

Jude: Contending for The Faith**Introduction****Jude 1-4****→ LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**

- 271 words...
- Could 271 words mean much?
- Could 271 words matter much?
- On November 19, 1863 in the throgs of a violent Civil War, suffering from the early stages of a light case of Smallpox, had traveled from Washington DC by train to a field in Pennsylvania known as Gettysburg...
- They were dedicating the Soldier's National Cemetery on the land...
- July 1-3, 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg was fought
- There were nearly 50,000 casualties during those three days of fighting
- Nearly 8,000 soldiers dead bodies laid strewn across the battlefields ...
- Along with 3,000 dead horses...
- There were more casualties at Gettysburg than any other battle during the Civil War...
- It was on this land that Lincoln gave his now famous Gettysburg Address...
- Prior to Lincoln's remarks, Edward Everett gave a 2 hour 13,607 address...
- Again, Lincoln's, now famous, Gettysburg Address was 271 words...

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

—Abraham Lincoln

I share this story to remind us that...

The impact of an address is not in the length of the words, but in the magnitude of the message

This Letter of Jude is only 25 verses ... (458 words in Greek)

Because of its length, we might be tempted to overlook its importance...

But I believe over these next few weeks we are all going to be deeply impacted by the length, width, breadth, and depth of these Spirit inspired words!

ONE THING

Every believer stands UPON the faithful BEFORE us, WITH the faithful BESIDE us, and must contend FOR the faithful BEHIND us!

1. The AUTHOR

Jude 1–2 (ESV) — Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

... Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James

Jude was the brother of James the Just; the leader of the Church in Jerusalem...

Paul gives us further insight into this James mentioned here...

Galatians 1:19 (ESV) — But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother.

This being the case makes Jude also a brother (half-brother) to Jesus!

Mark 6:3 (ESV) — Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

I know that some of you may be saying, “Hey, I don’t see Jude listed there?!”

Jude’s name is actually...

Ἰούδας - Judas

We know this letter was written sometime between 67 to 80AD...

Some believe earlier (towards 67AD)

But others believe later (towards 80AD)

I tend to lean a little towards the earlier date for a couple of reasons ...

First...

Jude is written much like 2 Peter and seems to take ideas from Peter which was written about 64 AD...

➤ Peter was crucified under Nero 64-65AD

Jude is written to the Church, but its abundant OT references as well as references to the Book of Enoch show that it was written primarily to a Jewish/Judean group of believers...

Jerusalem fell in 70AD

Second...

It was written after Second Peter because of his reference towards the apostasy...

2 Peter 2:1 (ESV) — But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

Jude 4 (ESV) — For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

1. The AUTHOR

2. The ADMONITION

Jude 3 (ESV) — Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

This verse is the theme of the entire letter...

“CONTEND”

The word used here for “CONTEND” literally means to AGONIZE EARNESTLY...

It means to fight... to EXPEND EFFORT for something that matters greatly!

“THE FAITH”

The Faith – refers to the things believed and handed down

1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV) — Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons

The Faith is the body of beliefs held by the Church...

“ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS”

This has a VERY CLEAR meaning...

The Faith was already complete and established by the writing of this letter!

The Faith is NOT evolving through the passing generations!

The Faith makes the same demands for obedience as it did in the first century!

The Faith is built upon the foundation of the Word of God!

The Faith includes the life-changing activity of God in our entire salvation!

The Faith includes the moral demands for purity in body and soul!

The Faith includes complete obedience to Jesus as Lord and Master!

The Faith includes complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit to live this new life!

Listen to what Paul said to the Ephesians...

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV) — So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Every believer stands upon the faithful before us, with the faithful beside us, and must contend for the faithful behind us!

Psalm 71:17–18 (ESV) — O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

1. The AUTHOR

2. The ADMONITION

3. The APOSTACY

Jude 4 (ESV) — For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

“CERTAIN PEOPLE”

Look at the progressive disdain Jude has for these “certain people”...

verse 4 – “certain people...”

verses 8, 10 – “these people...”

verses 12, 14, 16 – “these...”

Question 1 – WHO are these “certain people”?

Answer 1 – UNGODLY people

Jude 4 (ESV) — For certain people have crept in unnoticed ... ungodly people ...

The word “ungodly” used here is ... pertaining to living without regard for religious belief or practice

Romans 5:6 (ESV) — For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

In other words, Jude is telling us they are LOST UNBELIEVERS!

Question 2 – WHERE are these “certain people” GOING?

Jude 4 (ESV) — For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation ...

Designated means, to write in advance or in anticipation of their actions

Condemnations means, to judge a person to be guilty and liable to punishment

Notice also that he adds the word, “THIS” before condemnation...

We will talk more later about this but let’s see...

Israel – “destroyed those who did not believe...”

Angels – “...who did not stay within their own position of authority, ... he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day”

Sodom & Gomorrah – “undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.”

So, where are they going?

Answer 2 – ETERNAL JUDGMENT

Question 3 – WHAT are these “certain people” DOING?

Jude 4 (ESV) — For certain people have crept in unnoticed ... who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Pervert means to change or alter

They were gutting the faith of moral purity!

They were giving in to sensuality!

They were saying that God’s grace allows us to live the way we want to live...

Some were listening to the Apostle Paul and perverting his teachings into these deceptive lies...

Peter spoke of this...

2 Peter 3:16b (ESV) — ... There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

What was Paul’s response to these allegations and false representations of his teachings?

Romans 6:1–6 (NIV84) — What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might

be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin

They were also denying Jesus lordship of their daily lives...

Answer 3 – ALTERING GRACE & DENYING JESUS' LORDSHIP

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV) — 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Salvation is not a get-out-of-jail card nor a ticket to heaven, but rather a total SURRENDER of SELF to the total REDEMPTION and RULE of JESUS!

Sadly, this is not simply an unpopular message to the people in the world, but it is an unpopular message to many in the church!

Jude – Contending for The Faith
Introduction
Jude 1-4

Every believer stands _____ the faithful _____ us, _____ the faithful _____ us, and must contend _____ the faithful _____ us!

1. The _____

2. The _____

3. The _____

Question 1 – _____ are these “certain people”?

Answer 1 – _____ people

Question 2 – _____ are these “certain people” _____?

Answer 2 – _____

Question 3 – _____ are these “certain people” _____?

Answer 3 – _____ & _____

Salvation is not a get-out-of-jail card nor a ticket to heaven, but rather a total _____ of _____ to the total _____ and _____ of _____!