are out of touch with reality and probably they are speaking forth prophetic revelations, but they are not of God!

The Greek word that Jude uses for “**dreamers**” is ENUPNIAZOMAI and it means a confused state of the soul, it is an abnormal imagination, it is not the truth!

Look at those today who say that they are speaking for God, making all kinds of wild predictions and when they don’t come to pass, they move on to the next one and no one holds them accountable!

Remember what we are told in Jeremiah 23:25-32, “**I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?’ says the Lord. ‘Is not My word like a fire?’ says the Lord, ‘And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the Lord, ‘who steal My words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the Lord, ‘who use their tongues and say, “He says.” Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,’ says the Lord, ‘and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,’ says the Lord.”**

Like back then, God feels the same with those who say that they are speaking for Him and are not!

Next, we see Jude tell us that they “**defile the flesh.**”

The word “**defile**” comes from a Greek verb which means “*to dye or stain*” something, like clothing.

It also can mean “*to pollute*” or “*to contaminate*” or “*to spoil*” or “*to corrupt.*”

And this word is linked to the word “**flesh**” which is the Greek word SARX and it speaks of moral and physical defilement – ***SEXUAL SIN!***

What does that have to do with apostates?

I believe what Jude is telling us is that when you reject God and His Word as the authority then they set themselves up as the authority and we know that man’s heart is wicked and he can try and justify all kinds of sin, even sexual sin, all kinds!

Again, in Jeremiah 10:10-11 we see this played out as man becomes God and decides what he wants to do instead of God leading them in what they should and shouldn’t do. And God lets them know that they can believe what they want, but His judgment will come, not might.

We are told, “**But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation. Thus you shall say to them: ‘The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.’**”

But since they believe they know better than God, they make their own rules and standards to live by and they tell others to follow their ways. But God will judge them!

Warren Wiersbe sums it up like this as he wrote,

Having turned away from God’s truth, they feed their minds on false doctrine that inflates their egos and encourages their rebellion. Jude 10 informs us that the apostates are ignorant people who do not know what they are talking about!

Jude echoed Peter’s description of these men as “brute beasts” (2 Peter 2:12,22). Animals live by natural instinct, and so do the apostates. When men rebel against God, they sink to the level of beasts.

The course of their rebellion was clearly described by Jude. As a result of their rebellion and pride, they “defile the flesh,” living to satisfy their animal lusts.

When a person despises God’s authority, he feels free to disobey God’s Laws and live as he pleases.

What he forgets is that those laws have penalties attached to them so that he cannot disobey and escape the consequences.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 1026

Not only that but these apostates reject authority, or they are only accountable to themselves.

It is like the depravity of Israel during the time of the Judges, where we are told, “**In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**”
Judges 21:25.

The word “**reject**” speaks of “*destroying something established, such as existing authority.*”

One writer put it like this, “**Because they demand to rule their own lives, apostates refuse to submit to Christ’s lordship over them (cf. v. 4). The reality, however, is that they are much like the scribes and Pharisees whom Jesus confronted in Matthew 23:27–28: ‘You are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.’**”

And lastly, we are told that they “*speaking evil of dignitaries.*”

When we speak evil against authority, and keep in mind that all authority is from God and He places leaders and rulers into position in our lives, then we are speaking evil against God Himself and that is what they were doing. In fact, from the Greek word for “**evil**” we get the word “**blasphemy**” from and thus, we are blaspheming God Himself when we speak evil against authorities!

Think about it like this, it does drive home this point. *“**Blasphemy involves much more than taking God’s name in vain, though that is at the heart of it. A person blasphemes God when he takes His Word lightly and even jests about it, or when he deliberately defies God to judge him.**”*

And as we read on Jude is going to give us an example of how they speak evil of those who are “**glorious one**” which the word “**dignitaries**” means.

VERSE 9

We are not given a lot of information here and we don’t know when the Devil and Michael the Archangel contended, and I don’t think that is the point.

I believe that this is an example of how we are to act, the character we are to manifest as Christians.

In Deuteronomy 34:5-6 we are told about Moses’ death and it says, “**So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.**”

So what was this fight all about, why did the Devil want the body of Moses?

We are not sure, but some believe it has to do with the future work of Moses. We saw him on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew chapter 17, and I believe he is one of the two witnesses spoken of in Revelation chapter 11 during the Tribulation Period, along with Elijah!

But again, that really is not the point that Jude is making here. He is speaking of how Michael's character was manifested. That he did not mock or tell the Devil off.

Yes, he will do battle one day with the Devil, casting him out of heaven according to Revelation chapter 12, but he did not bring a reviling accusation against him but let the Lord take care of it.

He said, "**The Lord rebuke you!**"

Thus, we see the contrast of those men who crept into the church and how they rejected authority compared to Michael who respected those in authority and let the Lord deal with the issue, he gave it to the Lord!

Thus, Jude's purpose in bringing that incident up was to point out how that godliness respects the authority God has ordained, ***EVEN*** if that authority becomes corrupt as was the case with Lucifer. (Ezek. 28:11-19; Isa.14:12-15)

VERSE 10

These men spoke boldly even about what they didn't know and here's the thing. If you speak a lie long enough and loud enough you will get people to believe you.

Maybe that is why some of these televangelists scream at their people!

These men are not spiritual; they don't speak forth the things of God.

But instead speak forth things like brute beasts, they not only are deceptive, but they destroy people's lives!

VERSE 11

When the Bible says “**Woe**” it is not good, it speaks of grief! Usually a warning of judgment from God!

Thus, for these apostates, judgment is coming and here Jude gives us three examples of men and their destructive ways.

First Jude talks about “**the way of Cain.**”

You remember the story in Genesis chapter 4. Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord, and Cain brought from the fruit of the land while Abel brought a sheep from his flock.

God accepted Abel’s offering but rejected Cain’s, but why?

Because Cain’s was the way of unbelief, his heart was not right with God and it ended up with the murder of his brother Abel because of his jealousy!

The way of Cain is the way of dead religion – unbelief in the truths of God, a do it your own way religion and it leads to death!

Next Jude speaks of the error of Balaam and you can read of his story in Numbers chapters 22-25 and 31.

Balaam was a for profit prophet that was hired by the King of Moab, Balak, to curse the children of Israel. And God told Balaam not to go, but he wanted the money, he wanted the profit and God allowed him to go but to say what He would put in his mouth.

Which he did do, speaking forth four blessings upon the children of Israel instead of cursing them.

But when the King of Moab was not going to pay him for blessing Israel, then he told the King of Moab how to get God to curse the children of Israel.

Why did Balaam do this?

To make a profit off of God and how many people have sold their soul to the Devil for 30 pieces of silver?

Christianity is a moneymaker today and look at the people that are getting rich off of God, and many don't even know Him!

The love of money brings about all kinds of evil!

Listen to what Peter says in II Peter 2:2-3, and this is from The Living Bible, **“Many will follow their evil teaching that there is nothing wrong with sexual sin. And because of them Christ and his way will be scoffed at. These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago and their destruction is on the way.”**

The way of greed, trying to profit off of God and you will not get away with!

The rebellion of Korah is found in Numbers chapter 16.

And in Numbers 16:3 we are told, **“They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, ‘You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?’”**

In other words, they didn't like the position that God had given them in serving Him and attempted to usurp the position that God gave to Moses and Aaron.

So they rebelled against them and tried to get the rest of the children of Israel to follow along with them.

How often do we see people try to usurp the authority that has been given to others because they want it?

When people do that, when they reject this authority and speak evil of those in leadership positions, you are walking in the rebellion of Korah.

And folks, all those who followed Korah in this rebellion were destroyed by God in His judgment! They did not get away with anything.

I am always amused at those that want to be a pastor, because many of them have no clue in what it is all about. They want the position, they want the authority, but they are unwilling to serve!

But they sure will cause all kinds of trouble trying to usurp that position from another. Be careful, God did not approve of it then and He still doesn't.

Be satisfied in where God has placed you and serve Him faithfully!

VERSES 12-13

Here we see Jude give to us five points regarding these apostates. They are as follows:

He starts out with - ***SPOTS IN YOUR LOVE FEASTS!***

Back then they often had these ***AGAPE*** feasts or love feasts, we would call them potlucks today, but these Christians would gather together and share a meal with each other.

But for these apostates, their focus was only upon themselves, they didn't care about anyone else.

We see that same attitude in the church in Corinth back in I Corinthians 11:17-34.

Some translations put this verse like this, ***“These are hidden reefs (or rocks) at your love feasts.”***

Think of it like this, as one pastor wrote, *“Jude’s description of apostates as hidden reefs graphically depicts the unseen danger they pose. Reefs are undersea coral formations usually located close to the shore. They are potentially harmful to ships because they can rip open the bottoms of their hulls, causing the vessels to sink. Like those hidden reefs, the apostates embedded themselves under the surface . . . of the early church, from where they tore into unsuspecting people with their lies and wickedness.”*

Then Jude tells us that these apostates are - ***CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER!***

Think about that. If clouds have no water, they can’t bring any rain, but they just leave the land barren, dry.

Yes, there may be hope for rain, but that hope is dashed upon the rocks because these clouds are empty!

What that means is that these men were like that, they talked a lot but there was nothing that was refreshing, nothing that was life giving.

You see, only God’s Word is living and powerful and can bring the refreshment we need into our lives, that life sustaining water.

In Isaiah 55:10-11, **“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”**

The third point that Jude brings out regarding these apostates is that they are - ***LATE AUTUMN TREES WITHOUT FRUIT!***

Let's think about this for a minute. In the fall you expect to see fruit on your fruit trees, but these trees were barren.

But why, why was there no fruit on them?

Because their doctrine was false, they had no spiritual fruit; and their roots were not sunk deeply into Christ, thus, they were twice dead!

These men had no real fruit in their lives because they were not attached to the giver and the sustainer of life, Jesus Christ!

They, in a sense were like a Judas branch, they looked real, but they were not!

The fourth point that Jude brings out regarding these apostates is that they are - ***RAGING WAVES OF THE SEA!***

As waves hit the shoreline the dirt is churned up, the garbage, and the waters become murky!

We see that here in Manitowoc when the waves are crashing into the shore, Lake Michigan can make some big waves.

And as it does, the water becomes murky, all kinds of dirt, sand is seen!

That is like these men, lots of churning but what is left is dirt, debris, things are very murky and unclear.

It is as Isaiah 57:20-21, **"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 'There is no peace,' Says my God, 'for the wicked.'"**

And lastly, the fifth point regarding these apostates is that they are - ***WANDERING STARS!***

You don't follow a wandering star because they will never lead you to where you want to go or where you need to go.

These men shinned brightly for a time until the next one came along.

Folks, we need to follow the bright and morning star, Jesus Christ, He will lead us home!

And notice the end of the line for these apostates if they don't turn to Christ - "**blackness of darkness forever.**"

Do you think Jude is trying to make a point here?

Of course he is and he speaks of blackness and darkness and this will last forever, it is eternal for them.

Unless they repent of their sins and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they will die in their sins and they will spend their eternity in the Lake of Fire!

Now why the blackness, the darkness?

Maybe because outside of Christ, outside of God there is no light at all, it is *PITCH BLACK!*

It is as Jesus said in Matthew 8:12, "**But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

Not a pretty picture nor is it intended to be. It is just the reality of where people will go apart from Christ!

VERSES 14-15

It seems that Jude is quoting out of the Book of Enoch, not part of the Bible but a highly respected book, part of the Apocrypha.

According to Trapp, *“Tertullian tells us that the Book of Enoch’s prophecies were preserved by Noah in the ark, and that they continued and were read until the times of the apostles. But because they contained many famous testimonies concerning Jesus Christ, the Jews out of malice suppressed and abolished the whole book.”*

That is possible, but also please understand that what Enoch wrote about is not something new or does it contradict the Scriptures. It is just the facts.

You can read about Enoch in Genesis chapter 5 and it seems that this man lived for 65 years apart from God and then something happened in his life.

When his son Methuselah was born and for the next 300 years, Enoch walked with God, he had a relationship with God until God took him home, he didn’t die.

And now Enoch is speaking of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as He returns to the earth during the battle of Armageddon with His Bride, the Church, you and me and all believers to establish His Kingdom on this earth!

You see, God’s judgment is going to be poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, we call that the 7-year Tribulation Period and just as the world will be judged, so too will these men, these apostates, these pretenders will be judged, they will not get away with anything!

VERSE 16

These apostates are not manifesting the fruit of the Spirit but the works of the flesh.

They are smooth talkers who can get you to believe anything and everything and the bottom line is that they are only interested in themselves and promoting their ideas.

They have a program; they have an agenda that they are driving down people’s lives!

It is just as Paul warned Timothy, **“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”** II Timothy 4:3-4.

And we need to be careful here because we can behave in an ungodly way as well. Think about it. When a person is out of touch with God, guess what happens? They complain about something and they end up complaining about everything!

They murmur, they complain, they walk after their own lusts and use fancy words, big words to promote their ideas!

And again, the reason that they do this is to draw people to themselves and they take advantage of them!

Spurgeon put it like this as he sums this up for us, “You know the sort of people alluded to here, nothing ever satisfies them. They are discontented even with the gospel. The bread of heaven must be cut into three pieces, and served on dainty napkins, or else they cannot eat it; and very soon their soul hates even this light bread. There is no way by which a Christian man can serve God so as to please them. They will pick holes in every preacher’s coat; and if the great High Priest himself were here, they would find fault with the color of the stones of his breastplate.”

Very true!

And the reason that these apostates can continue on is because people will search out these apostates and their false doctrine because they no longer want sound doctrine, healthy doctrine.

They would rather hear fairy tales because it fits in with their lifestyle and they are comfortable with them!

As we continue on, we will see in Jude 1:17-23 - ***HOW CAN BELIEVERS RESPOND TO THE APOSTASY!***

VERSES 17-19

In other words, listen to the words of the Apostles; listen to what the Word of God is telling us; don't listen to those that are not saved, the apostates, the pretenders because they do not have the Spirit of God in them!

And you must understand that if they don't have the Spirit of God in them, they are not saved.

That is what Paul tells us in Romans 8:9, **"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."**

Jude tells them to "**remember**" or MIMNESKOMAI in the Greek and it is a command for us to remember the truths of God, don't let these apostates cause you to forget these things!

And notice how these apostates are walking, they would "**. . . walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause division, not having the Spirit.**" Jude 1:18b-19.

One writer put it like this regarding this word "**sensual**." He wrote, *"Sensual in this context has nothing to do with sexual attractiveness. It describes the person who lives only by and for what he can get through his physical senses, and he lives this way selfishly. His motto is, 'If it feels good, do it' or, 'How can it be wrong if it feels so right?'"*

The problem today is that many Christians are not awake, or they just don't care about these apostates who have crept into the church and thus, they continue to allow them to bring in their destructive heresies, and notice what they do – ***THEY CAUSE DIVISION!***

But God has warned us as the Bible is full of warnings about the deceptions of the last days and we need to be aware, we need to know the truths of God so these lies, these doctrines of demons will be easily exposed!

It is as Paul warned the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:29-30, **“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”**

Paul, in I Timothy 4:1 warns us, **“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”**

And in II Timothy 3:1-5 Paul warns, **“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”**

What are we to do?

Continue walking in the Lord, focus on Him and expose these lies by the Word of God as the Spirit of God leads you in all truth!

Don't ignore or brush aside these apostates, expose them for who they are and what they are doing and remove them from the church!

VERSES 20-21

So there is this battle out there between the light and the darkness, between the children of God and these apostates and what can we do about it?

We need to stay focused on the Lord!

But how do we do that?

Jude gives us four ways.

And this is so important for us if we are going to stand strong in the day's we are living in. William MacDonald sums it up like this for us. He wrote, *"The Word of God is certainly central in spiritual growth. I have yet to meet a strong, fruitful Christian who ignores his Bible. We must daily spend devotional time in the Word, seeking the mind of God. We must also study the Word regularly, in a disciplined way, so that we better understand what it teaches. The gifted Chinese preacher, Watchman Nee, used to read through the New Testament once a month. This becomes apparent when you read his books, for you are struck with his wonderful insights into God's Word. The members of the Chinese church used to have a saying, 'No Bible - no breakfast!' If we followed that motto in America, I wonder how many Christians would go hungry."*

Look at these four points that Jude gives us to stand strong and grow in the Lord.

The first is - ***BUILDING YOURSELF UP IN THE FAITH!***

In other words, keep growing in the Lord, study His Word and apply it to your life as you walk with Him!

If you don't, then you are going to be tossed to and fro by the winds of false doctrine that will blow through the church!

The second point is - ***PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT!***

Here Jude is speaking of spending time in fellowship with God and being sensitive to the Spirit's leading as you pray. Let God speak to you, guide you and expose the false teaching that you may have encountered. We are all responsible for exposing false teaching and especially pastors!

The third point is - ***KEEPING YOURSELF IN THE LOVE OF GOD!***

Now what is the point that Jude is making here? Are we trying to get God to love us more?

Not at all because He can't love us any more than He does nor can He love us any less!

Then what is his point?

Jude is talking about walking where God is walking. We are blessed as we are obedient to the Lord! You see, God is pouring out His blessings, and thus, stay under the spout where the blessings come out!

Again, Jude is admonishing us to keep living our lives in obedience to what God has said, so that He can demonstrate His love for us in tangible ways.

And the fourth point is - ***LOOKING FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD!***

In other words, expecting his return, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The word that is translated for "**looking**" in Jude 1:21 speaks of "***earnestly expecting***" or "***anxiously waiting for***" and carries with it the idea of "***looking diligently and vigilantly for the coming of the Lord Jesus with great expectation.***"

Instead of being angry, upset, frustrated at what is going on, we should be shouting for joy that the Lord is coming back!

Apply these four things in your life and you will not be disappointed!

That is how we do it!

VERSES 22-23

What is Jude speaking of here?

He is talking about how we deal with those who have been influenced by these apostates.

First of all, you have to make a distinction on how you are going to approach them and that is done as we build up our faith, we pray in the Spirit, we walk where God wants us to walk and we look for His mercy. He will show us, He will guide us as he speaks to our hearts.

For some, we are to have compassion on them. It is as Paul said in Romans 2:4, “**Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**”

Thus, as you share the love of God with them, they come to Christ out of the darkness they were in, being pulled down that path of destruction by these apostates they are now saved out of that!

But others it is fear that causes them to repent of their sins and come to Christ, the fear of God and His coming judgment.

Jonathan Edwards in his sermon, *Sinners in The Hands of An Angry God* used this approach, and many responded by repenting of their sins during this message.

It was a Hell, fire and brimstone message and this is part of what Jonathan Edwards said:

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours.

You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment. It is to be ascribed to nothing else, that you did not go to hell the last night; that you were suffered to awake again in this world, after you closed your eyes to sleep.

And there is no other reason to be given, why you have not dropped into hell since you arose in the morning, but that God's hand has held you up.

There is no other reason to be given why you have not gone to hell, since you have sat here in the house of God, provoking his pure eyes by your sinful wicked manner of attending his solemn worship.

Yea, there is nothing else that is to be given as a reason why you do not this very moment drop down into hell.

O sinner! Consider the fearful danger you are in: it is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God, whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you, as against many of the damned in hell.

You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it, and burn it asunder, and you have no interest in any Mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment. . . .

- Jonathan Edwards, Sinners in The Hands of An Angry God, pp. 11-12

Yes, that is harsh, but it is the reality, and some are saved with the fear of God, pulling them out of the fire! For others, and most, it is the **LOVE** of God that leads them to repentance!

As we conclude, in Jude 1:24-25, we have this beautiful benediction or blessing!

VERSES 24-25

Think about all this talk of apostates and their coming judgment and maybe Jude thought that some may wonder if they could lose their salvation.

So Jude closes with these wonderful words that God is able to keep us, sustain us and one day we will be taken to glory!

What a glorious promise, that Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling, we will make it into heaven, not because of our ability or strength, but because of His and His promise to us!

You see, even in the midst of these apostates trying to lure us into their lies, God is able to keep us from falling prey to them.

Think about it, He who was able to save us in the first place is more than able to keep us from stumbling down this path.

You see, our victory over the Devil, over the flesh, over apostates and their teaching is found in Jesus.

If we would only look to Him!

It is as John said, **“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”** I John 5:4-5.

Jude has left us with a beautiful benediction or blessing here in verses 24-25. He gives all glory to God and thus, may we not lose sight of that in the midst of the apostasy that we see growing today in the church.

Yes, the warning is clear, these are dangerous times we are living in, but folks, that should cause us to draw close to God and rest in Him.

Remember, building up the faith, praying in the Spirit, keeping yourself in the love of God and expecting His return!

Let me leave you with the warning of Jude as we finish this letter, and this is from The Amplified Bible, **“For certain men have crept in stealthily [gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”**

May we heed the warning and earnestly contend for the faith that has been delivered to us, that unchanging truth of God found in the Word of God!