

# Oppose the Apostates

July 29, 2018 ~ Jude

## Read v1-2 ~ Greeting

- ❖ **v1a** ~ "Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James"
  - ✧ Jude and James were half-brothers of Jesus / James' letter opens similarly
  - ✧ They regarded themselves as slaves of Jesus – not younger brothers
- ❖ **v1b** ~ "To those .. called, sanctified by .. Father, and preserved by Jesus Christ"
  - ✧ Jude begins letter with reference to the Trinity
    - ◇ “called” by Holy Spirit / “sanctified” by Father / “preserved” by Jesus
    - ◇ Jude likes to think and speak in 3’s / Trinity referenced in farewell also
- ❖ **v2** ~ “Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you”
  - ✧ Jude’s desire is that these 3 blessings be “lavished” upon his readers
  - ✧ They are so much more valuable (and tangible) than material wealth

## Read v3-4 ~ Two Groups

- ❖ Jude refers to 2 groups at start of each verse (**v3** – “beloved” & **v4** – “certain men”)
  - ✧ 2 groups existed then / 2 groups exist now / 2 groups always exist
    - ◇ These are “tares and wheat”, “goats and sheep”, “lost and saved”,
      - “Cain and Abel”, “Jacob and Esau”, “Jew and Gentile”,
      - “forgiven and forsaken”, “elect and non-elect”
- ❖ 3 aspects of each group: 1) identity 2) destiny 3) conduct
  1. Identity ~ “Where are they?” (in the church) “crept in unnoticed”
    - ◇ Why “unnoticed?” / Didn't draw attention / Character hidden at first
    - ◇ “Certain men” are in church advocating for sin (homosexuality / disobedient)
  2. Destiny ~ Some marked for “salvation” / Others for “condemnation”
  3. Conduct
    - ◇ Sinful thoughts & actions come naturally to everyone
    - ◇ Believers must “contend earnestly” / significant effort needed

## Reread v3 ~ Message Delivered “Once For All”

- ❖ Definitive reference to “inspired revelation”
  - ✧ “.. the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”
  - ✧ It need not and will not again be delivered / needs no improvement
- ❖ The “beloved” must “contend earnestly” against the wolves among them

**Xition: Jude defines the wolves in our midst as well as anyone . . .**

## Read v5-7 ~ The Road to Hell

- ❖ Focus is on the **destiny** of apostates
- ❖ Jude reminds them of something lest they forget
  - ✧ He again shares 3 things / All expand upon a common root element
- ❖ Note underlying pattern | Disobedience followed by discipline from God
  1. **v5** ~ Unbelief / despite constant miracles -> God killed them
  2. **v6** ~ Rebellion / abandoned assigned duties -> God imprisoned them
  3. **v7** ~ Perversion / pursuit of pleasure at any cost -> God punished them
- ❖ Each correlates with an escalation of judgment upon God's enemies
  1. bodily death – Jews died as unbelievers in Wilderness
  2. bondage beyond grave – rich man and Lazarus in Hades
  3. eternal judgment by fire – torments of hell for those that reject God
- ❖ These are to remind us of the coming judgment
- ❖ All apostates will experience all 3 of these stages of judgment

## Read v8-11 ~ Words Reveal Our Hearts

- ❖ Focus is on the **words** of apostates
- ❖ Jude shares 3 things ~ 1) defile flesh, 2) reject authority, 3) speak evil
  - ✧ This section emphasizes the importance of words
- ❖ **Read Mt 12.33-37** ~ "Either make the tree .. you will be condemned"
  - ✧ **v34** ~ "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"
  - ✧ **v37** ~ "by your words you will be justified .. or condemned"
- ❖ **v10a** ~ "speak evil of whatever they do not know"
  - ✧ Wisdom is reserving judgment until we know all of the facts
- ❖ **v10b** ~ "and whatever they know .. they corrupt themselves"
  - ✧ Later (**v19**) Jude will use the term "**sensual**" / This phrase defines it
- ❖ Jude cites 3 examples of such conduct from Old Testament
  1. Cain ~ "gone in the way of Cain"
    - ✧ Walked with God / Killed Abel / Lies to God / Whines (*selfish*)
  2. Balaam ~ "run greedily in the error of Balaam"
    - ✧ Resented God's restraint / Sought earthly gain only (*materialistic*)
  3. Korah ~ "perished in the rebellion of Korah"
    - ✧ Spoke evil against Moses – most humble man on earth (*proud/arrogant*)

**Xition: Let's read the next section starting at v12**

## Read v12-15 ~ Apostates Are Worthless and Possible Misleading

- ❖ Focus is on the uselessness of apostates
- ❖ Jude again presents pictures of this – 4 this time
  1. Clouds (*without water*)
    - ✧ Pretty decorations for the sky / Tools to bring water – poor farmers looking up
  2. Fruit trees (*without fruit*)
    - ✧ It's past time for the fruit to have come in – yet nothing came
    - ✧ Such trees are consuming valuable space – good for nothing
  3. Raging waves of the sea (*produces garbage*)
    - ✧ Crashing, boisterous, noisy
      - ◆ III: Poem ~ “*throughout the night they pierce the dark cheered on triumphantly*”
        - *just to be frustrated by the morning light without a mark on their adversary*”
  4. Wandering stars (cannot guide us)
    - ✧ Stars relied upon for navigation / But some were unreliable or inconsistent
- ❖ Note Jude covered 1) sky, 2) land, 3) water, and 4) space (*everything*)
  - ✧ **v14-15** ~ Jude quotes Enoch with 4 ungodly's / one for each of these
    - ◆ Ungodly 1) people, 2) deeds, 3) way, and 4) words

## Read v16-19 ~ Apostates Can Cause Divisions

- ❖ Focus is on the divisiveness of apostates
  - ✧ Apostates can do harm to us, to our church, to “the” Church
- ❖ We again have Jude present a trio of words
  - ✧ **v16** ~ “grumblers, complainers, [sensual mockers]”
- ❖ They use words as tools to get their way – complaining or flattering
  - ✧ Their appeal is to the “darker” aspects of our natures
  - ✧ Examine the influence a person has on you / Consider their character
  - ✧ Do you influence them or do they influence you? / It may be subtle but real
- ❖ People w/evil influence are “sensual” – driven by their senses
  - ✧ **1 Cor 6.13** ~ “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food”
  - ✧ Apostates want to be seen as believers yet indulge in sin
    - ◆ Not only do they have no desire for holiness
      - **NOYB** ~ They reject and even mock your concerns
    - ◆ Instead, they want you to join them in their sins

**Xition: Jude turns his attention back to his beloved**

## Read v20-23 ~ Be Strong in Faith to Help Others

- ❖ Jude gives us advice to fight against the erosive effect of apostates
  - ✧ We again see Jude reference all members of the Trinity
  - ✧ The goal or end is the "building up of our faith" / But done via . . .
    1. **v20** ~ "praying in the Holy Spirit"
    2. **v21** ~ "keeping yourselves in the love of God"
    3. **v21** ~ "looking for the mercy of .. Jesus Christ"
- ❖ Then, with a strong faith, we can assist others
  - ✧ **v22** ~ "on some have compassion, making a distinction"
    - ◇ Some are victims or are unaware of the danger / help them to see
  - ✧ **v22** ~ "but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating garment"
    - ◇ Others are caught up in sin to a much greater degree
      - You have to be careful to not endanger yourself
      - You push or pull people from fire / You don't embrace someone yucky
  - ✧ **III: Swimming** – Some personally swim to / To other toss a life preserver

## Read v24-25 ~ Blessing God

- ❖ Jude pronounces this benediction at the end of his letter
- ❖ **Number 6.24-26** ~ "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."
- ❖ These two blessings or benedictions are very different
  - ✧ In **Numbers** the speaker requests that God bless the listeners
  - ✧ In **Jude** the speaker blesses God and requests that God bless the listeners
- ❖ Both are valid benedictions from God's Word

- Christians have a responsibility to serve and obey God**
- God is patient w/us / But we must remain true**
- Examine your life / Who influences you? Are they godly?**
- We can only assist others if we rest in a strong faith**

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen \*pause\* Go in peace . . .

# Oppose the Apostates Handout

July 29, 2018

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Jude

1. Greeting (vss 1-2)
2. Groups (vss 3-4)
3. Destiny of the Apostates (vss 5-7)
4. Words of the Apostates (vss 8-11)
5. Uselessness of the Apostates (vss 12-15)
6. Divisiveness of the Apostates (vss 16-19)
7. Build Up Your Faith (vss 20-21)
8. Assist Others as Possible (vss 22-23)
9. Blessing Upon God and Others (vss 24-25)