

Jude 1-2: Encouragement for Dark Days



- **Background Context**

- Date
- Audience
- Occasion
- Difficulties/Peculiarities

- **Literary Style**

- Apocalyptic Eschatology - The last days are here!
- Apologetic - Defending the Faith!
- Vituperatio - “Rhetoric of Slander” - vilifying your opponent.
- Use of Old Testament and Apocryphal Literature
- Chiasm! (See handout!)

- **Who is Jude?**

- Brother of _____
- Servant of _____

- **Benediction**

The [Beloved by God the Father, Kept for Jesus Christ] Called

- The Called

- The Beloved by God the Father

- Kept for Jesus

- Mercy

- Peace

- Love

- Jude is addressing _____ in the Church!

The Chiasm

The following words are *Palindromes* - their spelling is the same, frontwards or backwards:
RACECAR, ROTAVATOR, SAIPPUAKIVIKAUPPIAS (A Finnish soapstone vendor!)

To see the center, it is helpful to write the letters vertically, and add some indentions:

```
R
 A
  C
   E ← E is the center!
  C
 A
R
```

A *Chiasm* is like a Palindrome, but in sentence form/paragraph form. Here is an example:

When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

A Chiasm doesn't demand identical words, as it can deal with *themes and words* instead of single letters. A Chiasm is also designed to draw your attention to the center - like a picture frame or the rings on a bullseye. This centermost element can be called *the peak*. When a Chiasm is examined, it is written out vertically, with each subsequent line indented.

Here is another example, this time written vertically and with indentation:

Frank loves buying hot dogs.

Hot dogs are affordable.

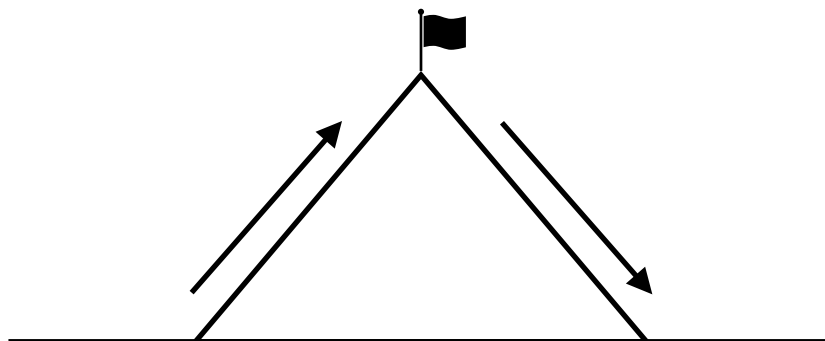
Frank's rent just went up.

Hot dogs are all Frank can afford.

Frank hates buying hot dogs.

← The Center!

While the center is *emphasized*, it doesn't mean the rest of the story is unimportant. The center is the *peak* of the mountain, and just like mountain climbing, getting up to the peak loses its value if you don't make it back down!

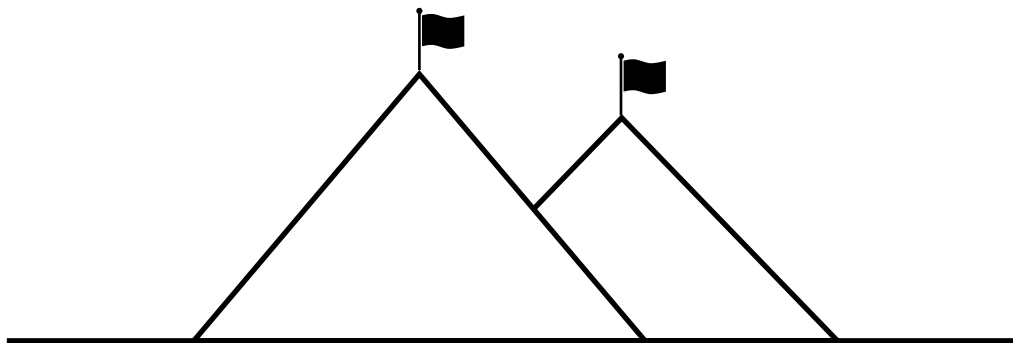


The Chiastic Structure of Jude:

The following is Jude's structure.¹ It has been color coded to assist in seeing parallels.

- A The Called of God v.1
- B Mercy, Peace, and Love - a Benediction v.2
- C Swerve away from Common Salvation; Command to Contend for the Faith v.3
- D Enemies and Issues Predicted v.4-6 ²
- E Identify, Expose, Re-identify v. 7-10
- F Destroy! 'Woe' statement demonstrating the end ones such as these v.11
- E' Identify, Expose, Re-identify v. 12-16
- D' Enemies and Issues Predicted v.17-19
- C' Swerve back to Common Salvation; Command to Keep the Faith v. 20-21
- B' Have Mercy - A Commission v. 22-23
- A' The God of the Called v. 24-25 A

Jude does contain a "Second Peak" - While not as prominent as verse 11, verse 17 contains Jude's First use of an Imperative Verb: Remember. Just as mountain ranges have multiple peaks, and Jude's transition from judgment to *defense* results in a second peak for the letter. It is the turning point when the letter answers the question, "How, then, should we contend?"



¹ Modified from Ernst Wendland, "A Comparative Study of 'Rhetorical Criticism', Ancient and Modern - with Special Reference to the Larger Structure and Function of the Epistle of Jude," *Neotestamentica* 28, no.1 (1994): 193-228.

² The paragraph break at verse 7 instead of 8 is suggested in David J. Clark, *Discourse Analysis of the New Testament Writings*, ed. Todd A. Scacewater (Dallas, TX: Fontes Press, 2020), 698-705. Clark suggests that this strengthens the chiastic structure by Wendland while alleviating some tension regarding angels and current readings of Genesis 6. See below. For discussion on identity of the sons of God in Genesis 6, see Appendix A in John Murray, *Principles of Conduct*, p. 243.

Jude 3-4: Crept In!



- **Translation Struggles**

- P⁷² - Papyrus 72, a 3rd or 4th century book containing 1, 2 Peter and Jude.
- Context Clues!

- **Beloved**

- **The Swerve**

- Every Effort
- Common Salvation
 - Common S_____ or Common S_____?
- Thomas Manton Abridged: The same Grace, same Christ, same righteousness, same privileges, same rule, and same body!
- The Point of highlighting our common salvation?
 - U_____
 - E_____
- Felt the necessity because the church isn't _____ or _____!

- **The Command**

- An Urge to Contend!
- The Once for all handed down to the Saints Faith
 - What is the faith?
 - Who are the saints?
 - What is once for all?

- **Certain Persons**

- W_____
- Marked for Doom
- Their Character:
 - Ungodly - anti-_____
 - Perverting Grace
 - Denying Our Only Master and Lord
- Is this worth fighting over?

38

δε δεσφτω εωτηρ δεσφτω σοφ
 τρυφε εωμιας ελκηνοντα
~~τορ δεσφτω εωτηρ δεσφτω σοφ
 τρυφε εωμιας ελκηνοντα~~
 ιδεσπλεστομ
 ιουδαειτην χρην δοντοσ δαφρ
 δεφδκω βοντοισ ενωτηρι ηνδ
 τημετωις κονην χραι. τημη
μενοις εντοισ ενωσ χυμητην
 ειρηνη κονην επητην κενωμην
 ελκηνοντα δεσφτω εκ δεσφτω
 Η σαμενοσ τουρ φημη κωμτη φη
 τ ησ κοληνησ ημωσ σωτηριδη
 ανδρ ηκημ εσχομ γραφην ημην
 τηρ δεσφτωμ εν τηδωμ δεσφτω
 τηρ δεσφτωμ εν τηδωμ δεσφτω
 τοισ δεσφτωισ τεκταφ τηρ ενωσων

One word!

39

σοφ δεσφτω κωη πομωρ κωη πομωρ
 ρεφδω δεσφτωρ ελκηνοντα
 τρωτωμ τρωτωσ εκτορ μεν
 σαδην κωη δεσφτωσ εωμιας οπτω
 σαφ κωσ τε φασφρ κωη πομωρ
 μωτ φρωσ εωμιας κωη πομωρ
χορσα τονωμιας σμεττωι κωη πομωρ
 ενυτημιδεωμ ετοις σαφ κωμιας
 ενωρη κωη πομωρ δεσφτωρ
 δεσφτω δεσφτω κωη πομωρ οδε
μηχησ οφχημησ εωμιας
 δεσφτω κωη πομωρ οδε
 λεγεσ τεφρητωμ κωη πομωρ
 μωτωσ ορ κωη πομωρ κωη πομωρ
 εττεφνεγκειν βλαφημηδ
 δεσφτω εν εττεφνημησ
 σοφ κωη πομωρ δεσφτω μωρ
 κωη πομωρ βλαφημησ

Demetrius
 Greek 2

Jude 5-6: Dire Reminders



- A Desire to Remind
- Conjunction Junction! A Literary Unit
- Israel
 - Kadesh Barnea
 - Numbers 14.11-12
 - Not an example of P_____ grace but P_____ grace
 - Foolishness and the Majority
 - “Dead flies make a perfumer’s oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.” Ecclesiastes 10.1
 - The Need for Contending
- Angels
 - Origins
 - Genesis 6.1-4
 - 1 Enoch 12.4; 10.6
 - Blaming Angels
 - Rhetoric
 - Criticizing Conclusions
 - Angels *are* Moral Agents - just like Israel!
 - They will face Judgement - just like Israel
- Meaning
 1. Comparing Sins.
 2. Contrasting the Kept.
 3. No more blame-shifting!
 4. High Stakes.
 5. The Day of the Lord!

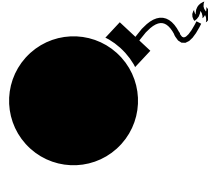
<i>I Enoch</i>	<i>Jude</i>
[The Angels] have abandoned the high heaven the holy eternal Place. (12.4).	And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home— (v. 6a)
Bind Azaz'el hand and foot (and) throw him into the darkness! (10.4)	these he has kept in darkness bound with everlasting chains (v.6b)
that he may be sent into the fire on the great day of judgment. (10.6)	for judgment on the great Day. (v. 6.c)

Then from From Simon J. Kistemaker, *New Testament Commentary: Exposition of the Epistles of Peter and the Epistle of Jude*, 4th ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Book House, 1993), 379.

Jude's Chiasm

- A The Called of God v.1
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Jude 7-16: Introducing the IED's



The IED's:

Identify opponents as _____ (vv. 7-8)

- Conjunction Junction! Part 2
 - “As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.” Psalm 42.1
- Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Genesis 18.20-21, Genesis 19; Ezekiel 16.49-50
- Likewise... Like who?
 - These?
- A Type of Judgment.
- Dreamers (Deuteronomy 13.1ff and Jeremiah 23.25-28!)
 - Defile flesh, Reject, Revile

Expose (vv. 9-10)

- Meaning:
 - Rebuke the devil! Should you?
- Rhetoric:
 - If Jude could have quoted _____, why didn't he?
 - The readers would be familiar with _____.
 - The Assumption of Moses contains key, thematic elements.
 - The False Teachers *likely* utilized elements of the Assumption of Moses to justify their behavior.
- Did this story really happen?
- Re-Identify
 - The False Teacher *practice what verse 9 condemns*.
 - Broken Minds
 - Destroyed by what they deny.

Destroy... (v. 11)

“Furthermore, when we really think about it, how different really are our times from the critical situation that ‘Jude’ found himself in? No matter what date we finally attach to this epistle, the religious circumstances (or rhetorical ‘exigence’) of its writing bear at least several significant resemblances (as well as many differences of course) to the theological scene as we find it in the present day. Thus we have a ‘Christian’ Church—whether in Africa, Asia, Australia, or America—that is by and large characterised by bitter factionalism, false teachings involving divinely established authority and revelation, a widespread tolerance for immorality, the consuming desire for personal gain, and many who appeal to extra-biblical, supernatural revelation, supposedly to supplement the written Word. The disastrous history of two recent ‘prophetic’ movements may be sufficient to illustrate this point: the ill-fated Lakwena military insurrection in Uganda and the holocaust resulting from the Branch- Davidian affair in Waco, Texas. Thus Jude's persuasively fashioned exhortation to the faithful is most timely, but only for those who will take the time to really discover *what* he has to say—and *how*.”

~ E R Wendland,

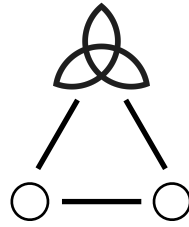
An IED is an Improvised Explosive Device. It is a homemade bomb used against military forces. These are often roadside bombs used to break up lines of communication, disrupt traffic, and even destroy targeted vehicles. These are traps. False Teaching functions the same way. False teachers utilize “homemade” teachings used against God’s kingdom. These teachings break up lines of communication, disrupt the body, and even lead some to destruction. They are traps of the enemy. And Jude is doing what the military does: Identifying the teachers, Exposing them, and destroying them via a doom pronouncement. Jude is dismantling a landmine of the Christian faith!

“Dear brothers, YOU ARE ATTACKING THE WRONG ENEMY! The enemy is the Devil and his gang of apostates. If you have to attack something, there are plenty of false cults, false religions, New Age, secular humanism, and damnable heresies of all kinds. Let us cry out to the heretic hunters to join us in the “good fight of faith” against the REAL enemy instead of *dissipating all their energy wrangling over whether we are “little gods” or not.*”

~ James R. Spencer, *Heresy Hunters: Character Assassination in the Church* (Lafayette, La: Huntington House, 1993), ix. (Emphasis mine).

“When I read in the Bible where He says “I AM” I just smile and say “yes, I AM too!”
Kenneth Copeland

An Apology for Unity



- Trilogy of Terror
 - Cain
 - Balaam
 - Korah

- Jude's Apologetic - In Practice
 1. Gather Information

 2. Pray

 3. Prepare

 4. Peacemaking Principles
 - Relational Focus

 - Horizontal Focus

 - Vertical Focus

 5. Remind them!

 6. Exclusivity!

 7. The IED's

 8. ?????

 9. ?????

Invading Teaching: Invading Teaching - Moral Relativism - Don't judge me!

In the Culture: "Don't tell me what to do!" Zac Brown Band said "You can't judge a man until you walk a country mile in his shoes." Seems like Matthew 7.1-5 Agrees!!

Identify the dangerous teaching in the Scriptures.

-
-
-
-
-
-

Expose the dangerous teaching by its own standards.

-
-
-
-
-

Destroyed! Demonstrate the fate of those who held this position.

- Jeremiah 26.4-5
- Judges 1.1-21.24

Invading Teaching: "Paul is outdated and Jesus doesn't address sexuality!"

In the Culture: Jesus is more concerned with loving people than harassing people, and Paul isn't Jesus.

Identify:

-
-
-
-

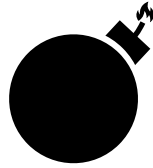
Exposed:

-
-
-
-
-

Destroyed:

- Genesis 19
- 1 Corinthians 6.9
- 1 Thessalonians 4.1-8, esp. 6.

Jude 7-16: Concluding the IED's



The IED's

Destroy... (v. 11)

Identify opponents as _____ (vv. 12-13)

- Hidden Reefs
 - Love Feasts?
 - Spots in the water.
 - Feast without fear.
 - 1 Corinthians 11.17-34, esp. 21
- Shepherding themselves.
 - Ezekiel 34.2-3,8-10
- Clouds without water
 - Proverbs 25.14, Jeremiah 5.13
- Fruitless Trees
 - Twice Dead
 - Matthew 15.13
- Wild Waves
 - Isaiah 57.20
- Wandering Stars
 - Reserved - John 3.18
 - Gloomy darkness - Zephaniah 1.14-18. Ezekiel 34.

Expose (vv. 13-16)

- Prophecy of Enoch
 - *All the ungodly*
 - Myriads of Angels
 - Zechariah 14.5, Matthew 13.40-43
 - Judgment
- These are
 - Grumblers and Faultfinders
 - Daniel 7.8,20; 11.36; Revelation 13.5-6
 - Following evil desires
 - Boasters and Flatterers

“Son of man, prophesy against the *shepherds* of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “**Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves!** Should not the shepherds feed the flock? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat *sheep* without feeding the flock. ~ **Ezekiel 24:2-3**

“*Like clouds and wind without rain* is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.” ~ **Proverbs 25:14**

“The prophets are as wind, and the word is not in them. Thus it will be done to them!” ~ **Jeremiah 5:13**

“But the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, And *its waters toss up refuse* and mud.” ~ **Isaiah 57:20**

“A day of wrath is that day,
A day of trouble and distress,
A day of destruction and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloom,
A day of clouds and thick darkness,” ~ **Zephaniah 1.15**

As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered *on a day of clouds and thick darkness.* ~ **Ezekiel 34:12**

And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and *all the holy ones with him.* ~ **Zechariah 14.5**

“So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.” ~ **Mathew 13.40-43**

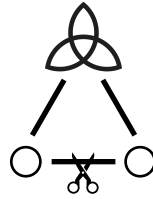
“A river of fire was flowing
And coming out from before Him;
Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,
And *myriads* upon myriads were standing before Him;” ~ **Daniel 7.10**

“...this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man
and a *mouth uttering great boasts.*” ~ **Daniel 7:8**

There was given to him a mouth *speaking arrogant words* and blasphemies.... And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God.
~ **Revelation 13:5-6**

“At His call the dead awaken,
Rise to life from earth and sea;
All the powers of nature, shaken
By His looks, prepare to flee.
Careless sinner,
What will then become of thee?”
~ **John Newton**

Jude 17-19: Remember

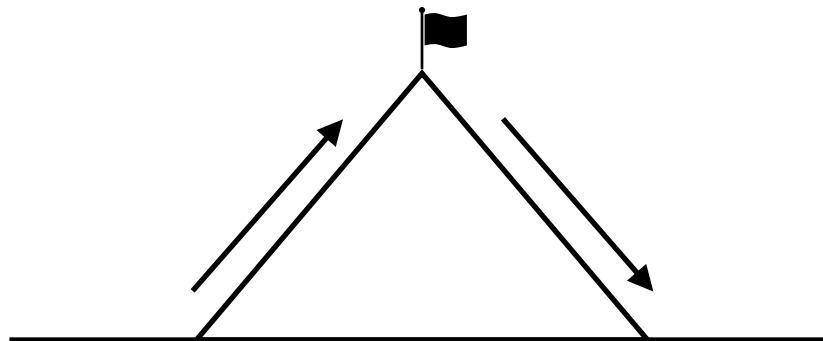


- But you
- Beloved
 - C_____ and C_____
- Remember!
 - A Command
 - Revelation 2.4-5: Dr. Reeder's 3 R's
 - R_____
 - R_____
 - R_____
 - Psalm 119.11
- The Apostolic Word
 - Authoritative
 - Content
 - The Last Days
 - Mockers
 - What's that?
 - What are they mocking?
 - Walking in Ungodly Lust
- These ones are *the dividing ones*.
 - Apostolic Summary
 - Parallel with verses 4-6
 - Contrast with Sons of God (Matthew 5.9)
- Areas of Division:
 - Horizontal
 - Vertical
 - 1 John 2.7-11; 3.10
- Worldly Minded and Devoid of the Spirit
 - James 3.15; 1 Corinthians 2.14

Jude - A Chiastic Structure:

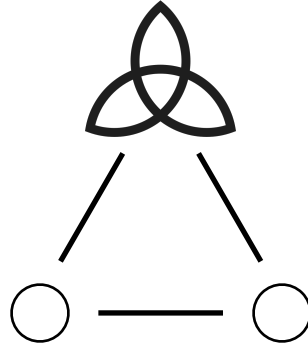
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In Defense of Unity: Principles, Practices, and Problems



A peacemaker is a dependent, reflective, truthful, obedient, pure, worker for God who seeks to restore relationships and preserve unity through the Gospel, for God's glory.

3 Principles and Practices

1) Relational

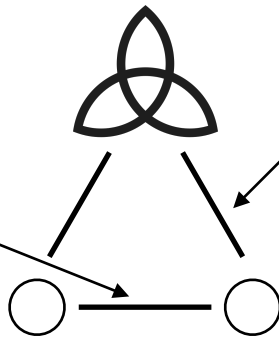
2) Horizontal



3) Vertical

In Defense of Unity: Principles, Practices, and Problems

Horizontal Concern!
 Foundational for every **horizontal** relationship!

The **Vertical** is the Foundational and Informative relationship, where Paul places **priority**. It is the determining relationship.



- — ○ — ○ — Col. 3.18ff, Eph 5.25; 1 Cor 7.1-6
- —  — ○ — Col. 3.20; Eph 6.1-4; 1 Cor. 7.14
- —  — ○ — Col. 3.22; Eph 6.5-9; 1 Cor 7.21(!)

Did Paul Support Slavery?

Types of Slavery

- Man Stealing
- War Captive
- Bond-Servant
- Criminal
- Pierced

Putting it Together

As a mediator

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

As a Person out of Peace (No Mediator)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

“That they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in me that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved me.”
 John 17.22-23

Paul and Introductions

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God ~ Romans 1.1

Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God ~ 1 Cor. 1.1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God ~ 2 Cor. 1.1

Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead) ~ Galatians 1.1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus ~ Ephesians 1.1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God ~ Colossians 1.1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus ~ 1 Timothy 1.1

2 Timothy 1.1 ~ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus

Titus 1.1 ~ Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ

Bible and Slavery

Man Stealing - "He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death." ~ Exodus 21.16

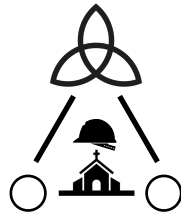
War Captive - "When you draw near a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it. And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you." ~ Deuteronomy 20.10-11

Bond Servant - "If your *brother* comes to you poor beside you and sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave: he shall be with you as a hired worker and as a sojourner...until the year of the jubilee.... If a stranger or sojourner with you becomes rich, and your *brother* beside him becomes poor and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner with you or to a member of the stranger's clan, then after he is sold he may be redeemed. One of his brothers may redeem him." ~ Leviticus 25.39-55

Bond Servant - "If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you." ~ Deuteronomy 15.12

Pierced - "...you shall let him go free from you.... It shall come about if he says to you, 'I will not go out from you,' because he loves you and your household, since he fares well with you; then you shall take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also you shall do likewise to your maidservant." ~ Deuteronomy 15.12b, 16-17

Jude 20-23: In the Love of God



- But you, Beloved
- Continuing the Commands - Keep in the Love! vv. 20-21
 - Three ways - building, praying, and anxiously waiting
 - Building yourselves up in the most holy faith
 - Building - Ephesians 2.19-22; Ephesians 4.12
 - Foundation - The faith - once for all handed down to the saints!
 - Praying in the Holy Spirit
 - Controlled by the Spirit - Ephesians 5.18
 - United in Prayer - Ephesians 4.1-6; Philippians 2.1-2
 - What is Prayer?
 - Be found praying!
 - Keep in the Love of God
 - Kept
 - Keep
 - Fellowship
 - The Law
 - Mathew 22.37-39; 1 John 4.20-21; John 14.21; 15.9-10
 - Awaiting the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - The Waiting Church
 - Another name for “Expectantly longing for Christ’s Steadfast Love”? H_____
- Have Mercy! vv. 22-23
 - The Doubters
 - The Firebrands
 - Zechariah 3.1-3
 - The Stained
 - Zechariah 3.3-5

“Such is the coldness of our flesh, that no one can pray aright except he be roused by the Spirit of God; and that we are so inclined to diffidence and trembling, that no one dares to call God his Father, except through the teaching of the same Spirit; for from him is solicitude, from him is ardor and vehemence, from him is alacrity, from him is confidence in obtaining what we ask; in short, from him are those unutterable groanings mentioned by Paul. It is not, then, without reason that Jude teaches us, that no one can pray as he ought without having the Spirit as his guide.” ~ John Calvin

Westminster Shorter Catechism 98: What is Prayer?

Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

My First Catechism 109: What is Prayer?

Prayer is praising God, giving thanks for all his blessings, and asking him for the things he has promised in the Bible.

Love and the Law

“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ~ **Matthew 22.37.39**

If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. ~1 **John 4.20-21**

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.” ~ **John 14.21**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ~ **John 15.9-10**

Contending for the Faith

1. A time and place to Identify, Expose, and Destroy.
2. Remember the Words of the apostles and prophets.
3. Build on your faith.
4. Pray in the Spirit.
5. Keep in the Love.
6. Expectantly await the day that Jesus Returns.
7. Have mercy, as you have been shown mercy.
8. Strive for Purity.
9. Look to Christ
10. Share the hope you have and trust that God’s Word is mighty to save! (Jer 23.29)

Jude 24-25: The Doxology



- The One who is Able
 - Psalm 115.3 - "Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases."
- To keep you from stumbling
 - Sinless Perfectionism?
- The Extent of Stumbling
 - Matthew 18.5-7; Luke 17.1
 - No Final Fall
- To Cause you to Stand
 - Blameless, in the Presence of His Glory
 - Can't do one with out the other!
 - With Great Joy
 - "The best thing about heaven is not avoiding hell."
 - Overwhelmed with Joy
 - Christ Centered
- To the Only God, Our Savior
 - Role Reversal?
 - Deut. 32.15; Psalms 24.5; 25.5; 27.9; 62.2,6; 65.5; 79.9; 95.1
Luke 1.47; 1 Tim. 1.1; 2.3; 4.10; Titus 1.3; 2.10; 3.4; 2 Pet. 3.2.
- Through Jesus - The Great Mediator
 - Hebrews 13.15
 - Hebrew 7.25
 - When you Worship
- 4 Attributes
 - Glory
 - Majesty
 - Dominion
 - Authority
- Before all time, now and forever, Amen!

“Christ will be glad to see you whom he hath carried in his heart from all eternity, for whose sake he came into the world and died, and for whom he went back again into heaven, that he might negotiate with God in your behalf, and whom he now comes to receive unto himself, that you may be for ever there where he is. And surely you that have received Christ into your hearts, and loved him though unseen, and served him though with the loss and hazard of all, will be glad to see him in all his glory and royalty, especially when you shall hear him calling upon you, ‘Come, ye blessed of my Father, enter into the kingdom prepared for you.’ Oh! that we could act over this joy aforehand. Faith is a bird that can sing in winter. Before Christ came in the flesh the patriarchs got a sight of him by the eagle-eye of faith, and rejoiced at the thought of it: John via. 56, ‘Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it and was glad.’ Oh! surely our hearts should be warmed with the thought of that blessed day when we shall be able to say, Yonder, even there, is our great Lord!”

~ **Thomas Manton**

But there is more than this. Christ not only presents His own work in the abstract, but the specific needs and prayers of believers are also included in His consciousness, so that all that is impure and imperfect in them is removed and they appear as sanctified before God. That is why they pray only in the name of their Lord Jesus Christ, which means more than that they appeal to His past. They also rely on His living activity for the present. Therefore, they expect every blessing and every gift through their Lord Jesus Christ, which again means more than that they find the basis and effective cause for this in His historical work of satisfaction.”

~ **Geerhardus Vos**

“I tend to find the doctrinal books often more helpful in devotion than the devotional books, and I rather suspect that the same experience may await many others. I believe that many who find that ‘nothing happens’ when they sit down, or kneel down, to a book of devotion, would find that the heart sings unbidden while they are working their way through a tough bit of theology with a pipe in their teeth and a pencil in their hand.”

~ **C.S. Lewis**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

then he forsook God who made him
and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. ~ Deuteronomy 32.15

⁵ He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ~ Psalm 24.5

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long. ~ Psalm 25.5

⁹ Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not,
×O God of my salvation! ~ Psalm 27.9

² He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. ~ Psalm 62.2

⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ~ Psalm 62.6

⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas; ~ Psalm 65.5

⁹ Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and atone for our sins,
for your name's sake! ~ Psalm 79.9

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
~ Psalm 95.1

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ~ Luke 1.47

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope
~ 1 Timothy 1.1

³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of ^vGod our Savior, ~ 1 Timothy 2.3

¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is
the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. ~ 1 Timothy 4.10

³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching ^hwith which I have
been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; ~ Titus 1.3

¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine
of God our Savior. ~ Titus 2.10

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ~ Titus 3.4

² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of
the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ~ 2 Peter 3.2