

OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Wednesday Bible Study

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The Book of JUDE

Introduction:

The writer was the half-brother of Christ, named, “Judas” in Mark 6:3. The resurrected Christ was seen by James, another half-brother of Christ (1 Cor. 15:7), so undoubtedly both James and Judas became believers at about the same time. Christ’s brethren are mentioned in Acts 1:13-14 as sharing in the prayer meeting before Pentecost. Note that Jude does not boast of his human relationship to Christ. He prefers to call himself a, “Bond-slave of Jesus Christ” and a brother of James. Though in his letter, Jude speaks of Judgment, he is careful to point out that the true believer is kept in Christ (vv. 1, 24). Although we do not keep ourselves saved, we should keep ourselves in the love of God by obeying His Word (vs. 21).

Outline of Jude:

I. A Strong Warning Against Nominal Christianity

- A. The Purpose of This Letter: vv. 1- 3
- B. Don’t Be a Destroyer: vv. 4 – 19
- C. Be a Builder: vv. 20 – 25

Nominal Christianity has always been an enemy of the Church. As a matter of fact, Jesus warned against this kind of spiritual lifestyle when He quoted Isaiah saying, “These people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.” (Mark 7:6, Isaiah 29:13). Sometimes, my friends, nominal Christians are among the most difficult people to reach with the Gospel.

Question: What is a nominal Christian?

Answer: Christians in name only; Christ has no bearing in their lives. . .

In our study here, Jude understood that the principle was deeply concerned encouraging believers to avoid the satanic trap of becoming merely nominal Christians. That being said, we need to contend earnestly for our faith.

Let's now look intently at the Book of Jude

1. The Purpose of the Letter, vv. 1 – 3 Note the following:

- The humble spirit: *"A servant of Jesus Christ."*
- The greeting: *"Those who are called, sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ."*
- They are *"Sanctified"*
- *"Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you"*
- Encouraging them, *"Concerning our common salvation"*
- Hearing about a need which they are facing, and so he, *"Found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."* (vs.3)

Jude has two major concerns, *that they do not drift and they will not be led astray by false teachers.*

2. Don't Be a Destroyer, vv. 4 – 19

In this long discourse, Jude warns against those who would divide the Body of Christ and seek to destroy the faith of believers rather than build it.

These men have crept into the church unnoticed and have...

- *"Turn[ed] the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny the only God" (v.4)*

Jude exposes the characteristics of these ungodly men and the distinctives of their false teaching:

I. The characteristics of these ungodly men:

- *"Ungodly men" – vs.4*
- They *"Turn the grace of our God into licentiousness" (vs. 4)*
- They *"Deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs. 4)*
- *"These dreamers defile the flesh" (vs. 8)*
- They *"Reject authority" (vs. 8)*

- They *“Speak evil of dignitaries”* (vs. 8)
- These *“Speak evil of whatever they do not know”* (vs. 10)
- Like brute beasts, . . . *“They corrupt themselves”* (vs. 10)
- They *“Serve themselves”* (vs. 12)
- They are *“Clouds without water”* (vs. 12)
- They are *“Raging waves of the sea”* (vs. 13)
- They are *“Wandering stars”* (vs. 13)
- These are *“Murmurers and complainers”* (vs. 16)
- They are *“Walking according to their own lusts”* (vss. 16, 18)
- They *“Mouth great swelling words”* (vs. 16)
- They are *“Flattering people to gain advantage”* (vs. 16)
- These *“Are the ones who cause divisions”* (vs. 19)
- They are *“Sensual”* (vs. 19)
- They are *“Not having the spirit”* (vs. 19)

II. The judgments which will surely come to these false teachers (vv. 5 – 11)

- The Lord *“Destroyed those who did not believe”* (v. 5)
- He has *“Reserved disobedient angels in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day”* (vs. 6)
- They shall *“Suffer “the vengeance of eternal fire”* (vs. 7)
- *“Woe to them!”* (vs. 11)
- *“For whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever”* (vs. 13)
- *“The Lord comes . . . to execute judgment on all . . . who are ungodly”* (vss. 14, 15)

3. Be a Builder, vv. 20 -25

Do you believe that one can destroy in just a few hours that which has taken years to construct? I think it merits our attention . . . To be a builder is much more fulfilling than being a destroyer.

I believe that’s the message of the scriptures here. Our Lord has called us to be builders, not destroyers. Sins bring destruction, but spiritual life brings growth and building! Jude instructs us to build ourselves up spiritually. (vs. 20)

We are to be builders! Jude gives us six specific ways we may accomplish this:

1. By *“Building ourselves up on our Most holy faith”* (vs. 20)
2. By *“Praying in the Holy Spirit”* (vs. 20)
3. By *“Keeping ourselves in the love of God”* (vs. 21)
4. By *“Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (vs. 21)
5. By *“Having compassion* (vs. 22)
6. By *“Saving others with fear”* (vs. 23)

The closing two verses of Jude’s short letter are the best known and most quoted of the entire epistle. It is the final word on Christian living and escaping the error of false teaching. The focus is squarely upon God! He is the One, *“Who is able to keep you from stumbling,”* and He is the One who will, *“Present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy”* (vs. 24).

Therefore, we should:

- Trust Him
- Receive Him as Savior, and
- Follow Him as Lord, day by day

Jude closes with the highest tribute to God as a reminder to us of who God is and who we are. ***“To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory, majesty, dominion and power, through Jesus Christ our Lord, both now and forever. Amen.”*** (vs. 25)

Oak Ridge, let’s not become a “nominal Christian” . . .