

Gleanings of Grace

Jude

Lesson 26

The book of Jude has been referred to as “a call to arms”. Like many of the letters of the New Testament, Jude was written to warn believers of false teachers who had crept into the church unnoticed. However, this book is not simply a warning; it is a call to contend for the faith and to fight for the truths of God’s Word. Along with the challenge to contend, Jude is a beautiful letter of encouragement. It was written to those who are called and reminds us of who we are and Who is able to keep us. May you be provoked as you study the twenty-five verses of this letter – provoked to fight, provoked to fortify yourselves in your most holy faith, and provoked to fall on your knees in praise to the only wise God. To Him and Him alone be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen!

OBSERVATION: Read Jude

1. Read through this week’s verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit*.

Key Words: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, example, and any words that refer to judgment such as condemnation, destroyed, judgment, and eternal fire*
3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used eight times in Jude. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Background:

1. Jude was primarily written to combat the efforts of false teachers who were penetrating the church. What do the following verses teach us about false teachers?

Colossians 2:22,23

1 Timothy 4:1-2

2 Peter 2:1-3

- a. What do you watch for as indications of false teachers?
2. Many of the New Testament writers took time to address the dangers of false teachers. What are some of the possible effects they might have?
 3. If someone felt that you were falling prey to false teaching, how would you want them to approach you?

Read Jude 1:1,2 - Greetings

1. The author of this letter identifies himself at the very beginning. Who wrote this letter and how does he identify himself?
 - a. Jude was not only the brother of James, he was also the half-brother of Jesus (see Mark 6:3). Jude, along with the other brothers of Jesus, did not believe Jesus until after the resurrection. Imagine what it must have been like when the Holy Spirit revealed this incredible truth, that their brother was the Messiah, the Chosen One, the Holy Lamb of God. Jesus' brothers had known Him from their birth. Suddenly, the childhood of Jesus must have made sense. They had watched Him not only in the spotlight of ministry, but they watched him when He was hungry and sleepy; they were very aware of His reactions to the challenges of day-to-day life. The disciples could testify of Jesus, but think how much more powerful a testimony James and Jude had. They could confirm from their daily experiences all the disciples said and wrote. Record what Peter said in I Peter 2:21,22 about Jesus.

- 1.) How does knowing who wrote this letter inspire you to take careful consideration of its contents?

- b. Both James and Jude introduce themselves as bondservants of the Lord, rather than refer to their natural relationship with Him. Why do you think they chose to use the title of *bondservant of Jesus Christ* rather than *brother of Jesus Christ*?

1.) How does this speak to you about the titles you choose or desire for yourself?

Read Jude 1:3,4 - Contend For Your Faith

1. Jude referred to our *common salvation*. Using Jude 1:1,3, what things do all believers have in *common*?

- a. What does it mean to you that you are:

Beloved

Sanctified

Preserved

2. Confidence in who we are in Christ should not provoke us to a carefree existence, rather Jude calls us to *contend*. Using synonyms, define the word *contend*.

- a. List some antonyms for *contend*.

- b. What are some examples of *contending for the faith* in:

Philippians 1:27

2 Timothy 1:13

3. Jude implored them to *contend for the faith* because of *certain men*. Using Jude 1:4, describe these men.

- a. What are your thoughts as you ponder what they do to the *grace of our God*?

Read Jude 1:5-16,19 - They

1. Jude does not mince words as he describes *these men who crept in unnoticed*. Mark every occurrence of *these, themselves, they,* and *them* throughout the book of Jude. Also, mark each use of the word *ungodly*.

List what you discovered:

Verse 4

Verse 8

Verse 10

Verses 12,13

Verses 14,15

Verse 16

Verse 18

Verse 19

2. Jude refers to three Old Testament examples in verses 5-7. He discusses the sins of unbelief, the rebellion of the angels, and the sexual sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. He further warns of the sins of Cain, Balaam, and Korah in verse 11. Cain was an example of the man who believes in God, but seeks Him according to his own terms. Balaam's sin was that of greed; seeking after gain above God's will. Korah's sin can be described as a denial of authority. Why must we be careful not to allow these kinds of thinking into either our lives or our church?
3. Jude 1:12,13 presents five vivid pictures of the false teachers. Choose one of the examples and describe in your own words what Jude is saying.
4. Jude is very thorough in describing the false teachers and their sure judgment. Jesus was equally stern with those who misrepresented the truths of God. Record His concern from Matthew 23:13.
5. What concerns you most as you consider the tactics and successes of these false teachers?

Read Jude 1:17, 20-23 - You

1. In this paragraph division, Jude switches gears and focuses back on the recipients of the letter, God's beloved believers. With what three words does Jude begin verse 17 and 20?
 - a. List the instructions given to believers in this section of Jude. Underline or highlight the verbs (action words such as *remember* and *building up*).

Verse 17

Verse 20

Verse 21

Verse 22

Verse 23

- 1.) According to these verses, what is our responsibility to one another?

- a.) What does James 5:19,20 add to your understanding?

2. Describe what it means to:

keep yourself in the love of God

looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ

3. How would obeying the commands of Jude 1:17-23 be an antidote to falling prey to the deception of a false teacher?

Read Jude 1:24,25 - Him

1. The closing statement of Jude is one of the most beloved benedictions in the Bible. It takes us from the command to *contend for the faith*, descriptions of those we are fighting, instructions to believers as to how to *contend*, and brings our focus to the One who *contends* for us, our Lord Jesus Christ. According to verse 24, what is He able to do?
2. Take a moment to dissect the last part of Jude 24.
 - a. How is He going to *present* you?

- 1). Describe *faultless*.
 - b. What is His attitude going to be?
 - 1). Describe *exceeding joy*.
 - c. Now, what is your reaction to these **facts**?
3. Meditating on Jude 1:24 helps us relate to Jude's response in verse 25. Write this verse below.
- a. Describe God's wisdom.
 - b. Describe God's *glory* and *majesty*.
 - c. Describe God's *dominion* and *power*.
4. How does dwelling upon the reality of Jude 1:24,25 cause you to want to respond to Jude's exhortation to *contend for the faith*?

REVIEW - Read Jude

1. What have you gleaned from this lesson regarding:

Them (false teachers)

You (the believer)

Him (The Lord)

*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to the only wise God,
be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

- 1 Timothy 1:17 KJV

Observation Worksheet

Jude

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: ² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. ³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. ⁸ Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" ¹⁰ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. ¹² These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the

blackness of darkness forever. ¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." ¹⁶ These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. ¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.