

The Book of Jude

Opening Question: Jude uses many Old Testament examples to make one point. What point is Jude making in his letter?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jude urges his audience to "contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints."
2. Contending earnestly for the faith begins by knowing and holding fast to the words of the apostles.
3. Jude points out ways to recognize false teachers including those who reject God's authority, find fault with what is right and godly, flatter others for their own advantage, grumble, and follow their own lusts.
4. Jude reminds his readers that any teaching, or special revelation, must match the words of the apostles, which match the words of Jesus, which match the words of Moses.
5. Jude tells his readers how to combat false teaching and false teachers which is to remain steadfast to the words of the apostles.
6. Jude's point in writing his letter is to warn his readers by way of reminder that God has always been faithful to His people and faithful to judge those who reject His authority now carried in the apostles' words.

Discussion Questions:

1. Contending for the faith implies conflict. What are ways that you can prepare yourself to contend for the faith when conflict comes?
2. Discuss the characteristics of false teachers that Jude lists. Give examples of how these characteristics might appear today.
3. According to Jude, what are believers to anxiously await? Do you find yourself doing this?
4. Give examples of being "worldly minded," especially in the context of the church.

Practical Application:

1. Read the book of Jude and consider the remedy Jude discusses for combating false teachers and contending for the faith. How is this remedy tied to the words of the apostles? How can you better equip yourself this week in knowing the apostles' words?
2. Jude contrasts God's treatment of false teachers with His treatment of those who hold fast to the faith. What is this contrast? In what ways might this knowledge motivate you to remain steadfast to the words of the apostles?
3. According to Jude, what makes false teaching false and what are some ways to identify this?
4. This week, reflect on ways you can show mercy, without compromising biblical truth, to those who may be wavering in their faith.

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You that You have provided Your Word to equip us to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. Amen