

The Challenge to Continue

Jude 22-25

Tonight we have come to the conclusion of Jude. It has been an enlightening and challenging study. While looking at Jude I was reminded how relevant and current the Scriptures are. They were given and recorded thousands of years ago and yet there is application and great wisdom for the world in which we live today. The world may change, but the Word never will. It will continue to serve as the guide and authority for humanity. The principles recorded in Scripture have not changed and they remain needful and beneficial in our day!

Jude spent much of his letter revealing the character and dangers of the apostates. In our last study he urged the church to maintain the heritage of godliness they had received. Tonight, in closing, he offers a challenge to continue in the truth of the gospel.

These truths have not changed, and even though much time has passed, the challenge remains in our generation. Someone needs to embrace this challenge and stand for the Lord. As we conclude our study in Jude, I want to examine the [elements](#) of this charge as we consider: [The Challenge to Continue](#).

I. A Particular Effort (22-23) – Even though the apostates had infiltrated the church and some were led astray, the church still had an obligation to continue to share the gospel, reaching the lost and exhorting the believers. Jude reveals two groups to which the church must minister.

A. The Weak (22) – [And of some have compassion, making a difference](#): The approach to the weak is actually two-fold. First we see that it:

1. Requires Compassion – The church is charged to have [compassion](#) on those around us. This is an interesting obligation. It means “*to have mercy on; to help the afflicted who are seeking aid; to bring help to the wretched.*” Clearly compassion isn’t to be reserved for fellow believers only. We are to help those who seek it and even those who are wretched and aren’t even aware. Jesus declared that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, period! There is no wiggle room in that great command. We desperately need compassion in our day, for saint and sinner alike!

2. Results in Change – The compassion that we show is not without benefit or effect. It will result in [making a difference](#) in the lives of people. Isn’t that what we are here to accomplish anyway? Should we not desire to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us?

- That is what the Lord will recognize when we stand before Him. Many are counting simply on their church attendance or their tithe to please the Lord, but He expects so much more than that. We are to make a difference in the world in which we live for His glory and the good of mankind.

B. The Wayward (23) – And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Jude speaks of three areas of effort when dealing with the wayward. He reveals.

1. The Approach (23a) – Compassion isn't the only resource we have in our task of reaching the lost and wayward. Some must be saved by fear. This does not imply intimidation or humiliation, but simply sharing the truth of God's Word. We need those who are willing to share the whole counsel of God. There is a heaven prepared for the redeemed, but there is also a hell waiting those who die without Christ. As believers we have an obligation to share the truths of eternity, which ought to bring fear to those who are lost.

2. The Accomplishment (23b) – Jude reveals a sobering thought; pulling them out of the fire. That has the idea of "seizing or carrying off by force." Our world continues to deny the existence of a literal, fiery hell, but it does exist and all who die apart from God in sin will spend eternity there. That ought to change us; it ought to challenge us in such a way that we can no longer be complacent and passive about the needs of those who do not know the Lord in salvation. Hell is the end result for all who die lost.

3. The Anger (23c) – Jude now reveals a strong emotion toward the actions of the wayward. We are not to hate the sinner, but we are called upon to hate the sin and deal with it appropriately. There is absolutely nothing wrong with a righteous indignation toward sin.

- I fear that many have lowered the standard and refuse to deal with sin for fear of offending those who engage in it. Jesus always showed mercy and compassion, but He did not shy away from or overlook sin. He exposed and dealt with it. We need to stand for truth and expose sin according to the Word of God. We have been silent too long, allowing the influence of the world to contaminate the church. When an apostate is left unchallenged, he will contaminate and destroy. We need the courage to expose the sin, deal with it in a godly way, and remove it from the church.

I. A Particular Effort (22-23)

II. A Promised Eternity (24) – [Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy](#), In this verse Jude reflects upon the hope that we have in the Lord and His provision for us.

A. Our Preservation (24a) – What a promise and encouragement in the Word of God. Jude had experienced many who had fallen away, after the false teachings of the apostates. Here he reminds the believer of their absolute security in the Lord. We are kept by Him, guarded, shielded, secured. I may stumble and miss the mark along the way, but I cannot utterly fall. I am not walking in my own strength and righteousness, but in that of the Lord. [Phil. 1:6 – Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:](#)

B. Our Justification (24b) – [Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy](#), Isn't that amazing to consider? Jude speaks of the believer's justification. All the redeemed are now justified in the Lord. As God looks upon us He no longer sees the sins that we've committed; He no longer sees an outcast who deserves hell. He sees one that has the righteousness of Christ applied to his account.

- When God sees us, we are viewed as worthy, faultless before Him, because we have been cleansed in the precious blood of Christ our Lord. We will stand accepted of God because of our justification in Christ Jesus!

C. Our Jubilation (24) – [The saved will be presented faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy!](#) Those among the early church may have faced great adversity; there were surely times when they wondered if it was worth it, if they would ever survive, but Jude reminds them of the joys to come. The saved will one day stand before the God of heaven, in all of His glory, justified and filled with exceeding great joy.

- There is much that we face in this life that brings discouragement, heart-ache, and despair, but when we enter that heavenly city and behold His glory, all will be joy and peace throughout all eternity. Press on child of God; it will be worth it all when we enter His glorious presence!

III. A Perfect Example (25) – [To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen](#). Jude closes this wonderful letter with a

reminder of all that our Lord is. Rather than look to the apostate, Jude urges them to pattern their lives after Christ.

A. His Position – **The only wise God**. There are none beside Him. He alone stands as the God of the universe. None exceed His greatness or wisdom. We need not fear walking alone or in darkness. We serve the only God, the true and living Lord.

B. His Provision – **our Saviour**. As I considered this word from Jude I was once again reminded of the personal relationship we have with Christ. He is a personal Lord. He is our Savior. He is not just one we have heard of, one we have witnessed His power in the lives of others, but He is my Lord and your Lord. He is our Lord.

- He is our Savior, our Redeemer; the One who took our place, became our sacrifice, offering Himself so that we might be saved and forgiven. He endured the suffering and agony of the cross to secure provision for me!

C. His Praise – **be glory and majesty**. As Jude considered all that Jesus was, he had to pause and praise Him. When confronted with the glory and majesty of Christ, he was compelled to offer praise.

- His **glory** summarizes all His divine attributes in their glorious radiance.
- His **majesty** signifies His absolute and eternal reign. What a mighty God!

D. His Power (25) – **To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.** Jude also realized none could rival the Lord's power. He had dealt with the influence of evil men among the church, but they could never compare to the power of Christ.

- Men may inherit or establish a circle of influence and domain in this life, but they will never possess the power that belongs to God alone.

- Jude speaks of His **dominion**. This refers to the bounds of His kingdom, which is limitless and endless; the extent of His might to rule and reign over all and in all.

- He also referred to His **power** which reveals His absolute sovereignty and ability to rule as He pleases. We need not fear the Lord being removed from His throne. We need not fear a day when He is vulnerable or weak. His throne will endure for all of eternity. There will never be a time when He depends on anyone or anything for His existence or provision.

E. His Preeminence (25) – The Lord rules and reigns [both now and forever more](#). He is the eternal God; He who has no beginning and no ending. He is the Alpha and Omega; the First and the Last. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

This book may have been small in comparison to other books in the Bible, but it is not small on content. I have been challenged, enlightened, and encouraged in my walk with the Lord.

We have been given much and much shall be required. I pray that we will make the most of the opportunities that we have been entrusted with and [earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints](#). We don't need a new word or a new faith; we need to contend for that which we have received!

Is there a need in your life today? Are you struggling in the faith? Are you weak in spirit and feel as if you can't go on? If so, the Lord has the help you need. If you have never come to the Lord in salvation, He stands ready, willing, and able to save you today!