

Sound The Alarm

Jude 1-4

- The Book of Jude is the shortest book written in the New Testament, having just twenty five chapters and depending upon the translation a little over 600 words. But what it lacks in length it more than makes up in content, as Jude uses this short letter to get right to the point in warning the Churches to beware of people who have infiltrated the Church and spread a counterfeit gospel that is quickly infecting the body of Christ.
- Jude is not going to mince words in showing us how to identify and recognize these heretics, using multiple illustrations from nature, the Old Testament, and Jewish traditions, to stir up the faithful in unmasking and exposing these dangerous imposters. As we'll see much of what Jude is speaking about then, is still happening now, which is why we need to pay close attention to everything that he is saying, if not for yourself then for others.

V1-4

- **V1** Jude in describing himself says “he is a bondservant, and the brother of James” church history tells us that this is the half brother of Jesus, having the same mom Mary. Church history tells us that there were five brothers and two sisters in the household, a large family with crowded and small living quarters trying to make it on a carpenters salary.
- One would think it might have been better if Jesus was an only child then He would have gotten all the support from his parents and the quiet time to prepare Himself for the enormous mission of introducing the Gospel of grace and dying for all of our sins. But God's plans are not our plans and His plan is always better for it sees past the present and into the future as well > **Jn 7:5**- initially His siblings didn't believe in Jesus as the Messiah until after the resurrection > **Acts 1:14**- afterward both Jude and James wrote letters to the Church.
- So although Jude was a blood relative we see that he still had to go through the same path for salvation as we all do to become a child of God, which is why he identified himself as “a bondservant of Jesus Christ” instead of the half brother of Jesus, this tells us tow things about Jude > **1st** his humility in not name dropping, **2nd** the unimportance being connected to Jesus through human relationships, we all need to come to Him on our own.
- I've asked people are you saved, and they've answered well my grandmother is, or my parent was a pastor, showing that they think salvation can be attained by family relations and not a surrender of themselves, to the Lord, for themselves > **Lk 11:27-28**- when someone tried to give Mary extra credit for being the mother of Jesus He shot that down telling them “**no blessed are those who do the will of God**” then in **Mk 3:31-35**- after being told that His family is outside wanting Him to stop ministry He declares who is His family.

- Lastly this is not an evangelistic letter, as its directed to those who are already born again > **“to those who are called, sanctified by God The Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ”**. Notice Jude identified his readers as believers in three specific ways > **1st “they were called”** a person is a Christian because God has called them, the important thing for us is to answer the call when it comes, **2nd “They were sanctified by God The Father”** they were set apart from the world and brought unto God, **3rd “They were preserved in Jesus”** Jesus is our guardian and He is our protector, He is The One Who keeps us.
- **V2-3** Jude gives his readers a similar intro as Paul’s writings > he uses **“Grace and peace to you”** Jude says **“Mercy, peace and love”**. What Jude did say in his greeting that’s interesting is for **“Mercy, Peace, and Love”**, to be multiplied instead of added to the life of the Christian, in the mind and heart of Jude it wasn’t enough for those things to be added to the believer’s life, he wanted multiplication of these blessings instead of simple addition.
- Jude says initially his desire was to write about our **“common salvation”** but before he could something happened and he found it necessary to write a different letter, one that calls the believer to contend for the faith. What is **“our common salvation”** does it mean cheap absolutely not, we know how much it cost our Lord **“His Life”**.
- What its saying is **“that we all are saved in common”** in community, meaning God doesn’t have one way for the rich and another way for the poor, or one way for the good and another way for the bad, as we all come to God the same way. So when people try to add to our salvation by telling you that if you don’t speak in tongues then your not saved, or if you haven’t been baptized a certain way or had certain words spoken over you it’s null in void. If it isn’t **“common salvation”** it isn’t God’s salvation, then it isn’t salvation at all.
- The Greek word for **“contend”** comes from the athletic world, the wrestling mat, and it means **“to agonize”** it speaks of someone who is doing battle with some formidable opposition, and it takes concentration, endurance, work, in order to win. Notice Jude adds the word **“earnestly”** which means continuous so the struggle is not a one time thing, what is so important that Jude is using words like **“contend, battle, and fight”**?
- **“The Faith”** when apostasy rises and false teachers emerge, when God’s truth is being attacked, it is time to stand up and be ready to do battle, and fight, to contend all day, and all night, and if necessary get up and do it again the next day. That’s how valuable our faith is. If you walk into an art gallery and there are no guards, no sort of security system, you must draw the conclusion, there must not be anything that’s valuable in that art gallery, because we know valuables are protected, and worthless things are not.
- Once means the faith was delivered one time, and doesn’t need to be delivered again, these false teachers were rewriting what God had said and causing people to misinterpret and misunderstand the faith. Today people are making up what they want to believe about God and His Word, deciding to disregard what they don’t like, and agree with what they do, more people believe in the faith that is in their heart, than the faith once delivered to the saints.

- **V4** this is what is so dangerous about these counterfeiters, initially they come in and ingratiate themselves around the Church “unnoticed”, so no one knew or thought that they were dangerous. “**Crept**” means to slip in secretly, as if by a side door. This means Satan plays the long game, initially they seemed like you and I, but eventually their true motive will come out how? They turn the grace of God into the sham from Satan, the word “**Lewdness**” means sin that is practiced without shame, done with no conscience or decency.
- Usually its used for sexual immorality, like when the man was committing sexual immorality with his stepmother in **1Cor 5:1-2**- what happens is even though it becomes common knowledge because people aren’t standing up against it then you start to laugh at it and not speak out against it. It doesn’t have to be sexual immorality, it can be anything where the truth is denied, and lies taught without shame, being brazenly anti biblical, denying the Lord
- In closing I want to examine what Jude said about these men having a destiny, having been marked for this condemnation. Earlier we read how they come into the church disguised being unnoticed by man, this shows they may have slipped past our radar but not God’s. This is why I don’t have to worry about who’s doing or saying what, because they maybe hidden to me but they are in full sight of the Lord and their judgment is assured, for truth always wins out, and my responsibility is to stand on the side of the truth.