

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 1



Contend
for the faith
which was
once delivered
to the saints
Jude 1:3

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

Scripture Text: Jude 1-2

The Epistle of Jude has been placed in the New Testament as a gateway to The Revelation. It is richer in symbolic language than any other book in the New Testament with the exception of The Revelation. The Acts of the Apostles clearly shows the acts of the “Apostles,” but the Epistle of Jude reveals the acts of the “apostates.” In this evening time of the Gospel Day, we are again facing the forces of apostasy. Jude has provided us with insight and revelation concerning the spirits that are promoting apostasy, the behavior that it produces, and how the enemy intends to work through apostasy today.

MEMORY VERSE: *Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us (Ecclesiastes 1:10).*

Jude, the Author

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James. In the original Greek, the name *Jude* is actually *Judas*. The very title of this book brings to mind the person who will stand forever known as the world’s best example of the worst apostate—Judas Iscariot! In the New Testament, five notable men were called *Judas*, but this man is clearly identified as the *brother of James*. *James* was the pastor of the Jerusalem congregation, the author of the Epistle of James, and one of the four brothers of the Lord (**Matthew 13:55**).

Preventions of Apostasy

Attributes portrayed by both *Jude* and *James* can prevent one’s being infected with apostasy. One attribute is humility. Notice, *Jude* did not mention the fact that he was the Lord’s *brother*. This shows the lack of carnal pride. **Proverbs 13:10** states, “Only by pride cometh contention.” Unfeigned humility causes one “not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think” (**Romans 12:3**).

Another attribute is servitude. Both *Jude* and *James* stated that they were servants. The English word *servant* is the word *doulos* in the original Greek and means much more than a *servant*. It means “a slave,” or literally, “a bondsman.”

The greatest prevention of our apostatizing or backsliding is to be continually aware that we are the Church of God. We have been purchased with *Jesus Christ*’s blood (**Acts 20:28**). We should glorify *God* in our bodies and in our spirits, which are *God*’s. One who is truly a slave to the Master and His Word will never apostatize.

The Audience Addressed by Jude

To them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called. The word *called* is derived from the Greek word *kalein*, which means “the summoning of a man to office, to duty, and to responsibility.” It represents the saints’ call to arms. They are to be watchful for the most subtle moves of the enemy. The word *sanctified* comes from the Greek word *hagiazō* and means “the setting apart of the believer for God.” We must be set apart and totally yielded to *God* with self kept under to maintain victory over apostasy.

The word *preserved* comes from a Greek word that means “kept,” or “continually kept.” It expresses watchful care and close attention. The Apostle Paul referred to his readers as *sanctified* and *called*, but *Jude* added *preserved* to show, right in verse one, that no matter how great the opposing force may be, *Christ* has made provision for His people to be “continually kept.”

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Mercy, Peace, and Love

Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. This second verse is more than a courteous salutation; it is the only such statement in the entire Bible. The Apostle Paul used the phrase “grace be unto you, and peace” in **Colossians 1:2**, but Jude used the word *Mercy*, meaning “an outward manifestation of pity.” It assumes there is a need on the part of the person who receives it and reveals describes man’s upward look to God. *Peace* depicts man’s inward look at what God gives. *Love* radiates from man’s heart through his outward look. These verses describe the qualities the church needs to maintain constant victory in these troublesome times.

JUST A THOUGHT

Hate is a small word with big consequences.