

Lessons From Jude

Exhortations

(Jd 17-23)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From Jude.”
 - a. Up to this point, Jude has established the “need” for his readers to contend earnestly for the faith.
 - i. He reminded them of God’s righteous judgments.
 1. **Jd 5-7**
 - ii. He reminded them of the ungodly men with a vivid depiction of them and how they have crept in unnoticed.
 1. **Jd 9-16, 19**
 - b. Now Jude is going to provide a series of “Exhortations” designed to make sure that those reading this letter stand strong in the faith.
3. In our text today we find Jude twice referring to the readers as “beloved.”
 - a. Notice
 - i. **Jd 17** “But you must remember, beloved...”¹
 - ii. **Jd 20** “But you, beloved...”
 - b. “It describes those addressed as being very dear to the heart of the one using it.”
(Sermon: Exhortations To The Beloved by Copeland, Mark)
 - i. It is this love that we find Jude exhorting his beloved so that they will keep themselves from being misled by the ungodly.

I. Remember The Previously Spoken Words (17-18)

- A. Remember who spoke those words
 1. It was the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. It was those appointed and sent out by Jesus Himself.
 3. Listening to the apostles means listening to Christ Himself.
 - i. **Jn 13:20** “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”
- B. Remember what they said
 1. There would be mockers in the last time.
 - i. **II Pt 3:1-3** “This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, 2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.”

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. Those mockers would walk according to their own passions or lusts.
 - i. **II Ti 4:3-4** “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”
- C. We too must remember the words previously spoken
 1. This means diligently studying God’s Word.
 - i. **II Ti 2:15** “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (NKJV)

II. Be Built Up In The Most Holy Faith (20)

- A. Building up suggests growth
 1. It is not enough to be “satisfied” with how much knowledge and understand one has.
 - i. **II Pt 3:18** “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” (NKJV)
 2. We must take advantage of every opportunity to study and grow.
- B. Build up “yourselves”
 1. This suggests personal responsibility.
 - i. God will be there for you, no doubt.
 - ii. Family usually is there for you.
 - iii. Brethren usually will be there for you.
 2. Though they are there for us it still remains that it is our responsibility and we must each put forth the necessary effort.
- C. Build up in the “most holy faith”
 1. This is the body of doctrine which was revealed “was once for all.”
 - i. **Jd 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.”
 2. This is the body of doctrine which was given “one time for all time.”
 - i. **II Ti 3:16-17** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

III. Pray In The Spirit (20)

- A. Prayer is the necessary complement to the Word of God
 1. “By the Word of God, God speaks to us; by prayer, we speak to God.” (Sermon: Exhortation To The Beloved by Copeland, Mark)
 2. The Word of God is a source of strength and comfort, so too is prayer.
 - i. **Ph 4:6-7** “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

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3. Prayer and the Word of God are the two legs that our spiritual well-being stands upon.
 - i. We cannot walk by the Spirit without our two legs.
- B. What does Jude mean by “praying in the Spirit”
 1. Neither Jude nor Paul elaborate on this expression.
 - i. **Jd 20** “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit”
 - ii. **Ep 6:18** “praying at all times in the Spirit...”
 2. We are told to “keep in step with the Spirit.”
 - i. **Ga 5:25** “If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”
 3. Thus it would make most since that the two are paired and thus intertwined.
 - i. In other words to pray in the Spirit means the prayer is in harmony with the Word of God.
 - a. **I Jn 5:14** “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.”

IV. Keep Yourselves In The Love Of God (21)

- A. Once again we see the need for personal responsibility
 1. The word “keep” is the same one found in Jd 1.
 - i. **Jd 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” (emphasis mine)
 - ii. **Jd 1** “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved** in Jesus Christ” (NKJV) (emphasis mine)
 2. Thus to stay “kept/preserved” in Christ we must “keep” ourselves in God’s love.
 - i. Peter explained how this happens.
 - a. **I Pt 1:5** “who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
 3. Thus, the power of God is the divine contribution to keeping us safe while remaining faithful is the human contribution to being kept safe.
- B. We need to keep ourselves in the love of God
 1. We must therefore show God we love Him.
 - i. **Jn 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
 2. He “in return” loves us.
 - i. **Jn 14:21-23** “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

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V. Look For The Mercy Of The Lord (21)

- A. We must always look forward
 - 1. We must look forward to...
 - i. **Ti 2:13** "...our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"
 - 2. We must look forward to being...
 - i. **II Pt 3:14** "...found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace."
- B. Thus we must look forward to eternal life and mercy
 - 1. Eternal life is not something we earn but is graciously given.
 - i. **Ro 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - 2. We are saved because of God's mercy not by works of righteousness.
 - i. **Ti 3:4-7** "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."
 - 3. Thus we find the need to look for the mercy of the Lord.
 - i. **II Ti 1:18** "may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day..."

VI. Show Mercy With Fear (22-23)

- A. The need for mercy
 - 1. We need to be merciful to be saved.
 - i. **Ja 2:13** "For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."
 - 2. We need to be merciful to help save others.
 - i. Compassion is needed to move us to action.
 - a. **Mt 9:36-38** "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"
 - ii. Compassion is needed to properly handle those in danger.
 - a. **II Ti 2:24-25** "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth"

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B. The need for fear

1. It is need lest we get caught up in the transgressions of others.
 - i. **Ga 6:1** “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”
2. It is need to motivate us to help those in danger of being lost.
 - i. **II Co 5:10-11** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.”

CONCLUSION

1. Here we find Jude’s exhortations.
 - a. They could easily be broken down into two groups.
 - i. How to keep from falling.
 - ii. How to contend earnestly for the faith.
2. Question: Are you heeding the exhortations of Jude?
 - a. My hope is that you are and striving to grow thereby.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**