



The Journey

Lesson #6


Contend for the Truth

Jim Hoffman



Jude 1-2

This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ. 2 May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love.






Jude 1-2

☐ Called by God.

☐ Loved by God.

☐ Kept by God.

**The letter starts out
with some clarity
about the believer's
standing in Christ.**





Jude 24


Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.

The letter also ends with more clarity about our security in Christ.






Jude

- ❑ Jude begins and ends with comforting words of assurance, but in between there are grave warnings.
 - ❑ The warnings have to do with holding fast to your faith.
 - ❑ The warnings are about dangers from within the body of believers and the need to stand up for 'the' faith.
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Jude

- ❑ Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. NKJV
 - ❑ The gospel message was not configured or arranged by the apostles – it was delivered to them.
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Jude

- ❑ And now it is our turn to keep it intact for it has also been delivered to us.
- ❑ Who will study it? Who will seek to know what it says? Who will help others apply it?
- ❑ Sound doctrine may not be exciting, but it is essential; opinions just will not do.






Two alerts for us.

- ❑ “I know what the Bible says, but”
- ❑ “I believe” without a scriptural basis.
- ❑ What I want to be true and what is true are not always the same – I don’t want it to be true that all are not saved, but that does not make it so.





Jude

- So while Jude begins and ends with the victorious nature of our faith, he also knows there are many battles to contest along the way.
 - The gospel is always more important than just one person's salvation or even one generation's salvation.
 - Since it is the only message of salvation each generation must be sure to fight to keep it intact.
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Jude

- Think long term and world wide.




The preservation of the truth is more than a goal.



Jude

Acts 20:28 So guard yourselves and God's people.

Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. 29 I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. 30 Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. 31 Watch out!





Apostates


Jude 5-7 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, **having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.** **6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

NKJV






Apostates

- Apostasy is by definition a departure or withdrawal from a previous position.
 - The message of Jude is to guard your hearts and minds against all of the devices of the enemy.
 - The flesh, pride, and the enticements of the world.
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Apostates

- So why did God punish the Israelites he called and delivered out of Egypt?
 - And what is the reference to the rebellious angels about?
 - And what can we learn from God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah?
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Apostates

Jude 8-11 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.
9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" **10** **But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.** **11** **Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. NKJV**





Apostates

- What is the way of Cain?
- What is the error of Balaam?
- What do we learn from Korah's rebellion ?





Today's Apostates

- Look out for anyone who values a “show” above the truth.
- Watch out for those who are ‘selling’ blessings.
- Reject those who think they’ve found new truth. (we have the ‘delivered’ truth)





Apostates

Jude 17-19 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

NKJV





Apostates

- Nearly every N.T. letter with a '2nd' addresses apostasy in some form. (2nd Thes, 2nd Timothy, 2nd Peter, and 2nd John)
- I think the message is self-evident – wherever God is doing a work through his people the enemy is there to resist from within and without.
- The Devil knows he is defeated and Believers should know we will win, but that does mean there will be no battles.





Action Items

Study to show yourself approved.

(2nd Timothy 2:15)

Find a way to contribute to the preservation of the truth.





Questions

