

Jude

Last week we looked at how God has passed down to us the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is a Gospel of grace that leads to godliness. We saw that Jude warned the Church about false teachers in their midst that were perverting this gospel and preaching a false gospel of grace without godliness, which is no gospel at all. His message was clear: Grace without Godliness leads to Gehenna (judgment). In the second half of his letter, he turns his attention back to the believers reading his letter and tells them how exactly they are to “contend for the faith.”

How do we contend for the Faith? Remember, Remain, Reach Out, Rest.

Jude 14-16: Jude caps his denunciation of these false teachers in the church by quoting a prophecy from Enoch, which was taken from a religious book that his readers would be familiar with. Enoch’s prophecy points to the coming of the Lord with thousands of his holy ones to judge all of the ungodly acts and words of these ungodly opponents. Every act and every word spoken will be judged. God does not forget the deeds of the ungodly.

Jude 17-19: **Remember God’s Warnings.** The idea of remembering in the Scriptures is not just a mental recollection. It includes the will, not just the mind. We are to take it into our heart in such a way that it gets imprinted on our life. We need to remember that nothing surprises God! Because God transcends time, he knows the future. So we can trust that his words are true and that what he says will come to pass! We shouldn’t be surprised then when we encounter scoffers in the church who mock God and his requirements for holy living.

Jude 20-21: **Remain in God’s Love.** Jude says we are to keep ourselves in the love of God. How do we do this? By building ourselves up in our most holy faith, by praying in the Holy Spirit, and by waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has done everything that we need in Christ to be saved; yet we must respond to God if we are to secure our salvation. This is the biblical tension that we find throughout the Scriptures between divine sovereignty and human responsibility. This is what we call a *paradox*—that is, a combination of two thoughts that seem to contradict each other. If we want to understand the Scriptures, then, we have to accept the concept of paradox—believing that what we can’t square with our finite minds is somehow harmonized in the mind of God.

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WEEK 2
Sermon Outline

We build ourselves up in our most holy faith by 1) growing in our understanding of the Gospel and the Word of God, and 2) by mutual encouragement, advice, and accountability of other believers. We will only grow as we fully participate in the life of the Church.

Praying in the Holy Spirit is to pray consistently with the will of the Spirit. Praying yielded to the Holy Spirit, praying that the will of the Father and the will of the Spirit and the will of the Son be done, praying consistently with God’s will.

Believers are to live in light of eternity—in light of the return of Christ—that final day when we see Jesus face-to-face and experience his final mercy. We remain in God’s love as we anxiously wait for, and continually look forward to that day when we his mercy is bestowed on us for eternity—when we are finally glorified!

Jude 22-23: **Reach Out in Mercy.** False teachers were dividing the church by persuading some to believe their teachings and follow their godless lifestyle. Jude tells the faithful believers to reach out in mercy with the true gospel to those affected. He says that there are three types of people that need be addressed: Those who doubt and are confused; those who are in danger of being captured by false teaching; and those who have committed to the false teaching. Jude says to show mercy to them while being cautious not to be contaminated by their teaching and sin.

Jude 24-25: **Rest in God’s ability** to keep us from falling away. Jude begins his letter with the security of our salvation in Christ, and now he ends his letter with the security of our salvation in Christ. We rest in God’s ability to save us completely. We rest knowing that he will keep us from falling away from him. We rest knowing that Jesus will never let anyone snatch us out of his hand, and that the Holy Spirit has sealed us for the day of redemption. And we rest finally, not because of how strong we are holding on to God, but because of how strong God is holding on to us!

