

Passage: Jude 1:8-25

Title: Keeping Yourself in the Love of God

Summary: We are given the calling as believers here in this short epistle to “Contend for the Faith”, and that calling is not to be led astray or compromise by false and errant teachers who creep into the church circles. Today in our passage, we will be called to “Remember”, seven things that will “Keep” us in the love of God, that will ensure we will not be swayed as we “Keep The Faith”.

Original Intent / False Teachers / 2 things – Grace to Flesh / Denying Jesus

Jude saying I originally wanted to write about our salvation, a letter of joy, a feel good Sunday sermon, but I find it necessary to warn you about something that can hurt you. Jude’s original intent was to write about our “common salvation.” That is, his was to be a letter celebrating the grace and goodness of God. But it took a different turn when an issue arose that he felt pressed to address. False teachers had crept into the early church, seeking to rob and rip off God’s people, seeking to pervert their understanding and keep them from enjoying God’s blessing. He points out two things they were doing, using the grace of God to indulge in their flesh, and denying that there was only one way, and that through Jesus Christ.

(Jude 1:3 NKJV) Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

(Jude 1:4 NKJV) For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Description of Them

Jude gives descriptions of them

- Spots in love feast (v.12) – hidden rocks ready to sink you.
- Rainless clouds (v.12) – always a promise but never delivering
- Fruitless tree (v.12) – trees with leaves but no fruit
- Raging waves (v.13) – stirring up a bunch of foams
- Wandering Stars (v.13) (shooting stars) – here today gone tomorrow.
- Great Swelling Words (v.16) – peddling phony words

Be on Guard / Be Alert / KEEP YOURSELF

Jude says watch out, be on the alert, they have crept in, so much so you haven’t noticed therefore I had to write and tell you they were there. Jude says what I want for you is to keep your self in the love of God:

(Jude 1:20 NKJV) But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

(Jude 1:21 NKJV) keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Foundational Theme

The foundational theme of this wonderful epistle, as found in verse 21, is an exhortation to keep ourselves in the love of God. Underline this phrase because it is the hinge upon which the Book of Jude swings. Jude’s heart is, “Yes, there are heretics and deceivers, but you, beloved, keep yourselves in the love of God.”

What Does it Mean – Keeping Self / Stay in Place where Blessing Flow

What, then, does it mean to keep yourself in the love of God? It simply means to keep yourself in the place where you can receive His blessings, keep yourself underneath the spigot of where God’s blessings flow. We then looked at 3 examples of those who did not keep themselves under the spigot, in the place where they could continue to receive the love and blessings for God.

Outline for Jude:

- Introduction - Author and Audience - (Jude 1:1-2)
- Theme - Reason for Writing - (Jude 1:3-4)
- Examples of Leaving the Blessings/Love of God - (Jude 1:5-7)
 - Example of the Children of Israel not entering Promised Land (1:5).
 - Example of Satan and Angels Rebelling in Heaven (1:6).
 - Example of Sodom and Gomorrah (1:7).
- Reasons for Leaving the Blessings/Love of God - (Jude 1:8-11)

- Way of Cain (1:11)
- Way of Balaam (1:11)
- Way of Korah (1:11)
- Exhortations on How to Keep Ourselves in the Blessings/Love of God (Jude 1:20-21)
 - Building yourselves up on your most holy faith (1:20)
 - Praying in the Holy Spirit (1:20)
 - Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (1:21)

3 Examples / Now 3 Reasons / 3 Exhortations

So Jude gave us 3 examples of leaving the love of God, now he will give us 3 reasons that people leave the love of God, and then 3 exhortations on how we can keep ourselves in the love of God.

Mundane & Repetitive / Off Course – On Course

To some you may say I know all this, it is kind of mundane and repetitive to me, maybe you may even be thinking it is boring. Beloved, don't tune out on the power that is flowing through what appears to be mundane and repetitive. You know there are many people that when I look back after preparing this study and say I wish so and so would be here to hear this, for it would change their life, readjust and recalibrate their compass for they are way off course, but the simple fact is, they are off course, because they are not putting themselves in the place where God's blessings flow. But you however, those that continue here in the Word, fellowship, devotions, you are continuing to stay on course.

Peter Reminds

(2 Peter 1:12 NKJV) For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

(2 Peter 1:13 NKJV) Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

Verses 8-10 / Leaves Accountability

Verse 8-10, Jude tells us the arrogance of these false teachers and how they have no accountability. There appears to be a pattern in peoples lives, that once they leave the place of accountability, they shortly thereafter leave the place of God.

2000 Years

The call to contend for the faith is given to everyone, not just church leadership because the church leadership is inside the walls and it can be shut out by the world. The contending for the faith is for the seeds that God spreads through the neighborhoods and the workplaces and the school yards and the ball fields and those type of things. We're all called into this marvelous calling to contend for the faith. And we have to contend for it with every last drop and bit that we have. We can't waver and cower when the world comes against it because we have whole generations, thousands of years now too to be exact, that we're willing to lay their life down even to the point of death, to contend and keep what is the true gospel and not let it be conquered. And so what a calling that we have, like those before us. We are as well those who were before others as we contend for the faith for our children and their children's childrens should the Lord tarry. And He may just be willing to tarry longer because He's so gracious and kind that none should perish, that all should seek repentance.

There are contenders, defenders, and then there are pretenders who play the role, but their heart is not with us, and their ways do not gather but scatter.

Our foe will not stop, he will press against you until either you quit, stop, or backdown.

General Armistead

There are boys here from Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton along the James River, from Charlottesville, and Fredericksburg, and Shenandoah Valley. Mostly they're all veteran soldiers now the cowards and shirkers are long gone. Every man here knows his duty. They would make this charge even without an officer to lead them. They know the gravity of the situation and the metal of their foe. They know that this day's work will be desperate and deadly. They know that for many of them, this will be their last charge, but not one of them needs to be told what is expected of him. They're all willing to make the supreme sacrifice to

achieve victory here. The crowning victory and the end of this war. We all here, you may tell them when you return to your country, that all Virginia was here on this day.

General Armistead speech to British Captain Freemantle before Gettysburg Charge on July 3, 1863

Parents You Are Not Alone

Parents you are not alone, as many of us feel we are as the volley and the volume of the ungodliness that is being poured out against us as Christian Believers and Christian Parents. Just look around this church and you will see a room full of parents who all are in this together, and all standing, and all of us saying let's stand together, lets us not back off or back down, not just for our sake, but for our children, and our children's' children.

Outline: Jude 1:1-25

- Remember Your Calling (1:1-2)
- Remember Our Culture (1:3-7)
- Remember Their Contentions (1:8-10)
- Remember Their Character (1:11)
- Remember Their Clouds (1:12-16)
- Remember Their Critiques (1:17-19)
- Remember His Completeness (1:20-21)
- Remember His Compassion (1:22-23)
- Remember Our Christ (1:24-25)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Remember Your Calling (1:1-2)

Last week we studied and soaked on the beautiful calling we have, the invitation to intimacy with Him, and how He has set us apart and keeps us so He can give us His Son as a spotless Bride adorned in white

Jude 1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: ² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Remember Our Culture (1:3-7)

Last week we studied the how these deceivers will face judgment, but that God allows them to do what they do, because every day we get the "Garden" choice if we will hear the lies and hiss of the devil, or obey the Word and promises of God. We saw how a minority, over and over, led astray the majority, and we see it before our eyes today.

Jude 3-7 (NKJV) ³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Remember Their Contentions (1:8-10)

(Jude 1:8 NKJV) Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

Likewise

Likewise” is homoios (ὁμοιος), “in the same way.” The A.V. takes no notice of mentoi (μεντοι), a particle of affirmation and often of opposition, meaning “but yet, nevertheless.” Vincent says the word expresses the fact “that though they have these fearful examples before them, yet they persist in their sin.”

When not to believe these teachers, when do they become false teachers, when they declare that it doesn't matter to God what kind of life we are living. And you look at how many churches are caving today on these very same issues as if the Book of Jude is not in the Bible at all.

Notice he begins in verse eight and he begins to talk about the characteristics of these false teachers. He said, Likewise also these dreamers, they defile, the flesh. In other words, anybody that believes that the life that we live doesn't matter to God. They're dreaming. They have lost touch with reality.

They reject authority in these false teachers. They reject any God given authority like pastors and elders and deacons and church leadership, even the authority of the Bible. When the Bible or these leaders call upon these people to repent of their sin and their false doctrine, they simply disregard church authority. And then not only that, but they speak evil of dignitaries. They're very, very bold in their rejection of God placed authority.

Paul says very clear words, but sadly too many Christians do not apply the scriptures, listen to the malicious gossip, and are swept away by the tactics of these false and errant teachers. When Devil came to Eve, she should have said stop right there, lets go get the Lord and bring Him into this conversation and see what He has to “Say” about what you are saying. But instead Eve entertained, and fall she did, and passed it on to Adam, and generation after generation was inflicted by it.

1 Timothy 5:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

(Jude 1:9 NKJV) Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

(Jude 1:10 NKJV) But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

Michael Contends with the Devil

And he gives the example here yet Michael the archangel and contending with the devil when he disputed about the body of Moses dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said the Lord rebuke you. Now what we do know about the body of Moses is that when he died, he died in the fullness of his strength. And we are told in Deuteronomy chapter 34 that so Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, according to the Word of the Lord. And He, the Lord, buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor. But no one knows his grave to this day. Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyes were not dimmed, nor his natural vigor abated. So the Lord, he buried Moses. So none of the rest of the children of Israel would know where he was buried, Why they build a shrine or something like that, begin to some kind of idolatry related. There would be the temptation for that.

And so we learn from this passage that evidently God had given the task of the burial of Moses, had turned it over to the Archangel Michael. He was in charge of the task. And in the course of obeying what God told him to do with Moses, Satan disputed with Michael over Moses's body doesn't care. I don't care what God told you to do with that body. I don't care about God's word. I don't care about His commandments, any of these kinds of things. I want that body. And then what did what did Michael, how did he respond to him? He didn't respond with a reviling accusation. He responded with the Lord rebuke you. And here's the point. Just as Michael resisted the false teaching and the ungodly contention of the

devil. The false teachers are to be resisted also, but we need to do it in a non contentious way. And how did we do that? By standing on God's word and letting God's Word rebuke them. The authority that we have for what we do comes from the Word of God.

So we don't come down to people's level and yell and get in their face and spit coming out of our mouths and veins popping out all over the place. When you're right and you have God's word as a basis for what we're doing, then that's all that we need. This is what Paul was talking about a little bit when he wrote to Timothy and he said, And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but be gentle to all able to teach patient in humility, correcting those who are in opposition. If God perhaps will grant them repentance so that they may know the truth and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil having been taken captive by him to do his will. So when we stand against what is false. You know. Oh, yeah, well, you know, tap, tap knowing raises to you two or, you know, whatever the equivalent of all that is. But we just say no. The Bible says the Bible says the Bible says that is the authority for our doctrine and for our practice and for resisting false teachers.

2 Timothy 2:24–26 (NKJV) ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and* escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Michael Archangel / No Need Identify Demonic Spirits / God in Between / Dwell on Light

So these false teachers are arrogant enough to contend with God, even though we see the chief angel Michael would not contend with Satan who was created by God, these men are pure arrogance fill with foolishness. It is important to note here, that Michael, the chief angel, that's what arch means, even he didn't mess with satan; said the Lord rebuke you, he put God between him and the devil. I say this because you may come across Christians who will lay this stuff on you about having to identify each individual demonic spirit. They will say you have to identify which one is battling against you, and then you can battle it by saying, "ok demon of alcohol, I rebuke you in the name of Jesus, ok demon of cellulite I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." Listen beloved, when satan is battling against you, you put Dad in between you and satan, and you say Dad go get him. Notice Michael doesn't say I rebuke you in the name of Jesus, but he says, the Lord rebuke you. Michael removed himself from the equation, and so should we. The devil is no match for Dad, Dad doesn't even have to leave His chair, He sends an angel to do it in Revelation 20:

(Revelation 20:1 NKJV) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

(Revelation 20:2 NKJV) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

In the presence of God's light, all darkness must flee. Don't spend your time focusing and studying the darkness, spend your time in the Light, and the darkness will flee. Dwell on the Light and in the Light!

We More Spiritual than You

Verse 10 - But these speak evil of whatever they do not know - But these he said in verse ten, they speak evil of whatever they do not know and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts in these things, they corrupt themselves. Now, these false teachers, these Gnostics were going around saying, We're the super spiritual people. We know things that you don't know. We're holier than you. And that's why when you see us engaged in sin and everything, you still think it's sin because you don't have the revelation. You haven't been through the 12 layers of the whatever, you know, to see how what true spirituality is. And so they were putting this whole thing on, on, on everyone. And Jude comes in and says, no, they're not spiritual at all. He says, in fact, they're just like brute beasts. They're just like animals. They're living like animals do not think that they're, you know, something, something spiritual in in any way. They're the slaves of their flesh. They're living like animals don't follow them in their teaching and in their ways.

3 Reasons

So we saw the 3 examples of someone leaves the place where God's blessings and love flows, but how does a person that was once blessed by God, move away from God? Verse 11 gives us 3 examples:

- *They have gone in the way of Cain*
- *They have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit*
- *They perished in the rebellion of Korah*

Remember Their Character (1:11)

(Jude 1:11 NKJV) Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Would have Chosen / Big 3 / We all Susceptible / All Can Keep Us Away

In these 3 we will see anger, greed, and envy. Now I wouldn't have chosen anger, greed, and envy as the three reasons people move away from God's blessings. I would have listed cocaine, pornography, and larceny. Why? Because those things are not my problem. You see, we tend to think the sins that will take a man away from the spout where God's blessings come out are the biggies don't we. Not true. God has an entirely different way of looking at things. For we are all open to anger, greed, and envy and in His Word, He says through Jude to me and to you, "These are three specific areas that will keep you from enjoying and experiencing My love."

Way of Cain / Anger / Anger took Root – Self-Righteousness

1.) Verse 11 - For they have gone in the way of Cain - The first explanation for why people no longer experience the love of God in their lives is that they've gone the way of Cain.

And then he says, woe to them, for they have gone the way of Cain. Now the way of Cain. Cain in the Old Testament was a poster child for self righteousness. And remember, God came to Cain and to Abel, and he had declared to Cain and Abel they were brothers and they were sons of Adam and Eve. And God declared how he was to be approached by them through faith. And that faith evidenced in an animal sacrifice. And Abel obeyed God and Cain disobeyed God. Instead of offering to God what God desired, what it can do, he devised his own manmade way of approaching God. And that is what these false teachers were doing. And it's just arrogance and it's pride. And we cannot approach God based upon our own manmade ideas in theories. We can only approach him on the basis of the way that he has approved through Jesus himself. But Cain comes along and says, no, everybody gets to God and everybody gets to define their own way to God and God's okay with all of that.

Anger

The way of Cain is also anger. Cain was angry with his brother, Abel, because God blessed Abel, but He didn't bless Cain. It's not fair, Cain must have thought. We both offered sacrifices to God. Abel brought a lamb, and I brought the fruit of my labor from the garden, but God blessed my brother's and not mine (see Genesis 4:4, 5). And such anger took root in Cain's heart that he killed his brother.

If Angry with Spouse – Boss – Brother / You've gone Way of Cain / Draw away from Spout

If you're angry with your spouse, bitter toward your boss, unforgiving of your brother, you have gone the way of Cain. Watch out for anger, gang. It'll pull you away from the place where you just enjoy God's love. It will draw you away from the spout where the blessings come out. I might also note that your anger towards another may cause them to leave the place of blessing because you may arouse them to anger.

Way of Balaam / Greed / Israel on way to Promised Land / Balak King of Moabites

2.) Verse 11 - have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit - Jude draws our attention not only to the anger of Cain but also to the greed of Balaam. You know Balaam's story. The children of Israel, all two - three million of them, were on their way to the Promised Land. "Whoa," said Balak, king of the Moabites. "There's a horde of people coming our way, and unless we do something, we're going to get trampled."

Balak sends Messengers to Balaam / God says No

Knowing of a prophet in the area named Balaam, Balak sent messengers asking him to curse the approaching Israelites. "Wait here," Balaam said to the messengers, "I must talk to God about this." Even before Balaam asked, the Lord told him not to curse the Israelites (Numbers 22:9-12). So the messengers returned to Balak with word of Balaam's refusal to join them. Balak, in turn, sent some VIPs to Balaam.

Next in Mercedes / We'll bless You

They arrived in their Mercedes and their flashy clothes, saying, "Come with us, and you'll be blessed."

Balaam – Even Silver & Gold – No / Hint Hint

“Listen, guys,” said Balaam, “even if you offered me a house full of silver and gold (hint, hint), I wouldn’t go with you.”

So Return with offer of Wealth / God Allows him to Go / Angel Appears / Dumb Donkey

So once again, the messengers returned empty-handed. And yet, a third time they appeared before Balaam, this time offering him a portion of wealth and honor. A third time, Balaam said he would seek the Lord. But this time, God gave him permission to go, so off Balaam went. En route, however, an angel appeared to his donkey, causing the donkey to crash into a wall, smashing Balaam’s foot in the process. “You dumb donkey. You crushed my foot,” Balaam cried as he beat his donkey.

Why Beating Me – I’m Good Donkey / There’s an Angel

“Why are you beating me?” asked the donkey. “Haven’t I been a good donkey all these years? I’ve never given you any problems. Don’t you see there’s an angel standing right here, preventing me from taking you where you ought not go?”

My thoughts on the matter is that Balaam could have made more money off a talking donkey than the money made by cursing Israel, but anyways continuing on.

Talking Donkey couldn’t Deter / Balaam can’t Curse but Blesses

Yet even a talking donkey could not deter Balaam, so he continued on, until at last he reached the mountain overlooking the Israelite camp. Opening his mouth to curse them, all that came out was blessing. “Hey!” said Balak, “I hired you to curse them, not to bless them! Maybe we should change locations.” So they built another altar in a different location. Once more, Balaam stood to curse. And once more, all that came from his lips were words of blessing.

Balaam didn’t Understand God’s Grace / Israel Bring Curse Upon Self / Moabites

The error of Balaam lay in the fact that he didn’t understand God’s grace. Balaam thought that because His people were rebellious and evil, God would surely want to destroy them. Consequently, knowing that even though he could not curse the Israelites, the Israelites could bring a curse upon themselves, Balaam told Balak to have the Moabite women parade themselves in front of the Jewish men. And during the romantic interludes that were sure to follow, the Moabite women would be able to introduce the Jewish men to their idols.

Balaam Right / They followed Moabites gods / Today Joined to Unbeliever

Balaam was right. In the Book of Numbers, we read “the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.” The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and twenty-four thousand died as a result (Numbers 25:1–9). It is still true today if you join yourself with an unbeliever you will end up cursing yourself. You will have brought it upon yourself. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8).

Balaam Spoke Beautiful Prophecies / Ends up Heretic/ Greed took him Over / Definition of Greed

Why did Balaam, who spoke some of the most beautiful prophecies in all of the Old Testament about the coming of Messiah, end up a heretic and a loser? Because he did not keep himself in God’s love. Why didn’t he keep himself in God’s love? Greed. What is greed? Never being satisfied, never being thankful, always wanting just a little more. Watch out, precious people. Greed will remove you from the spout where the blessings come out.

(Numbers 24:2 NKJV) And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him.

(Numbers 24:3 NKJV) Then he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened,

(Numbers 24:4 NKJV) The utterance of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

(Numbers 24:5 NKJV) "How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel!

(Numbers 24:6 NKJV) Like valleys that stretch out, Like gardens by the riverside, Like aloes planted by the LORD, Like cedars beside the waters.

(Numbers 24:7 NKJV) He shall pour water from his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters. "His king shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted.

*(Numbers 24:8 NKJV) "God brings him out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox; He shall consume the nations, his enemies; He shall break their bones And pierce them with his arrows.
(Numbers 24:9 NKJV) 'He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?' "Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you."*

Rebellion of Korah / Sin of Envy / Numbers 16 / 15K Died / Be Content

3.) Verse 11 - and perished in the rebellion of Korah. - Korah's sin was envy. We find his story in Numbers 16: "Moses, who made you the big man on campus? I have just as much right to determine direction for this nation as you do." So saying, Korah led a rebellion that resulted in the deaths of nearly fifteen thousand of God's people. Moses said ok tomorrow you stand by your tents and we will stand by ours, and we will ask God to open the earth and swallow up whomever He hasn't chosen, and thus God did. Beware of envy—of wanting someone else's position. A key to life is just being content with where God has you.

Joseph's Brother / Big Sleeves / the Big Boss

Joseph's brothers were jealous. Joseph had a coat of many colors, or literally, a coat of "big sleeves." In Joseph's day, working men wore sleeveless coats, like vests, in order that their arms would be free to labor. But the bosses, the supervisors, the head honchos wore coats with big sleeves in which they could keep money and supplies—sort of like briefcases.

We see Big Sleeves – get Envious / Joseph's big Sleeves – big Problem

Sometimes we look at someone else's big sleeves and say, "Boy, that guy's got it made." But Joseph's big sleeves were hardly an asset. You see, envious of Joseph's position, his brothers sold him as a slave to a group headed for Egypt. There, Joseph was eventually promoted to the position of head slave. No doubt some of his fellow prisoners looked at him and said, "Boy, I wish I had the coat of a head slave"—little knowing that even this coat would get him in trouble as he shed it to flee Mrs. Potiphar's advances (Genesis 39:12).

Just Rest / He'll Put You / be All Lord Wants / People Should want Develop – but Not Gain Position

Just rest in the place God has you, gang. He'll put you right where you should be. This doesn't mean we shouldn't want to be all that the Lord would have us be. But there comes a point when we're no longer saying, "Lord, I want to develop the talents and abilities you've given me to the fullest degree," but rather, "I've got to do whatever it takes to gain that guy's position. I've got to be the guy with the big sleeves."

Korah – Ground Sucked him Up / You'll end in a Pit / World come Crashing Down

What happened to Korah? The ground opened up and sucked him in (Numbers 16:31–33). Here's an easy way to find yourself in the pit: Be envious of another's position. You don't know what you're headed for; you don't see what you're getting into; and before you know it, your world will come crashing down upon you.

Summarize these 3

So these false teachers, they're leading a rebellion against God's given a God given authority of the pastors, of the elders, of the deacons in the church, and they were who were resisting their false teaching and their attempts at it, self-promotion. And you can imagine what they were doing. Who do you think you are to confront us and tell us we're as smart as you were, as good as you? We're not going to put up with this. And Jude warns, steer clear of those folks. Judgment is coming and it is not unprecedented in in history.

Dissertation on False Teachers

Now Jude gives us a dissertation on these men, and it is not flattering:

Remember Their Clouds (1:12-16)

Deny Power Resurrection Life - Communion

And then he goes on and he says they are spots in your love feasts and they ruin the the communion services and the love feasts. I mean, here they are. They're taking the love feast was a meal that was associated with communion. And you're taking the symbol of Jesus's body, the bread, the symbol of his blood, the cup in all. And as as they're partaking of these things, here are teachers that are in that same meeting who are denying who Jesus is. They're denying that he's the messiah. They're denying him as the son of God. They are denying his power to change a life and his teaching about what he wants his disciples to be. And they were ruining the Lord's Supper for the church.

(Jude 1:12 NKJV) These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

Verse 12 - These are spots in your love feasts – The word spots there mean hidden rocks, like the kinds right under the water that you can't see but enough rock to rip the hull of the boat and sink it. The “certain men who crept in unnoticed” (verse 4) were those who, like Korah, Cain, and Balaam, endangered God's people, seeking to woo them away from the simplicity of God's grace. Jude calls them “spots.” They're like hidden rocks, he says. They join in your fellowship, in your potluck dinners, in your celebration of the grace and goodness of God—but with a hidden agenda. Like hidden rocks, they blend in presently, but they will cause you to crash eventually. And then he goes on to use even stronger metaphors to describe these false teachers.

Verse 12 - They are clouds without water -. Rain was valuable in those days, but they only produced clouds not water. That is, they seem to say all sorts of wonderful things, but their teaching leads only to dry, discouraging days.

Verse 12 - late autumn trees without fruit - Because they're dead trees, they bear no fruit. He describes them as late autumn trees without fruit now and late autumn the if a if a tree doesn't have fruit by late autumn, it's not going to have fruit.

So there is no reason for a tree not to have fruit at that point. But they're late autumn trees without fruit. And not only that, are they fruitless, but they're twice dead, pulled up by the roots. In other words, they are dead. They are incapable of producing fruit in another person's life.

(Jude 1:13 NKJV) raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Verse 13 - raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame - They're wild waves. They have lots of motion, but erratic, meaningless, and wasted energy. Foam will never satisfy your thirst.

Verse 13 - wandering stars - Finally, Jude likens the false teachers to wandering—or shooting—stars. People come on the scene with all sorts of fantastic promises, all kinds of interesting doctrines, shining brightly for a month or two or three. Then when hard times came, or things didn't work out, like shooting stars, they fizzled, faded, and moved on to the next unsuspecting community.

Verse 13 – Reserved Blackness of darkness forever - They can't lead you anywhere safe because they're not going anywhere safe themselves. For whom is reserved the black. Of darkness forever. They are headed to hell themselves. And not only can't they lead anyone to heaven, they're not headed to heaven themselves.

(Jude 1:14 NKJV) Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

(Jude 1:15 NKJV) "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

(Jude 1:16 NKJV) These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

Now Enoch - Now, Enoch, the seventh from Adam prophesied about these men also saying, Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints. Notice talking about Jesus's second coming because it is a judgment that this is referring to does not say that he comes for 10,000 of his saints, but he comes with ten thousands of his saints. That's us to execute judgment on all to convict all who were ungodly among them, of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way.

Verse 16 - and they mouth great swelling words - The same problems Jude is addressing affect the body of Christ today. False teachers, "mouthing great swelling words," continue to peddle their phony doctrines to anyone who will listen. If you've been walking with the Lord very long, you know that as soon as one strange wind of doctrine blows through, another is sure to follow. When I hear of these "new things" my heart sinks, because I know it is just something else to distract God's kids.

And of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him, ungodly is used five times in the one verse. We can surmise that Jude is not impressed with Ungodliness. He talks about their speech, their grumbles, their complainers. And the reason they grumble and they complain is because they don't get to fulfill all of their lusts.

Remember Their Critiques (1:17-19)

(Jude 1:17 NKJV) But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

(Jude 1:18 NKJV) how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

(Jude 1:19 NKJV) These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

Can't Reason – Switch to Mock

But, you beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons who caused divisions not having the spirit. When he talks about them being mockers, Jude reminds them that the apostles had spoken of the fact that when these false teachers came that that that they would also be mockers and not to be surprised by it. One of the one of the most effective weapons of the enemy is mocking if you can argue something away, then he comes in and he he'll try and attempt mockery. But you notice what the reason behind the mockery is. And the reason behind their mocking is that they reject God's truth.

Who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts? In other words, the reason that they mock the Word of God and the standard of God is not an intellectual reason, but it is a sin reason. And they mock the Word of God because not because they think, oh, there's an intellectual problem with being a Christian, but because the word of God denies them a sin that they love more than they would ever love God at this point in time. Isn't it interesting you watch this whole fight that's been going on last several years related to the public display of the Ten Commandments, the United States of America, And all got to have a separation of church and state. And I mean, we just can't have the Ten Commandments out here in front of the school or statehouse.

They got all the intellectual reasons, so to speak. And then they mock the Word of God. They mock the law of God. They mock the standard of God.

You know all you have to do is go up to one of those people and say, you know, could you tell me about the deep intellectual problems that you have with Christianity? All you have to do is go up and say, What sin do you love that God tells you no to? And then you'll have the reason behind the mocking. And that's always the way that it is. Jesus spoke of it when he spoke to Nicodemus. And then notice now he closes the letter by saying, But you now all this is what the false is all about. This is what's happening with them.

Happy is the Man – Gospel Profoundly Simple

Happy is the man or woman who understands that the gospel message is profoundly simple and simply profound. It's Jesus—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

3 Exhortations

After giving us three examples of people who walked away from God's love and three explanations of why they did so, Jude now gives us three exhortations to keep ourselves in the love of God.

Exhortations on How to Keep Ourselves in the Blessings/Love of God (Jude 1:20-21)

- Building yourselves up on your most holy faith (1:20)
- Praying in the Holy Spirit (1:20)
- Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (1:21)

Remember His Completeness (1:20-21)

(Jude 1:20 NKJV) But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

(Jude 1:21 NKJV) keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Verse 20 - building yourselves up on your most holy faith - The first way to keep yourself in the place where you're being drenched in the love of God is to build up your faith. How are we built up in faith? The Bible tells us very simply that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). That's it. To keep yourself in the love of God means that you continue to be a student of the Word. You build up your faith by taking in God's Word, by daily making the practice of spending time in Scripture a priority, by assembling with other believers to study the Word corporately (Hebrews 10:25).

(Romans 10:17 NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Hebrews 10:24 NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

(Hebrews 10:25 NKJV) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Verse 20 - praying in the Holy Spirit - What does it mean to pray in the Holy Ghost? It means allowing the Holy Spirit to inspire your prayers, saying, "Lord, I don't want to come to You with my ideas and my agenda because I don't know what these things might lead to if You grant them to me. So I come to You, Lord, asking for Your Spirit to inspire me to pray. Guide my conversation, Lord. Help me to pray biblically, to be guided by Your Spirit even as I talk with You right now." Don't pray your prayer list and then move on to the next thing in your day, pray in the Spirit.

Verse 21 - keep yourselves in the love of God – In verse 1-2 we read the Lord keeps us and watches over us, but here we see our calling. Contradiction?, not at all! God Every day we have a "Garden Decision" of who we will listen to, the lies of the devil, or by faith the Word of God. It is your Garden decision today of what you will do with His Word.

Verse 21 - looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life - Finally, we are to keep ourselves in the love of God by looking for the coming of Jesus. How it affects my priorities, how it changes my perspective, how it alters my emotions when I say, "Lord, today I'm going to look for Your coming." Today might be the day, dear saints. What a difference it makes when we remember this.

Faith – Spirit – Looking / Faith – Hope - Love

Stay in the Word. Pray in the Spirit. Look for Jesus' coming—three things you can do to keep yourself under the spout where the blessings come out. They're practical, workable, doable—and, interestingly, we see in them faith, love, and hope: Faith, by being in the Word (Romans 10:17); love, by praying in the Spirit whose fruit is love (Galatians 5:22); and hope, by looking for the blessed hope of our Lord's return (Titus 2:13).

All You Talk About / Right On / Keeps Strong

"All you guys at Calvary Chapel ever talk about is being in the Word, looking for His coming, and praying," some charge. "Right. Exactly. You got it!" I say—for that's exactly what Jude tells us to do in order to

keep ourselves in God's love. It works, and it works well, show me a one who isn't strong in their faith who continue in these 3 things.

Again, I have to continue in systematic teaching, or I won't continually come back to these things.

Remember His Compassion (1:22-23)

(Jude 1:22 NKJV) And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

(Jude 1:23 NKJV) but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Those Affected / Show Compassion – Grab by the Neck

What about those who have been affected by false teachers, who are caught up in wrong doctrine? What are we to do with them? Jude gives two approaches. To some, show compassion. Be very gentle with them as you patiently wait for them to see the light. Others, however, you have to grab by the nape of the neck and yank them out of the destructive stuff with which they're involved. Some people you can minister to with compassion, stressing the goodness of God, for doesn't Paul say in Romans 2:4 that it's the goodness of God that leads men to repentance? Others, however, you have to grab by the collar, and tell it like it is, listen my friend, the path you are on leads to hell, and I can't guarantee you once saved always saved for only God knows your heart.

Make Sure you Don't get Sucked In

Verse 23 - hating even the garment defiled by the flesh - In the Old Testament, whenever a man was cleansed from leprosy—a picture of sin—his garments were to be burned (Leviticus 13:52). Jude uses this as an analogy to say, "When you're dealing with folks who are caught up in perversity, make sure you yourself are not affected." In other words, "Save the man, but burn the garment." We don't need to stay current on the movie scene in order to be able to understand them. Not do we need to go to the bar to witness to them. Nor read their perverse poems or journals, or web blogs they write. All we need to do is dwell in the Light, and point them to the Light.

Remember Our Christ (1:24-25)

(Jude 1:24 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

(Jude 1:25 NKJV) To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Warning – Place of Rest

Finally, after all of his warning, Jude leaves us in a place of rest, saying God is the One who will keep us from falling.

Love Flowing / Get Under Spigot

God's love is unconditional, never turned off, never diminished. The only question is: Will you plant yourself in the place where you can be drenched with it?

Word – Prayer - Looking

Jude tells us exactly how to do that as he exhorts us to stay in the Word, pray in the Spirit, and look for our Lord's coming. "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them," Jesus said (see John 13:17).

Love the Simplicity

I love the simplicity of the Word! May the Lord build your faith as you study it. May He fill you with love as you pray in the Spirit. May He give you hope as you look for His coming.

Amen!

Outline: Jude 1:1-25

- Remember Your Calling (1:1-2)
- Remember Our Culture (1:3-7)

- Remember Their Contentions (1:8-10)
- Remember Their Character (1:11)
- Remember Their Clouds (1:12-16)
- Remember Their Critiques (1:17-19)
- Remember His Completeness (1:20-21)
- Remember His Compassion (1:22-23)
- Remember Our Christ (1:24-25)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Gospel / If You Were to Die Tonight

Personal

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Problem

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Penalty

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Provision

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Profession

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Recognize

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Repent

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Receive

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.