

Preserving Our Heritage

Jude 20-21

I want to remind us once again that Jude desired to write unto them concerning salvation, but felt as if he must exhort them to [contend for the faith, V.3](#). In previous verses, he sounded the warning to recognize and oppose heresy, and now he sounds the call to defend and maintain what we've been entrusted with.

Do you ever consider the gravity of what we are engaged in? I fear that much of the time we gather with a careless attitude about our service for the Lord. Our minds are somewhere else, we pay little attention to the Word of God, and we go right back out into the world with little or no change in our lives. I pray that these verses will challenge us by revealing what we've been entrusted with. What will be left for future generations if we fail? We cannot fail; there is too much at stake! So, what are we to preserve?

I. Our Identification (20) – [But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost](#), This is the 3rd time that we are reminded that Jude was writing to the beloved, those who are “*esteemed, dear, and worthy of love.*” He was writing to the Christian believers, those who could identify with Christ.

- Allow me to remind you to whom you belong. If you have been saved, you've been bought with a price. You belong to the Lord Himself. [Ep.5:30 - For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.](#) I don't know about you, but that is a sobering thought to me. We are identified with the holy Lamb of God. We are part of the body of Christ. We do not have the right to live as we please and possess a take it or leave it attitude when it comes to the call of God.
- The redeemed belong to the greatest body known to man. Christ loved us enough to give Himself upon the cross. It is our responsibility to identify with Him! We live in a day when the world has rejected Christ and despise the mention of His name. It is time for God's people to publicly identify with their Savior and Lord!

II. Our Foundation – [building up yourselves on your most holy faith](#). Jude is speaking of their faith in Christ. Take a moment to consider the heritage of this body of believers. Many of you can remember saints of God who were faithful to the Lord. They lived a life that honored the Lord.

- No doubt the church has had her share of problems, but she has been built on a solid foundation. We wouldn't enjoy what we have today if it wasn't. The saints of God have helped to lay the foundation for the work that is being carried out today. This church has been built upon the Lord. The torch has been handed down to us. It is now our race to run, our battle to fight.

- I certainly don't want to be the pastor who is remembered for leading this blessed congregation astray. We are not to worship tradition, but the groundwork has been laid, things are being done in a godly manner, and we are to maintain that heritage!
- The world is pushing a liberal agenda. Churches are pushing to become seeker friendly. They are more interested in giving people what they want instead of what they need.
- The Bible teaches that we are to build our lives and our churches upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. Ep.2:20 - And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. The foundation has already been established. We need the same doctrine and teaching that the apostles shared, that which Christ is the cornerstone.
- I'm not interested in finding a newer version. I have seen the power of God work through the KJV. I'm not interested in all the modern gimmicks. If entertainment is what brings them in, there will always be a bigger show somewhere else! What are you building your life upon? I want to build on that solid foundation.

I. Our Identification (20)

II. Our Foundation (20)

III. Our Supplication (20) – Jude exhorted them to pray in the Holy Ghost. The power for building our Christian lives and maintaining a spiritual foundation is rooted in prayer. It is simple, no prayer; no power!

- Now don't let this verse scare you. The charismatics have used this verse to imply some supernatural experience, involving speaking in tongues, but it simply means to pray in power according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Have you not had those times when you knew that God had heard your prayer? Have there not been times when you felt a wonderful closeness to the Lord as you prayed? If so you have prayed in the Holy Ghost. It isn't about visions or unknown tongues, but about getting in touch with heaven.
- If there is one thing that we desperately need in our day, it is a need for those who can get a prayer through to God. The church has enjoyed that in the past and we need it again! God has pricked my heart with this text.
- So I want to ask you a personal question: How is your prayer life? Are you committed to daily prayer and supplication to the Lord? I'm not talking about a simple prayer at bedtime, but honest, heartfelt, burdened prayer.

- There is no limit to what we could see God do in our midst if we as a congregation would get serious about praying. It must be an attitude of life. We need to be in constant prayer about all things. [Phil.4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.](#) [I Thes.5:17 - Pray without ceasing.](#)
- We will never leave a legacy and spiritual heritage for our children if we aren't committed enough to pray. There is power in prayer, but it must be exercised. Oh that we would get a burden for prayer! If you are interested in the power of God in our church, will you make a commitment to pray for our church earnestly? There is no doubt that we will see God work in our midst. [Mat.18:19 - Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.](#)

I. Our Identification (20)

II. Our Foundation (20)

III. Our Supplication (20)

IV. Our Affection (21a) – [Keep yourselves in the love of God.](#) Jude well understood the importance of keeping a loving relationship with God. I realize that if you are saved, you love God. I'm not questioning your love for Him, but is that love what it used to be? Do you desire that closeness that you once had?

- I fear that we have grown as Ephesus was when Jesus commanded John to write unto them; we have left our first love. First love is simply "*the priority love, the one that takes first place, preeminent love.*"
- Allow me to illustrate this. There is a lot in life that I love, but Tanya is my priority love. She has the preeminence in my life. I love each of you, but she comes first.
- That is the attitude that we need toward the Lord; He must come first. Much of what the church has failed in is a direct result of loosing that first love. We have gotten to the place that we love our activities and traditions more than we love the Lord.
- Sadly Jesus is not the priority in many Christian homes. Many feel as if they can give the Lord a couple of hours on Sunday morning and they have done their part. That is not priority love. That is nothing more than giving God second best.
- There must be a desire to spend some quality time with the Lord each day. If Tanya were to take a trip and be away from me for several days, I would miss her greatly. But, often folks can go for days on end and have no fellowship with the Lord. May we examine our priorities and see just where we have placed the Lord.

I. Our Identification (20)

II. Our Foundation (20)

III. Our Supplication (20)

IV. Our Affection (21a)

V. Our Anticipation (21b) – [Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.](#)

Jude and the early believers were earnestly looking for the return of the Lord. It had been but a short time since His ascension and yet they looked for Him.

- The return of the Lord seems to have slipped from the minds of a lot of Christians. We need to live each day in anticipation of the Lord's return. We ought to wake each morning thinking this could be the day. If we really believe that, it is time to start living as if we believed it!
- I can assure you that if we knew for certain the Lord would return tomorrow, we would have lived much differently today. Well the truth is He just might come tomorrow. Live each day as if it might be your last. We have no guarantee of another day and there is still so much to be done.
- We have the glorious privilege of living for the Lord. This world and those who deny the Lord have nothing but judgment and eternal damnation to anticipate, but we can anticipate our Lord's return in glory. He will step out on the clouds one day just as He said. All of the work and trials that we have endured will all be worthwhile when we see Him as He is.
- We are a people of hope. Let us renew that hope within our souls and share it with those around us. One day you will travel your last mile down here and step onto a street of pure gold! [Titus 2:13 - Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.](#)

There is coming a day when we will stand before the Lord and give an account of the life we have lived. There will be no excuses offered or place to hide.

Have you done all that you could for the Lord? Are you satisfied with the life you've lived? The Lord has entrusted us with the welfare of His Church. Are you committed to maintaining the heritage that we've been left to carry on? [Lu.12:48b - For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.](#) We have been given much!