

Jude 1:24-25

Announcements:

- Yesterday: Men's Conference - **big thank you!** (get a hold of the man = big changes!)
- Today: **pro-life event** (lifechain.net) | **voter registration table** (Oct 5th is last day!) - **T?**
- Next Sunday - 8:00am **baptism class** (church in the park) and **Serve** (after 3rd service)

Please open to **Jude chapter 1** (need a Bible ... ?)

- Last time: **Rescue Boats** - **Part 1:** Keeping in the love of God, building up faith, praying in Spirit, looking for Christ; **Part 2:** showing compassion on some, and pulling others out (fear/garments)
- This time: **Finishing Jude!** Have you been enjoying the study? **Book of Titus** coming up next!

Message Title: **Kept for Glory**

- **He is Able** (verse 24) - what He does **FOR** us...
- **He is Worthy** (verse 25) - what He receives **FROM** us...

This is **a great way to end the letter.** How does the story end? Verdict? Evil or Good? Final score?

- So far Jude has been pretty **depressing and discouraging:** false teachers, rebellious angels, Sodom, Cain, Balaam, Korah, reefs, wandering stars, darkness, judgment... You might expect Jude to end the letter with just **"hold on for dear life, man!"** But instead... (common salvation)
- **Not with your ability** to manage turbulent weather, but **God's ability to Keep His people.**

An interesting progression in Jude

- (all three on one slide)
- Verse 1 - "To those who are... **kept** for Jesus Christ..." (compared to: **kept "for" judgment**)
- Verse 21 - "Keep yourselves in the love of God..." (**Practically/relationally** speaking...)
- Verse 24 - "Now to **Him who is able to keep you** from stumbling..." (**different word** in v. 24)

The end of Jude is a **closing Doxology** (**Doxa + Logia**) = to speak a word of splendor/glory/praise!

- One of the **most beautiful in all of Scripture.** **A marvelous conclusion!**
- To lift our countenance out of the earthly sticky mud and into the **glorious clouds of heaven!**

He is Able (verse 24)

V. 24 - **Now to Him** who is able

- This language marks a turn in the letter - like sunrays bursting through a clearing thunderstorm!
- **Able (dynamai)** - "to be able; to have the power, resources, or capability" (dynamite, dynamic)
- Did you know that the **Gospel of our Lord is more powerful** than the **atheist professors, corrupted politicians, heretical false teachers, or tempting vices coming at you.** Believe?
 - **Greater is He who is in you than he in the world!**
 - Sure, the **threat of apostasy is real**, but **God is greater still.** **Present tense guarding!**
- Ephesians 3:20 - "**Now to Him who is able** to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..."
- Hebrews 7:25, CSB - "Therefore, **he is able to save completely** those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them..."

- *Romans 16:25* - **"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ..."**
- (plus **numerous others!**) - **The story of the Bible** is that **God is able** - **always a remnant!**

V. 24 - **To keep you** from stumbling

- **To Keep (phyllasso)** - "keep, protect, guard, watch carefully [Hebrew: Shamar]" (not "tereo")
- A **military word** for **keeping in custody**. A **shepherding word** for **watching over a flock**.
- The **Old Testament idea** is **"Shamar"** - God is a **protector, refuge, safe place, standing guard**.
- **Psalm 121:4-8** - "Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; **He shall preserve your soul**. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore..." Our Lord is **not asleep on the job** or **off busy somewhere else** (video games)
- **From Stumbling (aptaistos)** - "exempting from falling; standing firmly"
 - This is **not a promise** that you'll **never stumble in sin**, we've all experienced that...
 - It **is a promise** that God will keep you from stumbling into **ultimate destruction in hell**.
- *Proverbs 24:16* - "A righteous man may fall seven times **and rise again**" - **in the end at least...**
- *Psalm 37:24, KJV* - "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: **for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.**" - **Mountain climbers connected to the expert sherpa! On belay!**
- *1 Peter 1:5, ESV* - "[You] who **by God's power are being guarded** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" - These words are **a healing balm for anxious souls...**
- Neither **I nor Jude** are promoting **easy believism**... **No cruise control allowed!**
- *Phil 2:12-13* - "**Work out your own** salvation with fear and trembling; for it is **God who works in you** both to will and to do for His good pleasure..." - **In-N-out**, what a hamburger is all about!
 - **Working out what God is working in!**
 - Don't remain **like a newborn giraffe on ice skates**... **(elephant?) grow in your faith!**
 - And, certainly **don't follow** the **ways of Israel in the wilderness**, or **angels in rebellion** or **Immorality of Sodom**... We've **already looked at those severe warnings**...
- **But pastor, you don't know how bad...** **Jude redirects** - Do you know **how able your God is?**
- A **difference between wobbling and abandonment**. God's people **will never be abandoned!**
- *John 10:27-30* - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; **and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand**. I and My Father are one." - **Sheep are dumb and get lost easily... but good news... they have a shepherd! He's a Good Shepherd! (Psalm 23, all day every day!)**

But wait, there's more... **this doxology gets even better!**

- #### V. 24 - **And to present you** faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy
- **Present You (histemi)** - "to cause or make to stand; to make firm, fix, or establish"
 - **You and I CANNOT stand on our own**, so **our Lord makes us able to stand**.
 - **My faith is not in my own power or ability** to **stand before God (filthy rags!)**
 - **My faith is in the rock solid truth of the Gospel** that **rests in Christ's righteousness**
 - And look at where we will **one day stand in the presence of... His:**
 - **Glory (doxa)** - "splendour, glory, brightness; a most glorious condition [Hebrew: Kavod (weight)]" - What **beautiful epic grace!** This **should not be so!** The **natural response** is:

- Isaiah 6:5 - "Woe is me, for **I am undone!** [dama: cut off, destroyed] ...because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." - Correct response to **Kavod (weight) of glory**
- But by the **marvelous, powerful Gospel of Christ**, we will **be made to stand before God**.
- **Faultless (amomos)** - "without spot or blemish; without blame [Hebrew: **Tamim**]"
 - **You and I have spot and blemish (sin)**. - home inspection reveals...
 - But **in Christ** we will be **presented before the Lord someday without such stain!**
- Exodus 12:5 - "Your lamb shall be **without blemish** [Tamim: perfect, sound, whole, innocent, having integrity]" - **burnt offerings too (Lev. 1:3)** - But specifically of the **passover lamb!**,
- 1 Peter 1:18-19, CSB - "For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, **like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.**" - **This is how and why!**
- Colossians 1:21-22 - "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, **to present you holy, and blameless [amomos], and above reproach in His sight...**" - **Is anyone thankful today?**
 - We will take **communion (eucharisteo)** today in **thanksgiving & acknowledgement**
- **But wait, there's more, it gets even better!**
- **Exceeding Joy (agalliasis)** - "extreme gladness, overflowing joy; exultation" (Luke 1:44, JTB!)
- **A pure bride adorned for her wedding;** that day of ceremony is **a celebration feast!**
 - **Do any of you long to enter into His joy!? I can only imagine! Our joy and his!**
- One of the **tricks of Satan** is to dull our appetite for heaven by filling our bellies with the world.
- Jude is pulling us out of the **muddy swamp of apathy and indifference!** - **airport reunion!**

Now he moves from **"look what God can do"**, to **"look what God deserves!"**

He is Worthy (verse 25)

If **our study of God** doesn't lead us to praise and worship, something is broken... (Grand Canyon!)

- And **the attributes of God below**, we're not giving or adding to Him as if to decorate a tree with one ornament at a time... We're simply **recognizing & declaring what is already His!**
- It's like an awards ceremony, or Stanley Cup presentation - but it **all goes to our mighty God!**
- **Complaints? Me. Glorious? Him!** The **stadium erupts and roars** at the glories of our king!

V. 25 - To **[only] God (monos theos)**

- **No functional rivals. No polytheism. Not the false teachers versions of God... Shema!**
- Isaiah 45:5, ESV - "I am the LORD, **and there is no other**, besides me there is no God"

V. 25 - Our **Savior (soter)** - False teachers deny...

- **True of the Old Testament God:**
- Isaiah 43:11, AMP - "I, [only] I, am the LORD, And **there is no Savior besides Me.**" (Yasha)
- Points us to Yeshua, **our great God and savior** as revealed in the New Testament.

V. 25 - Through Jesus Christ our Lord (**iesous Christos Kyrios**) (Modern translations...)

- 1 Peter 1:2 - "...according to the **foreknowledge of God the Father**, in **sanctification of the Spirit**, for obedience and **sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...**" - **Trinity at work!**

V. 25 - **Wise (sophos) (NKJV/KJV only...)**

- **Romans 16:27, CSB** - "To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ—to him be the glory forever! Amen." - You looking for **wisdom** and direction in this life? **Here's where it's found!**

V. 25 - **Be glory (doxa)**

- **Radiant excellence!** Type that **belongs to God & God alone!** (**Glory of man fades as grass!**)
- **To assign this to him now** is to **give him the proper "weight" in our lives.**
- **Idolatry:** **things heavy and God light. Doxology reverses it!**

V. 25 - **And majesty (megalosyne)**

- **Royal magnificence!** - **only other times** describes **throne of majesty in heaven** (Heb 3:1, 8:1)

V. 25 - **Dominion (kratos) and power (exousia)**

- **These two go together.** He is **King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**
- **Dominion** = his **sovereign might to rule** and **power** is his **legal right to rule** (**Title deed!**)
- **While the church is to be aware and guarding against** error, **we do not sit in fearful anxiety!**
- **Nothing happens out of His control** (**Directive/permissive will**) - **Chaos doesn't get the final word. False teachers don't. Politicians don't. culture doesn't. not even Satan does. Christ does!**
- **Have you surrendered** your life **to the one who has rightful authority and rule over it?**

An Old Testament Doxology:

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 - "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. in Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name..."

V. 25 - **Both now and forever** ("before all time" "unto the ages")

- **Psalms 90:2** - "Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" - **a complete statement!**
 - **Alpha and omega. Beginning and the end. The one who was and is and is to come!**
- **Presidents change, kings die, empires collapse, celebrities are forgotten**, however...
- **1 Timothy 1:17** - "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."
- **The Westminster Catechism** says **our chief end** is "to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."

V. 25 - **Amen.**

- **Let it be so, so be it; this is solid ground!**
- (**Hebrew: Aman** = **to be firm or faithful**) A **congregational word of agreement** (**Neh 8:6**)
- **Do you say amen?** One of the ways **we do so is by taking communion**... (*in a moment*)

One day, **all of creation will join in** on this **doxology of praise!**

- **Revelation 5:11-13** - "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!'

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!'"

Closing:

Ruth Graham saw a sign - "**End of Construction, Thank you for your patience**" = her **gravestone!**

- *One day the construction of our lives* will be finished. *Presented faultlessly with exceeding joy!*
- *We don't deserve this.* We're *not good enough on our own.* It's **all because of Jesus**
- *Isaiah 53:5-6* - "He was wounded for our transgressions... and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" - *the righteous one bore the judgment of the unrighteous...*

Altar call moment: G.O.S.P.E.L.

- **Respond, examine, give thanks...**
- **(for those that didn't stand they can still go to table after service)**

Communion

1 Cor. 11:23-24, NLT - "For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

- **The hand that holds/keeps us is the one that was pierced...**

1 Cor. 11:25, NLT - "In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.'"

- **His blood is what makes us faultless...**

1 Cor. 11:26, NLT - "For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again." - **This meal is merely a dress rehearsal for the coming wedding feast!**

- A **present confidence** and a **future hope!**
- **Read Jude 1:24-25** once more as **a closing benediction**...

PRAY