

Jude

Chapter One

Written by Jude, often believed to be the brother of Jesus. It was written around 65 A.D. and was written to the Christian saints in general. Its purpose is to defend the Christian faith. In the first century much of the world was antagonistic against Christians. Jude especially writes to them to warn them about immoral men, false teachers, who were perverting the gospel and the message of grace.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter 1

SUMMARY: Verses 1-25

1. Jude refers to himself as a servant (slave) of Jesus Christ. He refers to this service as 'being called', 'being loved', and 'being kept'.
2. Even though we all, as Christians, can claim a common salvation, Jude urged each of them to contend for the faith. This proves that salvation is connected to faith not just works alone.
3. Faith is not just some mental agreement to a creed. Faith is the grace and lordship of Jesus that produces right living.
4. Jude intimates that Satan tries to 'creep in' to rob them of true faith.
5. Jude indicates that there is a judgment awaiting those who do not believe. He gives evidences of such as showing God has judged the angels who fell with Lucifer and He judged the sin of Sodom and Gommorah. Judgment is not linked to God's anger but His truth. He will judge with eternal fire.
6. Jude teaches that Satan is a real angelic being. He has angels and people who do his bidding.
7. Jude teaches us about authority. Not even Michael would speak evil of Lucifer, but stated "the Lord rebuke you." This gives us clarity that even the angels understand God's realm of authority. This intimates also that Lucifer at one time must have been above Michael in angelic order.
8. We cannot just live as Christians off of base instinct. We are to live by the Spirit. Jude gives 3 examples of ungodly living: Cain: selfishness against God's plan of redemptive sacrifice (blood) Balaam: selfishness against God's direct commands (Word) Korah: selfishness against God's leadership. (Spirit)
9. Jude prophesies against false teachers and their ungodly ways as they attempt to dilute God's church with error. A true mark of a false teacher is selfishness absent of godly fear. They use flattery, and walk according to ungodly desires.
10. Jude tells us the the Scriptures and Spirit predicts scoffers will come and will follow their own ungodly desires. He calls these people unbelievers and divisive. This is proof that Christians are to live separated and holy lives.
11. We can build our own faith praying in the Spirit. This is speaking in tongues and it helps keep yourself.
12. We are to hate sin but help those who struggle. You don't minister to the sinner by embracing the sin. You minister to them by loving the person and hating the sin.
13. You can stand blameless before God in Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

1. Why do you believe Jude focuses so much on RIGHT living as being an evidence of our faith?
2. Do you see how judgment is part of God's eternal plan? Jesus is the only hope to avoid judgment. Why so?
3. Why is Satan's work always so divisive?
4. Describe how ungodly living is a form of selfishness against JESUS, the WORD, and the SPIRIT.

APPLICATION

1. Do you have anything trying to 'CREEP IN' to your life to rob you of your faith? (vs. 4)
2. Are there sins you tolerate and sins you hate? Why is it easy to tolerate some and hate others? Don't we usually tolerate our own sins and hate the sins of others?
3. Do you pray in the Spirit to build up your faith? How could praying in the Spirit affect your faith for the better?

