

Jude

WEEK 1 Family & Group Discussion

Grace without Godliness leads to Gehenna

INTRODUCTION

Jude goes to great lengths to describe the lifestyle of sin and ungodliness that characterized the false teachers in the church. They assume that the grace of God revealed in Christ gives them the freedom to do just about anything they want to do. They have no regard for the authority of Christ so they engage in all kinds of sins of the flesh. They are godless, yet they claim to be Christians. Jude doesn't mince words and he leaves no doubt that they are false teachers proclaiming a false gospel and they are destined for hell.

DISCUSSION

Where do God's grace and our responsibility meet in salvation?
Do you believe that even the faith with which you believe the Gospel is a gift of God's grace?
Do you ever find yourself leaning towards one of God's attributes over another? (i.e. grace vs holiness)
Describe a time when you "contended" for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

EXPLANATION

Do you know what the non-negotiables of the Gospel are?

APPLICATION

Are you comfortable talking about the subject of hell with others?
Have you ever been afraid of losing your salvation or going to hell? What were the circumstances that led to that?
How do you pursue godliness in your daily life?

Jude

Part 1 - Jude 1:1-13 *Grace without Godliness leads to Gehenna*

SCRIPTURE VERSES:

2 Timothy 4:1-4	1 Peter 1:1-5	Jeremiah 7:31-35
Jude 1:1-13	Titus 1:1-2	Matthew 11:23
Mark 6	Matthew 7:21-23	2 Peter 2:4
1 Corinthians 1:22-24	Exodus 6-14	Isaiah 3:11
Ephesians 2:8-9	Genesis 6:1-4	Isaiah 57:20
1 Corinthians 15:1-7	Genesis 19:24-25	2 Thess 1:8-9

WEEK 1 NOTES

Jude

Most of us don't like to focus on the negative. Maybe that's why the book Jude is one of the most neglected books in the NT. In only 25 verses Jude has a lot to say about the dangerous and damnable practices and teachings of certain false teachers in the church. Most of us understand that we need to hear negative now and then. In the Christian life, it's important that we are warned of dangers to our faith so that we can steer clear of them. It's easy in our day to lose our concern for truth. Jude knew that some things were true and some were false, and believed Jesus' claim that "The truth will set you free" (John 8:32). He understood that what we believe not only affects our behavior, it means the difference between an eternity in heaven or hell.

Grace without Godliness leads to Gehenna

We have received a Gospel of Grace:

Jude 1-2 :The faith that we have received is a gospel of grace from beginning to end. It all starts with grace. To even come to faith in Christ a person must be "called." The scriptures overwhelmingly state that being a Christian is the result of God's gracious reaching out through the gospel to bring helpless sinners into a relationship with himself. 1Co 1:22-24 It's clear that this "calling" is not simply a general invitation as if God was inviting us to a party and we could accept or decline. But it is a specific call by God to those whom he has chosen, where he powerfully brings them to faith through the preaching of the gospel. Even our ability to believe is only the result of God's grace. Eph 2:8-9 tells us that the very faith with which we believe, although it is ours, it is not from ourselves; it is the gift of God's grace. It is the result us being "loved by God," as Jude says. And because God loves us, Jude says, he also "keeps" us by Jesus Christ. Because of God's grace and love for us, he also preserves and protects us to ensure that make it to the very end.

Jude 3: Jude wanted to write a positive letter about the incredible salvation that we share, but he's compelled to change his tone and get serious about the need to defend the faith that has once for all been handed down to God's people. The "faith" we have been entrusted with is the non-negotiables of Christian beliefs passed down from the apostles. It's things like Jesus' holy life and atoning death, his resurrection, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, salvation by grace through faith, and as we'll see in the rest of Jude's letter, godliness that flows from God's grace in Christ. See 1Co 15:1-7 and 1Pe 1:1-5.

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WEEK 1
Sermon Outline

This Gospel of Grace is a Gospel of Godliness:

Jude 4: Jude says that certain men have crept into the church and they change or pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality. They twist God's free forgiveness in Christ into an "open season" for all kinds of sin. Jude says that they also "deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord." How did they do this? Their ungodly behavior was a practical denial of the lordship of Christ and his sovereign right to demand obedience from his people. This is similar to what Jesus said in Mat 7:21-23 These people preached a gospel of grace without godliness, which was no gospel at all.

Grace without Godliness leads to Gehenna:

Jude 5-10: Jude uses three examples from the Old Testament to remind his readers of God's judgment sin and ungodliness. The children of Israel delivered from Egypt, Evil angels who rebelled against God by leaving their proper positions and corrupting the Earth, and the infamous cities of Sodom and Gomorrah which have come to be known for their sexual immorality, especially homosexuality. He reminds them of God's judgment in history and ties these examples of sin and judgment to the ungodly false teachers in their midst who will also be judged for their similar behavior.

Jude uses terms throughout his letter that refer to the judgment of hell, or Gehenna in Greek. He uses **condemnation, destroyed, darkness, bound with everlasting chains, suffer the punishment of eternal fire, eternal destruction, and blackest darkness**. Like the rest of the New Testament writers, it's clear Jude assumes the reality that we call hell. The idea of hell has come to be viewed as "medieval," where those who believe in it are viewed by modern thinkers as intolerant, superstitious, and ignorant. Most of us would rather avoid the subject altogether because it doesn't fill well with much of contemporary Christianity, where the focus is on the love of God and how to make people "feel good" about themselves. But if we intend to be faithful to the scriptures and biblical view of God's love and holiness, then we have to maintain and proclaim a clear doctrine of hell. The New Testament clearly teaches that after death God will punish in "hell" those who refuse to trust Jesus in this life. The images used to describe hell may be metaphorical, but they clearly teach that hell is a place where people suffer agonies. Worst of which may be the eternal separation from the God that created and loves them. 2Th 1:8-9 .

