

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 19

The Week of March 17, 2024

Contending for the Faith

Living the Gospel

Jude 17-23

Welcome to our fifth message in the New Testament letter of Jude. We have seen that Jude's letter is a necessary appeal for all Christians to contend for the faith. He has spent the greater part of his letter by telling us *why* we must contend for the faith as he unmask the bad actors who have crept in unnoticed (vss. 5-16). Beginning in verse 17, there is a noticeable shift as he addresses his readers twice as "dear friends" (*agapetos*). Now, Jude does three things. First, he summarizes his case against these ungodly troublemakers. Secondly, he highlights three habits that are necessary to remain spiritually healthy. Thirdly, he appeals to the Church to show mercy to the doubting, rescue the unbeliever from the flames, and show mercy to the hoodwinked.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say?*)

Before meeting with your Growth Group, read through the passage at least twice and perform the following prompts:

- Double underline *but* in verse 17. In the left margin write *Transition*.
- Circle the three imperatives (commands) in verses 17-23: Remember (17) Keep (21) and, Be merciful (22).
- Place a bracket around each of the four negative qualities that summarize the acts of the apostates in verses 18-19.
- Notice the Trinitarian emphasis in verses 20-21. Place sun rays around God the Father, place a † over God the Son, and place a cloud around God the Holy Spirit.
- Double underline the three habits for remaining spiritually healthy (20-21).
- Place a parenthesis around each group Christians have a responsibility to show mercy to.

17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. 18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." 19 These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

INTERPRETATION (*What does the passage mean?*)

Remember (17-19)

1. What does Jude want us to remember? Why does it matter?

2. Why does Jude appeal to the teaching of the Apostles?

Keep (20-21)

3. If God ultimately *keeps* us (Jude 1), why are we called to keep ourselves in the love of God? What place does perseverance occupy in saving faith?

4. What does it mean to build yourself up in building yourself up in your most holy faith?

5. What does it mean to pray in the Holy Spirit?

6. What does it mean to wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ?

7. Jude encourages the church to grow spiritually healthy (vv. 20-21) before commanding them to rescue the wanderer. Why is this order of priority helpful and important? (see Gal 6:1)

Rescue (22-23)

8. Describe the three groups Jude mentions in verses 22-23.

9. What intrigues or surprises you about how Christians should respond to each group?

APPLICATION *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

10. What are your main takeaways from how we are to keep ourselves in the love of God?

11. What are the main takeaways from how we are to show mercy to those in trouble?

*We are so pleased that you are active in a Growth Group. As always, we will take a two-week break for Holy Week and the week after Easter. Groups will resume during the week of April 7th and will run without interruption through the week of May 19th.

- Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm
- Good Friday, March 29, 7:00pm
- Easter Sunday, March 31, 9:00 & 11:00am

