

12047-A June 17, 2012
Jude Overview and verses 1-2
In His Grip

I. Jesus warned against false teachers in Matt.7:15-23

- A. Speaking and doing things in Jesus' name (miracles)
- B. But living in wickedness. "I never knew you."
- C. This prophetic warning from Jesus was fulfilled in a huge number of circumstances that arose in the first 30 years of the church. Most of the letters of the NT were written into situations where people were misrepresenting the gospel or the Christian life in various ways. False prophets did indeed arise and seek to pull people away from the Lord. They still do.
- D. Jude (along with 2 Peter) presents one of the harshest condemnations of false forms of Christainity found in the NT.

II. Orientation/Context

A. Who is Jude?

- 1. A servant of Jesus Christ (doulos)
- 2. Brother of James, head of the Jerusalem church and half-brother of Jesus.
- 3. *Why not say, "Jesus' brother"?*
 - a) James doesn't call himself that either, but Paul calls James that in Gal.1:19
- 4. *Because being a servant of Christ is more important than being his half-brother.*
- 5. *Note: two little brothers see a profound distinction between themselves and Jesus—He is in a class by himself.*

B. Why did he write this? *Because by the middle of the 1st century perversions of the gospel were already cropping up.*

- 1. Two basic pastoral heresies in the church (as opposed to theological heresies).
 - a) Christ is your Lord, but not your Savior
 - (1) Legalism: your work/effort is what you rely on to "earn" grace.
 - b) Christ is your Savior but not your Lord.
 - (1) License: God's grace is permission to sin. (Paul was accused of teaching this. Rom6)
- 2. Jude and 2 Peter attack the 2nd one of these
 - a) *False teaching:* Jesus is a Savior without being a Lord. 4b
 - (1) No accountability to him as a true sovereign who will call us into account. (2 Cor.5:10)
 - b) *Which lead to false living:* We can sin all we want, unrepentantly, because he has saved us.
 - (1) Same as 2 Peter: people claiming to be Christians and living *unrepentantly* immoral, debauched lives.
 - c) *What you really believe will alter your actions and your destiny.*
 - (1) *Truth sets you free to obey God*
 - (a) *The truth of the gospel, King Jesus who loves you*
 - (2) *Error enslaves you to the Self, Devil, world*

III. Overview and Outline

- A. Encouraging Greeting. 1-2
 - 1. Very theological, very encouraging.
- B. Pastoral Purpose.3-4
 - 1. Not academic but pastoral. He wants them to walk with the Lord and there is a threat to that happening.
- C. Stinging Warning. 5-16
 - 1. A very strong, tart, dense condemnation of false Christian teachers, see also 2 Pet.2
 - 2. *Wrath in God is the other side of love because love that does not hate evil cannot be virtuous love.*
- D. Hopeful encouragement. 17-23
 - 1. Keep yourself in the love of God
- E. Rich Doxology. 24-25
 - 1. Who or what you worship will determine your character and destiny.

IV. Three things you must know as a Christian in order to be safe in Christ.

- A. You are called.
 - 1. Calling means He has a firmer grip on you than you have on him.
 - a) Call does not simply mean invite. I means a direct summons. This is very good news, though it leaves us with philosophical questions about our role. The Bible doesn't care to answer all our philosophical questions about how God's decisions relate to ours. But it does care that we know God's are primary and secure. That is why we should trust him.
 - b) He called you before you responded to him. Eph.1:3-4
 - 2. Calling means you're not just along for the ride.
 - a) *He called you to something bigger than you.*
 - b) *If you were standing in a crowd and the President came over and said "come get in Marine One (his personal helicopter), would you assume he was just give you a ride somewhere?*
 - c) The "bigger thing" is his kingdom in your private and public world.
 - (1) Representing his lordship in your marriage, family, work—whatever other vocations you have.
 - (2) Seeking first his kingdom (Matt.6:33) doesn't just mean "getting saved." It means living in *KingdomThink* right now.
 - 3. Calling means you're not just a number. (Jn.1:47-49; Lk.12:7)
 - a) He calls you by name and has a personal destiny for you that includes every detail of what you are facing right now—*especially the traumas and trials and griefs.*
 - b) *This is why you feel like an only child, yet are part of a family.*
 - c) *This is why you pray as an individual and feel alone with God so often.*

B. You are loved.

1. First on Jesus' mind after the resurrection. John 20:17.
 - a) My father and your father—God is now your father
 - b) Jesus was excited not by the resurrection, but by the new relationship his people would have with the Father now.
2. Foremost in Paul's mind as Christians face trials here. Rom.8:31-39
 - a) *Because trauma in this age gives the enemy the opportunity to tell you that God doesn't love you.*
3. *So, no matter what has happened in your life, God is not punishing you for your sins—even if he may be disciplining you to help you (Heb 12)*

C. You are kept.

1. Are kept = root: tereo: perfect passive participle, verb means to cause a state to continue, to retain, keep, preserve.
2. How? Three ways at least:
 - a) *By trading places with us. 2 Cor.5:21*
 - (1) He took the blame for our sins. (Gal.3:13)
 - (2) We get the credit for his goodness.
 - b) *By putting his own Mind/Spirit in us. Born Again. (Titus 3:5-6)*
 - (1) Regeneration is his own life added to ours forever.
 - (2) God is not an abortionist.
 - c) *By warning us in letters like Jude (and others).*
 - (1) Warnings applied by the Spirit so that Christians keep running back to the Lord for his grace. The warnings work; that's part of how he keeps us.
 - (2) Communion reminds us of this.
 - (3) If my kids are in a plane and I tell them not to jump out or they'll die—they will believe me and not jump out. They have my good sense in them and they trust what I say.
3. His record for goodness and punishment for evil is on your account

D. This why mercy, peace and love will fill you forever.

1. The sense of receiving forgiveness and mercy
2. The complete wholeness (shalom) that comes with knowing you are in the Lord's arms
3. God's own love poured out on you.

V. Think:

- A. Christian: If you have been flirting with a lifestyle outside the lordship of Christ, why?
- B. Christian: If you have lost track of the calling God has put on your life, the security you have in him, and the mission he has in this world, come back.
- C. Non-Christian: What better news is there than that God will give you his life, his forgiveness and his destiny in the kingdom of God (the new universe) through repentant faith in Christ the King? Do you have a better deal than that?