

The Letter from JUDE

To all of you who have been effectively called^a to be devoted to God, who have been dedicated by God the Father to holy living, and are kept in the faith by Jesus Christ^b—greetings!

This is from Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and a brother of James.

²May God's mercy, peace, and love be yours in multiplied measure.

Beware of False Teachers

³My dear friends, I was fully intending to write to you about our salvation which is offered to everyone. Then I realized that what was most needful was for me to challenge you to be extremely in earnest in your battle for the truths,^a revealed once and for all time, in the Great News that has been entrusted into the care of all of us who are now living to please only God,

⁴because certain men have wormed their way into our churches. They are ungodly men, who were marked out for God's judgment long ago. They claim that God's undeserved kindness and mercy, and His offer of forgiveness, gives them license to live as they please. This, in effect, denies everything the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ have taught us!^a

⁵Even though you already know all about how

God undertook for Israel in Egypt,^a don't forget that after the Lord saved His people out of Egypt, He later destroyed those who didn't believe in Him.^b

⁶Also remember, the angels who were not content to do the glorious work that God had told them to do, but left their proper place, have been bound by God in darkness in everlasting chains^a until their judgment on that awesome Judgment Day.

⁷We should also be warned by what happened to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns, who gave themselves over to sexual immorality, and especially to homosexuality.^a They now serve as an example and warning of God's judgment. They are even now suffering^b the terrifying punishment of eternal fire!

⁸And now, just like the people of Sodom, these misleading dreamers I've been talking about are continually corrupting their bodies and refusing to allow anyone to tell them how they should live. And they constantly slander those in positions of authority.^a

⁹But even when the archangel Michael was arguing with the devil about who would have the body of Moses, he didn't dare to make a slanderous accusation against him, but simply said, "May the Lord deal with you!"

1:1a Romans 8:28-30.

1:1b This is true of all Christians. We would all fall away from God and perish if it were not for the constant watchcare of Jesus. John 15:1-5; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 8:13,26,37; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 1:13-16. See also Appendix 218, page 482.

1:3a The word is *faith* in the Greek, and includes *all the truths God has given us regarding the Great News*—regarding all His promises to us, all that Christ has done and continues to do for us, and the obedient lives we must now live for God after He has forgiven us thru Christ.

1:4a Jude warns here about people who have *wormed their way into the churches*, pretending to be genuine Christians, but who teach that "we are saved by *grace*, plus nothing"—claiming that the lives Christians live have nothing to do with their eventual salvation. Such a message results in loose living!

Many of these preachers emphasize God's promises but explain away His warnings or completely ignore them. All who follow these men will fall into the same condemnation and judgment toward which these teachers are headed! See comments on Philippians 3:9-14.

1:5a Exodus 1:1 to 12:51.

1:5b ... *and disobeyed His command to move forward and possess the land.* Numbers 13 & 14; Deuteronomy 1:1-46.

1:6a That is, in a state of confinement from which they cannot escape.

1:7a Genesis 18:16 to 19:29. See Romans 1:26-27 note.

1:7b "Present participle, indicating that they are suffering to this day the punishment which came upon them in Lot's time." — *Vincent's Word Studies*.

1:8a ... *in the church and elsewhere.*

¹⁰But these corrupt teachers speak abusively against whatever and whoever they don't understand. They are destroying themselves, because, like unreasoning animals, their only concern is to satisfy their desires in any way they wish.

¹¹They are in for real trouble, because like Cain, they are rebellious and disobedient. They are rushing into the same blunder that Balaam made, being willing to do anything for money. Like Korah, they too will perish because of their rebellion against God.

¹²These men are as dangerous among you as hidden rocks are to the pilot of a ship, when they attend your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm. They are shepherds who think only about gorging and stuffing themselves, without a thought for others. They are like clouds carried along by the wind, which bring no rain. They are like trees that bear no fruit, even in autumn, trees that have been pulled up by the roots—twice dead.^a

¹³They are like wild waves of the sea, producing nothing but the unsubstantial and worthless foam of their own shameful words and deeds.^a Like stars that have strayed from their courses, the gloom of deepest darkness has been reserved for them forever.^b

¹⁴Enoch, who was seventh in the genealogical line of Adam, also prophesied about such men,

saying, "Look! the Lord is coming with myriads of His holy ones, too vast in numbers for anyone to count.

¹⁵"He is coming to execute judgment on everyone, to convict all among them who are ungodly of all the ungodly things they have done by their wicked actions, and of all the harsh things these ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."^a

¹⁶These men are always murmuring and complaining.^a They think only about satisfying their own desires and cravings. When they preach or teach, their only concern is to build people up in their own eyes, telling them how great they are. They do all this to gain the support of their listeners for selfish reasons.^b

Warnings and Instructions

¹⁷But you, dear friends, must remember the warnings given by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁸"In the last days," they warned, "there will be men who will ridicule the truth. Their only interest will be in satisfying their own ungodly desires."

¹⁹These are worldly men, who cause divisions among you—always motivated by their beastly passions and appetites. They certainly don't have the Spirit of God living within them.

²⁰But you, dear friends, must keep building yourselves up^a on the foundation of your most holy

1:12a Referring to spiritual death.

1:13a Isaiah 57:20.

1:12-13b Jude's condemnation of such teachers and preachers should be a warning to every Christian—real or so-called. Those who live ungodly lives, claiming to be Christians, but satisfying their own desires instead of the desires of God, will have their part *with the unbelievers!* Luke 12:46.

If you find yourself under such teaching, you should heed the Lord's warning thru the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:17-18, "*Come out from among those idolaters and unbelievers. . . Have no part in their evil deeds and ambitions. Then I will welcome you to Myself. . .*"

These who have turned the grace of God into permission to live unrestrained and unchaste lives are actually "unbelievers". They have denied the faith! They accept and teach only those parts of God's word which suit their fancy, and which—they believe—allow them the freedom they demand. *Don't have anything to do with such people!* 2 Timothy 3:5. Read the word of God anew and see what the true teaching of Christ and His apostles really is.

Don't allow these evil teachers to cause you to

compromise any longer, thereby damning your eternal soul. Your own soul and the souls of your children and others you love are at stake! You must take action!

1:15a Many of these haven't spoken openly or audibly against God, but they have ignored their Father and Creator, living their lives as they wish, to please themselves instead of obeying and truly worshipping God. They refuse to be converted from their sinful ways to God's way for them. They refuse to openly acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God and their Savior, and that with God's help, they must turn from their sinning and obey Jesus as their Lord.

1:16a . . . *about their lot in life.*

1:16b As mentioned earlier in these notes, John Wesley said, "Mere promise mongers are not Gospel ministers."⁷

1:20a We are all under obligation to do all in our power, as moral and responsible people, to build ourselves up spiritually. As dependent as we are on the Lord's help, we are still responsible to use the means for spiritual growth that God has provided—Bible reading, prayer, Christian fellowship, witnessing to the lost, encouraging fellow Chris-

faith, praying with prayer prompted and guided by the Holy Spirit.

²¹You must keep yourselves in God's love. Then you can look forward with great expectation for God's mercy thru our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.^a

²²When witnessing, you need to deal with each person in a different way. To some, speak gently, with kindness and tender compassion.

²³To save others, you need to put intense fear in them by warning them of the terrors of a real Hell. Don't forget that although you need to be intensely in earnest in pulling them out of the fires of that

Hell, you must also hate everything about their sin!

The Benediction

²⁴Now I commit you to Him who is able to keep you from falling away;^a and to present you without a single fault before His glorious presence with extreme joy.

²⁵To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. So be it!

In Christ our Lord,
Jude

tians. But the main warning here is that we build ourselves up in the faith by constant fellowship with God in prayer. God intensely desires our friendship and fellowship.

1:21a It is our responsibility to keep ourselves in God's love (by obedience and devotion to Him) if we would have Him keep our souls safe.

1:24a See Philipians 2:13; and the note.

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—Jude 3-4, 20-21