



Followers of Jesus need to constantly fill their heads & hearts with “God-thoughts.” Now what’s a God-thought? It is either a positive thought about God or a productive thought from God. The Bible commands us to prioritize such thinking when it says ... *keep your heart set and your head focused on the priorities of Heaven, because that’s where Christ* (the “Prioritizer”) *sits enthroned* (Colossians 3:1-2). If there were ever a time in the annual calendar for us to be reminded to think “God-thoughts,” the Christmas Season would be that time. Which is why I’m so delighted to be finishing up the little Bible book of Jude at this point in the year. Its closing verses provide us with key “God-thoughts” for shaping our beliefs and behaviors all the time, including Christmas 2021. Last week, we looked at **Jude 17-19** in a message called **CHRISTMAS PROTECTION**. Next week, **CHRISTMAS PRESENTS** will be the message title from **Jude 24-25**. This Sunday, our teaching comes from **Jude 20-23** and is labeled **CHRISTMAS PRIORITIES**. In this holiday time, what does Jesus want our prime lifestyle concerns to be? That’s the question Jude will answer for us as we study God’s Word together.

TELL YOURSELF ...

FEED YOUR ...

PARTNER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ...

STAY ROOTED IN ...

LIVE IN THE MOMENT LOOKING THROUGH ...

FIND THE HURTING AND ...

1. Mercy on doubting Christians who ...
2. Mercy on unbelievers who ...
3. Mercy on the worst of the worst who ...

TODAY’S TAKEAWAYS

POSITION: _____ FOUNDATION: _____

ENERGY: _____ PARTNER: _____

MISSION: _____ HOPE: _____

WITNESS: _____

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John’s message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don’t have to cover them all.

1. Four times in 25 verses, Jude uses the term “beloved” to describe followers of Jesus. What’s the point being made? Why do you personally need to take to heart this point that God is trying to make during this specific Christmas season?
2. Have you ever met a “prayer champion?” Describe that person(s). Why do you need to be a prayer champion for yourself? For our church? For your friends & family? What choices do you need to make in order to become such a prayer champion?
3. In **Jude 21** we’re told to ... *keep yourselves in the love of God*. What does that mean? How do we do this? What’s the impact that doing so will help us to have, in terms of our witness and influence for Christ, upon others?
4. Take another look at the “Today’s Takeaways” section at the end of your notes. Pay close attention to the seven words you filled the blanks with and speak them aloud. These are God’s priorities for us as we enter into Christmas. Which one or two do you most need to be reminded of and why?
5. You have a partner in the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? How do we act upon this? In terms of your discussion, factor in **Ephesians 5:18**, the second most important truth of the Bible.

12.12.21 - 15th in a series of messages from 2 & 3 John & Jude entitled **POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE**.
‘Christmas Protection,’ message from John K. Nagle

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