



11 February 2024

A Serious Letter to 21st Century Disciples

Jude 1-3

2 Peter 1:16-2:2; Acts 20:17-32

Pressing Forward into 2024

- Six D's of Discipleship: D - Diligence

Introduction to the Study

- GOALS for this series.
 - ① SEE God (Psalm 119:18)
 - ② See the Glorious Gospel in all the Word of God
 - ③ Demonstrate the necessity to being DISCIPLES (serious students) of God's WHOLE Word.
 - ★ One CANNOT understand this letter without being a serious student of God's Word - especially the Old Testament.
 - ④ Be warned about false teachers.
- The Outline: Only 25 verses yet so FULL of the whole counsel of God.

Theme of Jude

- The book of Jude is a serious call to FIGHT; to BATTLE; to EARNESTLY CONTEND; to WAR! The key verse of this epistle is verse 3.
- Like the three books before his Jude sounds the trumpet of warning of false doctrine and teachers. (Consider seriously Ezekiel 3:17-21; Acts 20:26-27)
- Why so much talk about false teachers and false doctrine?
 - ① Jesus, Luke, Paul, Peter, John, James and Jude warn us over and over about this **serious** cancer/virus.
 - ② Because God's people have the great tendency NOT TO TEST what they hear. (1 Thess 5:21; Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 7:15; 1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11)
 - ③ Because God's people have a tendency of NOT being DILIGENT in their study of God's Word and therefore have the tendency to be deceived. (2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:11-14; 2 Peter 3:17)
 - ④ Because God's people have a tendency of NOT taking the warnings of God's Word seriously. They ignore words such as BEWARE; TAKE HEED; BE SOBER; BE DILIGENT; WATCH; BE VIGILANT; RESIST; BE STEADFAST; PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD; EXHORT ONE ANOTHER; BE ON GUARD; etc.

⑤ Because Satan is a master counterfeiter, as is his ministers! (2 Cor 11:13-15)

☆ **JUST AS** Jesus, Matthew, Luke, John, Peter, James, and Jude warned their readers this pastor will continue to warn his listeners.

★ **THIS DANGER IS REAL.**

- ☆ False doctrine leads to false gospels that lead to false conversions!
 - Jude saw the **DANGER** in his generation and warned the Church.
 - Can we see the **DANGER** in our generation? Will we be warned? Will we warn others? Will we remain steadfast, not be led into error, and grow in the knowledge of God? (2 Peter 3:17-18)
 - Jude is a **culturally** relevant for the 21st Century. The dangers of the false teaching of the 1st Century are still very much alive in the 21st Century Church with one exception – **they are MORE DECEPTIVE and DANGEROUS!** (2 Timothy 3:13)

The Times

- **FIRST CENTURY!** Meditate!
- A time when false teachers had **already** infiltrated the “church”.
- These false teachers were prophesied by Christ and Peter. (2 Peter 2:1-3)
- A time when already the Church failed to **TEST** everything and every spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1)
- A time when the Church had become **LAZY** (see Hebrews 6:11-12) and **COMPLACENT** (Zephaniah 1:12).
- **TIMES VERY MUCH LIKE OURS!**

The Author: **GOD** (Jude 24-25)

- Receiving it as the Word of God. (Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Thess 1:5)
 - Receiving the **POWER** of **GOD**. (Romans 1:16; 1 Thess 1:5-10)
- **ALL** of Scripture is **TRUTH**. **TRUTH** is “black and white”. (Psalm 119:160; John 17:17)
- **ALL** of Scripture is “breathed out” by God. **ALL** Scripture is the Word of God - (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- (Romans 15:4) Scripture is given to us for:
 - ① Our **LEARNING** ② **ENDURANCE**. ③ **COMFORT**
- The compassion of God. God has **PRESERVED** His Word through the ages for **US!** - consider and be warned - 2 Chronicles 36:14-17.
- Word from an **INFINITE** GOD to **FINITE** beings requires **CAREFUL** study.
- God’s Word **demand**s our fullest attention.

The Author: **Jude: A Servant of Jesus Christ** (Jude 1)

- Jude, brother of James, half-brother of Christ. (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:33)
 - His brother, James, was a famous leader in the Jerusalem Church. (Acts 15:13-21)

- From **DOUBTER** to **SERVANT** (John 7:1-9; Acts 1:14)
- What happened to Jude that he would go from being a mocking unbeliever of Jesus of Nazareth to being a **slave** of Jesus **the** Christ?
- There is only one answer: Jude was **converted!**
- What is **conversion**? Conversion is the same thing as “new birth” (John 3:1-8; 1:12-13; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:2; 1 John 2:29; 3:9-10; 4:7; 5:4, 18) and a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17; Eph2:10; 4:24; Gal 6:15; Col 3:10).
- The Gospel message is all about God supernaturally **changing** His people into NEW CREATURES that love and obey Him!
 - ★ The children of the devil are **converted** into the children of God. (1 John 3:9-10)
 - ★ Those “dead in trespasses” are **converted** into “being alive in Christ”. (Romans 6:11; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Ephesians 2:5; 1 Peter 3:18)
 - ★ This is a **RADICAL** change because it is the work of GOD.
- Conversion (“new birth”; “new creation”) **always** leads to servanthood! (Matthew 10:24-25; 25:21, 23; John 15:18-20; Galatians 1:10; Philip 1:1; 2 Timothy 2:24; Titus 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; James 1:1; Revelation 1:1; 22:3; 1 Thess 1:9)
- Conversion is a **radical change** of wills – from serving self to serving God. (Acts 14:15; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Acts 9:15)
- Definition of SERVANT - a “bond-servant” (see Matthew 20:25-28; Philippians 2:5-8) The RIGHTS of a Bond-Servant:
 - ① He has no rights of his own. He has been “bought with a price.” (1 Cor. 6:19-20) ★ **HE IS OWNED!**
 - ② He owns no possessions. All belongs to the Master. (1 Chron 29:14)
 - Anything that the slave has has been given to him by His Master for the Master’s use! (Acts 17:25)
 - ③ He has no status. The Master must increase and the servant must decrease. (John 3:30; Philippians 2:7)
 - ④ He has NO LIFE of His own. (Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Acts 20:24)
 - ⑤ He lives to do the Master’s will. “Not my will, but yours, O Lord!” is his daily prayer. (Matthew 26:39; 6:9; 7:21-23; 12:50; John 4:34)
 - ⑥ He does what he is assigned (commanded) to do. (Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:14; **Luke 17:7-10**)
 - ⑦ He serves. **He is NOT served.** (Hebrews 12:28-29; Matthew 20:27-28)
 - ⑧ He obeys. (Luke 6:46; **13:25-27**; Matthew 7:21-23; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 5:3)

The Readers (Jude 1)

- Jude’s audience is **NOT** unbelievers.
- Jude’s audience **WAS NOT, IS NOT**, “theologians” and “pastors”.
- Jude’s audience was (is) those who **are called** by GOD, **sanctified** by GOD the Father, and **preserved** in Jesus Christ.

- Jude's audience was (is) all those who have been **converted** by the powerful and amazing grace of God.
- Disciples who have been saved by the TRIUNE GOD.
- Jude's audience was (is) **followers** of Jesus Christ.

The Greeting (Jude 2)

- Mercy, peace, love **BE MULTIPLIED!**

The Enemy - False Teachers (Jude 3-4)

- A "Call to Arms". • A trumpet call of warning.
- BEWARE OF ANOTHER GOSPEL. (Galatians 1:6-9)
- Jude was warning believers of **an ENEMY WITHIN the camp!**
(Matthew 7:15; Corinthians 11:13-16; 2 Peter 2:1-3)

Written for Our Learning (Romans 15:4)

- We **must** be DISCIPLES. Disciples READ, STUDY, MEDITATE, and MEMORIZE God's Word. Disciples are DILIGENT.
- We **must** hear **and** heed (obey) what we hear. (Hebrews 2:1; Matthew 7:24-27)
- We **must** heed Jude's warning.
- We **must** be on guard for false teachers. (Matthew 7:15)
 - We must test everything by the WHOLE COUNSEL of God. (1 Thess 5:21)
 - We must be careful WHAT we hear. (Mark 4:24)
 - We must be careful HOW we hear. (Luke 8:18)
- We **must** be SLAVES to God, Christ, and EACH OTHER.
 - As creatures we are completely dependent on God and since He is our Creator He demands and deserves our all.
 - As disciples we are obligated to obey ALL the teachings of our Master.
 - As MEMBERS of the BODY of Christ we EXIST to serve the HEAD and the rest of the Body.
- **How to Become a True Servant**
 - ① **Surrender ALL your RIGHTS** – you now belong to Christ. (Luke 9:23)
 - ② **Surrender ALL your possessions** – find your delight in Christ. (Psalm 73:25; see Luke 14:33.)
 - ③ **Surrender any STATUS** you believe you have. (Luke 9:23; Philip 2:7)
 - ④ **Surrender YOUR LIFE – your TIME is YOUR life.** (1 Cor 6:19-20; 1J ohn 3:16)
 - ⑤ **Surrender YOUR will** (wants, desire, purpose) to His will. (Matthew 26:39; Luke 9:23; Matthew 22:36-38)
 - ⑥ **LIVE** as a **SERVANT** to God and others. (Matthew 20:28; Romans 6:22)
 - ⑦ **Find your honour** in who your Master is.