

Finishing the Race

Jude 5

Psalm 95:1-11; Hebrews 3:7-19



Disciples of Christ

- Goal #3: Fear of God (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

A Serious Letter

- **Warning against an ENEMY WITHIN!**
 - WOLVES IN SHEEP CLOTHING. (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29)

A Serious Call (vv. 3-4)

- This is NOT a letter of ENCOURAGEMENT but one of EXHORTATION.
- False teachers and leaders, ungodly men, had secretly crept their way into the churches of the SAINTS.
- Jude calls ALL BELIEVERS of ALL TIMES to EARNESTLY CONTEND for the FAITH.
- ★ There is only ONE FAITH. (Ephesians 4:4-5)
 - ➔ There is only ONE TRUTH – the Word of God.
 - ➔ There is only ONE GOD – as revealed in the Word of God.
 - ➔ There is only ONE CHRIST – as revealed in the Word of God.
 - ➔ There is only ONE GOSPEL – as revealed in the Word of God.
 - ➔ There is only ONE CHURCH – as called by the ONE GOD, in the ONE CHRIST, by the ONE GOSPEL.
- In a church culture of RELATIVISM “truth has fallen to the streets.” (Isaiah 59:14)
- Jude calls ALL BELIEVERS to STAND UP to ALL that is FALSE. (Jer 9:3)
- “A little leaven corrupts the whole bunch!” Galatians 5:9; 1 Cor. 5:7-8; **15:33**.
- We are commanded to TEST everything and everyone. (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1)
- It is said today that so many refuse to TEST. Many, even some in this church, choose to follow the cultural interpretations instead of “abiding” in Christ’s Word. (John 8:31, **51**)
- Christ condemned those who would follow traditions/teaching of men rather than the commandments of God. (Matthew 15:1-9)
- This is a letter to ALL SAINTS of TODAY!

Reminder (Jude 5)

- We all need reminding.
- Paul reminded the saints in Rome. (Romans 15:14-15)
- Peter reminded the saints (**the ELECT**) in dispersion. (2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1)
- God’s people have a tendency to **FORGET** God and His awesome works. (Deut

- 4:9, 23; 6:12; 8:11, 14, 19; Prov 3:1; 4:4; Isa 51:13)
- Contrast with forgetting (James 1:25; Deuteronomy 4:9, 23, 6:12; 8:11-19; 32:18; Psalm 19:17; 78:7-11; 103:2; 106:13, 21; Proverbs 3:1; Isaiah 51:13; Jeremiah 2:32; 13:25; 23:27; **Ezekiel 23:35; Hosea 4:6**; 8:14; 2 Peter 3:5)
 - Warning: Luke 12:48

Saved Out of House of Bondage (Jude 5)

- God's Plan, God's Work, God's Power, God's Way, God's Grace
- Exodus 19; 20:1-2 - God's covenant; the peoples' covenant

One step away (Numbers 13-14)

- The Israelites are camped right outside the PROMISED LAND - the land that God had promised them. (Genesis 12:7; 17:8; Deut 10:11; Lev 20:24)
- They had witnessed God's wondrous works in Egypt, at the Red Sea and in the Wilderness.
- Moses sent 12 spies to check out the land.
- (Numbers 13:27) The spies' report: Just as God said it would be!!!
- (13:28) **NEVERTHELESS!!!**
- (13:30) Caleb's FAITH!! Is this a FOOLISH and a BLIND faith? **NO, it is a faith that is based on the WORD of God!**
- (14:1-2) The people began to COMPLAIN – MURMUR! – Had they NOT learned from the FIRE in chapter 11. (11:1)
- (14:6-10) Joshua and Caleb's FAITH. They TRUSTED God's **WORD!** They trusted GOD!
- (14:20-23) God's judgment on those who MURMURED against Him (14:27): they would NOT enter into God's Land! God swore! (Heb 3:18-19)

A Final Resting Place (Hebrews 3:7-11)

- The Israelites journey to the Promise Land was a PICTURE of the Christian's journey to Heaven (God's presence).
 - ★ A Christian's journey along the "way that leads to life". (Matthew 7:13-14)
- The wilderness is the world we live in. In this world we will have temptations, trials, troubles, and tribulations. (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 1 Thessalonians 3:4; 2 Timothy 3:12; Romans 8:17)
- The journey was HARD! But complaining about troubles only brought more trouble! (Numbers 11:1)
- They had the WORD of GOD that the land of Canaan was theirs!
- They had the PILLAR of CLOUD and FIRE to lead them and protect them.
- They had seen God's FAITHFULNESS in the PAST.
- **BUT** they refused to **ENDURE TO THE END!** (Matt. 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 3:6, 14; 6:11; James 1:12)
- GOD swore that NONE BUT TWO of them would enter into HIS promised land

- (Numbers 14:23-24, 30, 37-38; 26:64-65) because they did not “**wholly follow**” God. (Num 32:11) **NOTE: Heb 3:18-19 - Unbelief/ Disobedience.**
- **ONLY TWO OF THE GENERATION THAT GOD RESCUED, SAVED, DELIVERED FROM EGYPT ENTERED INTO THE PROMISED LAND!**
 - Do the math! 2 divided by 603,550 = **Less than 0.0003%!!!**
 - **LEARN:** Listen to what is recorded about Caleb: Num 14:24; 32:12; Deut 1:36.

STARTING But Not FINISHING

- Jesus warned us in the parable of the soils that many would start out with enthusiasm and rejoicing, but when troubles (persecutions) and temptations (deceitfulness of riches) came many would leave. (Matthew 13:18-23)
- They did not PRODUCE FRUIT – evidences of saving faith. Branches with no fruit are cast into the FIRE. (John 15:1-8; Matthew 3:7-12)
- The New Testament warns us over and over of those who do not persevere to the **end** will never enter heaven. (Matt 7:21-23; 13:20-22; 10:22; **24:13**; John 8:31, 51; Rom 9:6-8; 11:16-24; 1 Cor 15:2; 1 John 2:19; Heb 3:6, 14; Colossians 1:23; Proverbs 21:16)
- (Matthew 7:13-14) We are commanded to enter the **NARROW** gate **and WALK** the **NARROW** (difficult) path **that leads to life**. We must do **BOTH!**
 - Jesus tells us that only a **FEW** (like Caleb and Joshua) find this gate! (Matthew 17:14) ★ **Many have entered into a counterfeit gate!**
 - Many of these **deceived** “saints” are **active** in churches – and yet will **never** enter into the kingdom of God. (Matthew 7:21-23) Many were active in church and walked away!

Starting vs Finishing

- The race (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 2:5; 4:7-8; Hebrews 12:1)
- Christ’s warning: Only those who endure to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22; 24:13)
- Definitions of “salvation” in the New Testament.

REGENERATION SANCTIFICATION GLORIFICATION

→ A **PAST** salvation – “I was saved.” (Ephesians 2:5, 8; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5) **THIS IS REGENERATION – BEING BORN-AGAIN!**

FREED FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN. (John 3:36; Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9;)

FREED FROM THE PLEASURE OF SIN. (Hebrews 11:25)

→ A **PRESENT** salvation – “I am being saved.” (1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:15; 3:18; Romans 13:11; Philippians 2:12)

THIS IS SANCTIFICATION – BEING MADE INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST.

FREED FROM THE POWER OF SIN. (Romans 6:14)

- A **FUTURE** salvation “I will be saved.”(Romans 5:9-10; Hebrews 9:28)
THIS IS GLORIFICATION – BEING GLORIFIED
FREED FROM THE PRESENCE OF SIN.

Dangers of False Teachers in 2024

- NOT PEACE, PEACE. (Jeremiah 6:14-16; 8:11)
- Feather or Sword - 2 Timothy 4:3-4 or Hebrews 4:12!

Written for Our Reminder

- We have a tendency to forget. Peter continually reminded the “**elect**”. (2 Peter 1:12-15)
- Disciples are disciplined - like runners of a race. They train to FINISH the RACE! (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
- ALL Scripture was written so that we would not forget.
 - God’s dealing with the Israelites in the wilderness was written for our learning. (1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Romans 15:4)
 - Will we listen to **GOD’S WORD** or listen to the “**majority**” just as the Israelites listened to 10 spies and ignored the “minority”? Will we “believe” as the many or “believe” the Word of God? **The consequences are severe!** 603,548 Israelites **did not** reap God’s promises of the Promised Land because they chose to listen to men instead of God.
 - Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter into the Promised Land because they “wholly followed the Lord”! (Numbers 32:11-12) - The REST perished! **LUKE 9:23; John 10:27-28**
- FAITH = DOING (James 1:22; 2:14-26)
 - ★ Those who have been “graced” by God **practice** God’s righteousness. All those who are abiding in Christ obey Him. Obedience and doing are **FRUITS** of abiding. (1 John 3:9-10; John 15:1-11)
 - ★ Only those who are “**doers**” of **GOD’S WORD** will enter into God’s final rest. (Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50)
 - ★ **Only those who believe obey. Only those who obey believe.**
- We have been set free TO OBEY God and TO SERVE GOD. (Rom 6:20-22)
- We have been set free from the penalty, power, **and** pleasure of sin.
- We have been set free from the ways of the world (2024) and Satan.