

The Pledge to the Saints: God is Able
A Sermon on Jude 1:24-25

by
Grayson Stewart Gilbert

1. Introduction

2. A summary of all that has happened thus far

- a. Jude is writing to those who are called to contend for the faith against apostate false-teachers.
- b. He spends the brunt of his letter defining why these men are apostates and what they seek to do.
 - i. They spoil the unity of the body
 - ii. They are naturally-minded
 - iii. They are devoid of the Spirit
- c. In light of this, Jude gives them a series of commands detailing what it means to contend for the faith.
 - i. Remember that the apostles foretold they were coming
 - ii. Keep yourselves in the love of God
 - 1. By building yourselves up in your most holy faith
 - 2. By praying in the Holy Spirit
 - 3. By waiting anxiously for the Day of Christ's return
 - iii. You rescue those who are under the influence of the apostate false-teacher.
 - 1. Have mercy on those doubting

2. Snatch others from the fire
3. Have mercy mixed with fear and hatred on some

3. Jude then breaks out into praise into praise of God

- a. He praises God because He is the One who has secured our salvation.
 - i. There's a pledge and a guarantee in mind for what Christ has accomplished, is accomplishing now, and will accomplish in the future.
 - ii. Christ's assurance is total for the Christian
 1. John 6:37, 40, 44, 54; 10:28; 11:25
 2. This is why the Gospel is so scandalous, yet so incredibly wonderful.
- b. He begins his doxology with a very pointed phrase: Now to Him who is able.
 - i. God is the only One with the ability and power to keep us from the prospect of apostasy and judgment.
 - ii. God keeps us specifically from stumbling, which would be better translated as "coming to ruin".
 1. The hope we have is outside of ourselves. Our hope rests squarely on the shoulders of an infinitely sovereign God.
 2. The means God uses were given to us previously, which were bound up in the command to keep ourselves in the love of God.
 - a. 2nd Peter, which is a companion book to Jude, mirrors this same approach. Peter commands us to confirm our calling and election.

2. We will have the fullness of joy like you and I have never come even remotely close to experiencing in this life.
 - a. We will realize, in full, that everything leading us to see Him on that day is from the hand of God.
 - b. We will see how He carried us through to victory, chastening us at times and comforting us in other times.
 - c. We will see all the work the Lord has done and abound in praise, wonder, and awe with every fiber of our redeemed self.
- c. Jude praises the One and only God who is our Savior, through Jesus Christ.
 - i. Think of the Shema: “Hear, O’ Israel! Yahweh is our God! Yahweh is One!”
 1. It is a call to worship, a call to recognize God as He is.
 - a. He demands all of our worship, affections, and adoration, yet He is our God.
 - i. It is deeply personal because He is in the midst of His people and going before them as Savior.
 - ii. There should be two reactions from this: joy for the believer, and fear and repentance for the unbeliever.
 - d. Jude singles out the One true God and proclaims His excellencies.
 - i. You could take this as Jude ascribing to God these things because of what He has done, but it truly shows the character of God as He is.

- b. No hand can restrain Him; nothing can hinder the Lord in His declarations and works.
 - c. He works all things according to the counsel of His will.
- v. He has had these attributes eternally and infinitely.
 - 1. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.
 - a. It brings out His unchanging nature, especially as it relates to His promise for those who are heirs to that promise.
 - b. The hope of the Christian is God because He is utterly and eternally awesome and He does not change His mind.
- vi. When we get to heaven, as a result of God’s work, what we see dimly now will be made fully clear. All that will be left to say, is “amen!”

4. Conclusion

Small Group Questions

1. How has your understanding of the gospel deepened with this sermon, specifically as it relates to what God has accomplished, is accomplishing, and will accomplish on that Final Day?
2. How has your understanding of God deepened with this sermon, specifically as it relates to His glory, majesty, dominion, and authority?
3. How can this motivate you to walk in obedience to the commands of Scripture, both with respect to “keeping yourself in the love of God” as well as this “rescue work” that Jude gives us?