**HEY JUDE**

**Fight for the Faith! How?, Jude 17-25**

Sunday, August 20, 2023

**WE Slide 1 Exciting Stuff- 3 accepted Jesus as Lord/Savior after the service last week.** Now they are God’s for eternity and their life on this earth is all about representing Jesus to others and drawing others to Him for salvation. **CONNECT Class- over 20 people will be learning more about our church!** Join us.

**Grab a pen/offering envelope- write your name using your opposite hand. What made that simple task so hard?** You’re doing it with the wrong hand/wrong way. **That’s how it is with living life God’s way.** It’s not complicated, but it’s hard because we keep doing it the wrong way. **God tells us over/over in the Bible “Do life My way and I’ll protect you/provide what you need and give you the joy you want”.** But we read/hear what He says and ask, “**Did God really say that?** Does God really mean I should do the things He says to do?” **By the way, that’s the same question Satan asked Adam/Eve and because they thought they knew better than God/He was holding back on them, they disobeyed/sinned which broke their relationship with God.** The false believers Jude talks about are doing the same thing- not believing what God’s said, doing what they think and convincing true believers to question God. **Sadly, true believers today continue to question God and find themselves struggling in life.**

**THIS MORNING like all of the authors of the Bible do, Jude brings us back to the basics of how God wants believers to live- the way that brings growth/joy/peace/purpose.** In vv. 17-25 Jude gives us 8 Commands/8 To-Do’s that will help keep us/our church from being influenced by wrong teaching. **Slide 2 You have to decide whether God really says this/really means it.** The 1st 2 commands are aorist tenses- urgent, you must, extremely important. **6 are present tense- continually, day in/day out, a lifestyle, 24/7/365, you’re known by these things- too often we want some huge feeling/powerful, but it’s day in/day out obedience.** Let’s see what God has Jude tell us. **READ Slide 3-5 The 1st command is “Remember!” has the idea of DON’T BE SURPRISED.**

**GOD FIGHT FOR THE FAITH! HOW?, Jude 17-25**

1. **DON’T BE SURPRISED, Jude 17-19 “ought to remember”-** mimenskomai; remind oneself; Aorist- You MUST remember, don’t be surprised.
2. **Paul, Peter, & Jesus all told us there would be people who act/sound like believers but are not,** Acts 20:29-30, and Pastor Timothy at Ephesus, 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 4:3; 2 Peter 3:3; Matthew 7:15, 24:11, 24.
3. **Don’t be surprised that NOT everyone who claims to be a Christian/pastor truly believes or is teaching the Bible correctly**.
4. **Wrong beliefs can come from anywhere-** TV/media pastors/celebrities/athletes, friends/family say they’re Christians but don’t seem to care, long time believers out of balance doctrinally or circumstances contrary to how they believe, family/friend chooses a contrary lifestyle- so believer chooses that relationship over God’s commands.

**So, how do we keep wrong teaching/beliefs/teachers from influencing our lives/church or discouraging us? I CAN’T STRESS THIS ENOUGH, NEW BELIEVER OR OLD GET THIS!** LAST WEEK- God CALLED you to a different way of doing life no matter what friends/family/or anyone else says/thinks- different goals/plans/thinking/responses; all to grow you to be less like you and more like Jesus Christ so you draw others to God for salvation. **Here’s what Jude writes. READ Slide 6-8** “keep yourselves in the love of God” which means- **DO LIFE GOD’S WAY**. **Simple/not complicated, but it’s hard because we listen to others/ourselves and question God/believing the wrong teaching/thinking that we don’t have to do ALL of life God’s way.**

1. **DO LIFE GOD’S WAY, Jude 20-21**
2. **“keep yourselves in the love of God” It’s the main verb in these verses.**
3. “keep”- tereo; watch over, hold firmly, guard a possession
4. “yourselves”- eautou; plural, as individuals/together as a church; have to be with your church
5. “in the love of God”- living out their love for God through obeying God.
6. Jesus said that’s what He does, **READ Slide 9** John 14:31
7. **READ Slide 10-11** Numerous times Jesus said a follower of His would follow Him, John 14:15, 21, 23-24, 31; 15:10, 14
8. **Slide 11** Aorist/**active**- urgent, important; Active- you MUST CHOOSE- not just God working you like a marinate; we show our love for Him through making the choice to do life God’s way.

**What do I choose to do? Jude gives us 3 ways.** None of these are new if you’ve read the Bible or been at GP for any length of time. **Slide 12 The 1st is KNOWING THE BIBLE- to recognize a counterfeit $100 bill you have to know what a real $100 bill looks like.** There are so many versions of counterfeit Christianity you have to know what real Christianity looks like- that’s only possible if you KNOW THE BIBLE.

1. **By Knowing the Bible-** that’s what “building yourselves up in the most holy faith” means.
2. “build…up”- epoikodomeo; to engage in a building process, edify; one layer on top of another
3. “yourselves”- eautou; plural, as individuals/together as a church; need to be with your church
4. “faith”- the teachings of the Bible
5. Present tense- continually, day in/day out, a lifestyle, 24/7/365
6. **Putting it all together-** A lifestyle of choosing to daily be in the Bible.

**You do it on your own, but we also do it with you- Bible study Thursday nights, Slide 13 GROW Class Sept. 23, Micro Groups.** God doesn’t expect us to do it on our own so He gives us each other and tells us to ask for help. **Slide 14 We can’t understand the Bible/live it out without the help of God the Holy Spirit.**

1. **By Praying in the Holy Spirit-** proseuxomai; to petition/ask God for what we need
2. “in the Holy Spirit”- locative of sphere; motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit
3. We pray to God the Father in the name of God the Son empowered by God the Holy Spirit.
4. We pray asking God to help us understand His Word/will/empower us to live out His will.
5. Not some mantra, habitual prayer out of duty but consciously thinking about what we’re saying.
6. Not asking God because He forgets/doesn’t know; we ask as a reminder to ourselves that we need His help/not to be doing this in our own power.
7. Present tense- **Slide 15** continual; day in/day out, 24/7/365; to pray is part of our daily life/routine.

**The last way we do life God’s way is by KEEPING ETERNITY IN VIEWS-** it’s a little shorter than…“waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.” **You drive where you’re looking- look right/drive right; look left/drive left; look ahead- drive straight/miss all the potholes.** As believers we are to be eagerly looking forward to being with Jesus in heaven which keeps us living with the right purpose- living life God’s way for God’s purposes. **Slide 16 Let me ask you…**

1. **By Keeping Eternity in View-** prosdexomai; not concerned/worried but to excitedly look forward to
2. **…are you looking forward to seeing Jesus?** Do you know what will happen when you get to heaven? “I’ll ask Jesus questions, hug loved ones, talk to apostles,…”
3. **Slide 17** According to the Bible- evaluated/rewarded on our obedience, Matthew 5:12; 6:1,4, 18; 10:42; 1 Cor. 3:8, 14; 2 Cor. 5:10; Col 3:24; Hebrews 11:6; 2 John 8
4. Matthew 25 evaluated based on how you used what God’s given you to “build His kingdom”- see people come to Christ- home, job, finances, cars, health, talents, hobbies, etc.
5. Believers who use those things to bring people to Christ will hear “Well done good/faithful servants” and invited to enter the joy of their master- the joy that Jesus had in obeying.
6. Those who don’t use what they’ve been given, show they aren’t true believers/followers, because they aren’t doing what Jesus did, and they will enter hell.
7. **Slide 18 Are you looking forward to Jesus’ evaluation of your life?**
8. Present tense- continual expectation, lifestyle, the purpose for your life
9. Jesus’ purpose was to ensure we get to heaven; our purpose is to focus our hearts/minds/lives on what Jesus focused on- getting people drawn to Him for salvation.

**Obedience, doing life God’s way, doesn’t get us into heaven- Jesus did that on the cross, but it does show our love for God because He saved us.** We show our love through doing life God’s way like Jesus did. **If we’re true believers we will do life God’s way by working to know the Bible, praying, and keeping eternity/our purpose in view.** We’ll look forward to seeing Him because we’ve been doing life like Him- drawing people to Him for salvation. **In fact, that’s what Jude says next. READ Slide 19-20** We’ll not be influenced by false teaching/teachers and faithfully do life God’s way if we show mercy to others like Jesus showed us and draw them to the truth- Jesus Christ. **The 1st is those who are doubting/confused- not sure who to believe.**

1. **DRAW PEOPLE TO THE TRUTH- JESUS, Jude 22-23**
2. **Have Mercy on the Doubters/Confused**
3. Mercy- eleao; show kindness, concern for someone in serious need.
4. Doubting- diakrino; disputing, to be uncertain, dispute within yourself as to what is true.
5. Whether immature believers or unbelievers, these are unsure of what is true.
6. We can become impatient, frustrated, and want to give up on them.
7. Jesus shows us mercy, so we show mercy by patiently explaining the truth of who Jesus is/what He expects.
8. **Slide 21** Present tense- continual, day in/day out, a lifestyle response; live a life of patiently explaining who Jesus is and what He expects.

**Others have bought into the wrong teaching/beliefs and rejected Jesus.** They just need to be saved. **Slide 22**

1. **Save the Unbelievers**
2. “save”- sozo; to save from destruction, eternal death, “snatched from the fire”
3. Obviously, God is the One who saves, but He works through us- message/prayer.
4. Present tense- continual, day in/day out, a lifestyle response; THIS IS OUR DAILY PURPOSE

**And for those who have “polluted garments” meaning they are intrenched, thoroughly committed, probably referring to the false teachers themselves, the only thing that changes is that we make sure we don’t get caught up in their sin. Slide 23** We still look for ways to share the truth with them, but we’re very cautious to not get caught up in their teaching.

1. **Have Mercy on/be cautious with the committed unbeliever.**
2. “polluted garments”- has idea of saturated in sin; thoroughly committed to false teaching.
3. “mercy”- eleao; show kindness, concern for someone in serious need.
4. “fear”- phobos; alarm, fright, making sure to not get involved in the same sin/associated with it.
5. Present tense- continual, day in/day out, a lifestyle response.

**No matter the person, no matter how caught up in false teaching they are, our responsibility is to do life God’s way in order to draw them to the truth- Jesus Christ.** Because of this awesome privilege and responsibility and to encourage his readers Jude ends this way. **READ Slide 24-25 We have a great God who has given us a great mission and has promised to give us great power to accomplish what He’s called us to!** So as we close let’s consider some TAKEAWAYS. **Slide 26**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

* + - 1. **Where in your life are you struggling to do life God’s way? Wrong thinking, believing lies you tell yourself, not in the Bible daily, frustrated by people not doing life God’s way, personal struggle with sin.**
      2. **Slide 27 What needs to change to get back to doing life God’s way?**
      3. **Slide 28 How can we/I help? We’re to do this together so let’s help each other!** Start by taking the GROW Class because that will give you a good foundation- retake it if you have to.

**NEXT WEEK: New series of messages entitled “Sketchy Views of God” should be good!** Invite your friends/family back with you.

**PODCAST: Doing Life God’s Way- it’s not complicated. Jude 17-25; John 14:15, 31; Matthew 25**