

Bible Study of Jude

Jude – The Half-Brother of Jesus Reminds Us, “We Serve our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ”

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A. THE TEXT (vv. 3-8)

(1) Jude, a servant of **Jesus Christ** and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for **Jesus Christ**: (2) May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

(3) Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (4) For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the **grace of our God** into sensuality and deny our **only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ**.

(5) Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that **Jesus**, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. (6) And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until **the judgment of the great day**-- (7) just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. (8) Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.

(9) But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "**The Lord rebuke you.**" (10) But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

(11) Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. (12) These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, looking after themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; (13) wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

(14) It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "**Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones**, (15) to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (16) These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

(17) But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. (18) They said to you, "**In the last time there will be scoffers**, following their own ungodly passions." (19) It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

(20) But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in **the Holy Spirit**; (21) keep yourselves in **the love of God**, waiting for **the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ** that leads to eternal life.

(22) And have mercy on those who doubt; (23) save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

(24) Now to **him who is able** to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before **the presence of his glory** with great joy, (25) to the **only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord**, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

B. THE STUDY

- And have mercy on those who doubt;
(Mt 14:25-33; Mk 9:17-29; Lk 18: 35-43; Rom 11:32-36)
- save others by snatching them out of the fire;
(Amos 4:11; Zech 3:2-5; 1 Cor 3:15; Rom 11:14; James 5:19-20)
- to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.
(Is 64:6; 2 Cor 5:11; Gal 3:27; Rev 3:4; 7:14)

C. THE LIFE APPLICATION-

1. Why is that even Christians still have doubts?
2. What is the antidote for doubt?
3. How does the church snatch people from the fire?
4. When are the times we must show mercy to others, though with some fear?

LUTHER QUOTE: Vol. 24, Page 218

“But from what does such a conviction stem, or how can one conclude with certainty that God is gracious to us and pleased with us? To be sure, not by and of yourself, but solely because of Christ’s words “Unless you abide in Me”; for “as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me” (John 15:4).

Therefore we must not look at ourselves to see what we are and what we do, whether we are worthy and our works are sufficient... They do not know what it means to be in Christ. Therefore it is impossible for them ever to conclude with certainty that their calling and life are acceptable to God. They are doomed to eternal doubt; and the more they work and torment themselves in an effort to please God, the greater their uncertainty becomes, until finally it culminates in despair. This is the inevitable lot of all who rely on themselves and their deeds. For in the final analysis we will find that so far as we are concerned all our works, even the best, are sinful and damned to hell in the sight of God. God’s Word has already pronounced wrath on man’s own ability, power, and works. Whatever does not abide in this Vine Christ must be condemned and exterminated.

Therefore he who wants to be helped out of such doubt should be intent solely on coming out of himself and all his works into Christ and on learning to know how we come to grace through Him, are pleasing to God, and thus through faith are grafted into Him as branches. Then he can say: “I know, praise God, that unfortunately I am a poor and unworthy man and have deserved nothing but hell and wrath before God; but I also know that God is gracious to me for the sake of Christ the Lord, who suffered and died for my sin. And since I am in Christ and am cleansed by Him, God takes pleasure in my life and works, which proceed from such faith, and regards them as good fruit.”