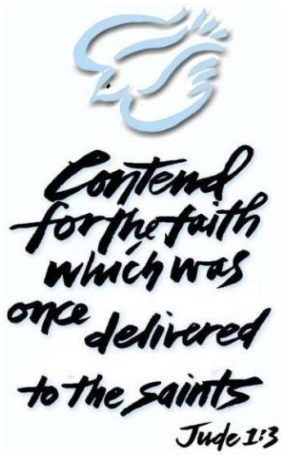


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13



FINAL ADMONITION

Scripture Text: Jude 24-25

Jude has now come full circle in his letter. He began by speaking words that would steady the saints in a troubling time; then he exposed the spirit of apostasy and how and through whom it was working. Finally, he closed his letter with words of reassurance and hope. (**Isaiah 40:1** says, “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people.”)

Just as sheep become restless, agitated, and uneasy when wolves are about, so do the people of God when these spirits are working. As the shepherd speaks soothing words to calm the sheep, so Jude has written, under divine inspiration, words to “stablish, strengthen [and], settle you” (**1 Peter 5:10**).

MEMORY VERSE: *He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep (Psalm 121:3-4).*

Looking to Christ

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling. Verses 24 and 25 combine to form the final sentence in Jude’s letter. Jude began his letter by saying that we can be “preserved,” or kept. He closed with the same promise. This repeats a truth that is throughout the New Testament: Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (**Hebrews 12:2**), “the first and the last” (**Revelation 1:11**). In the face of all the moves of the enemy and the deceptive maneuvers of those who “by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (**Romans 16:18**), *God is able to keep you from falling.*

The word *keep* in the Greek language is *aptaistos*. It is used to speak of a sure-footed horse. Jude was actually saying that God is able to make you spiritually sure-footed so that you need not slip. **Proverbs 3:19** tells us that God establishes us by “wisdom,” or “understanding.” **Proverbs 3:23** says, “Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.” **Proverbs 4:12** states, “When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.” **Psalm 121:3** says, “He will not suffer thy foot to be moved.”

In verses 21-23, Jude spoke of trying to recover those who had fallen into “the snare of the devil” (**2 Timothy 2:26**). In verses 24 and 25, he was teaching that we do not have to stumble, slip, or fall. So, the good news is that we do not have to succumb to false spirits or practices if we will “walk in the light, as he is in the light” (**1 John 1:7**).

Jude used the words *unto him* to remind those first century saints that the reason many of them fell away was that they followed the wrong source. The Apostle Paul said men would “arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (**Acts 20:30**). He said in **1 Corinthians 1:12**, “Every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas.” Your experience must not be kept in a man or in any group of men. Thank God for good men and for good, godly leaders, but we should only follow them as they follow Christ (see **1 Corinthians 11:1**).

Acceptable to God

To present you faultless. This phrase is another one that religion has great difficulty grasping. The Greek word for *faultless* is *anomos*. This word is commonly used to describe a sacrificial animal: one without spot or blemish that can be offered to God. In the context of this verse, the word *faultless* is telling us that we do not have to be infected with apostasy. You do not have to become one whose “garment [is] spotted by the flesh” (**verse 23**). Christ can enable you to be “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God” (**Romans 12:1**).

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We will never reach the pinnacle of not having human imperfections and faults—but spiritually, we may be “faultless.” **Revelation 14:4** says of the saints that “these are they which follow the Lamb withersoever he goeth,” and **verse 5** declares that “they are without fault before the throne of God.”

Living in His Presence

Before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Certainly, in being “kept” and in being “faultless” there is *exceeding joy* and *the presence of his glory* in the life of the saint here and now. But it also was Jude’s intent here to encourage the saints to live with eternity in view. The Greek word for *presence* is *katenopion*, which means “directly in front of.” Yes, we live “directly in front of” Christ all the time (see **Psalm 139:7**), but also living with the Judgment Day in view makes being “kept” easier. On that day, the trials of the road will seem as nothing. It will be *exceeding joy* when we hear the words, “Enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (**Matthew 25:21**).

Divine Attributes for Victory

To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. The words in this final verse tell what is produced if you allow God to “keep you” and to “present you faultless.” The manner in which these divine attributes are exhibited in the lives of the saints is through their victory. The way in which God gives victory to His people is through His *power*, and we are “kept by the power of God through faith” (**1 Peter 1:5**).

What is “the power of God”? **Romans 1:16** says, that “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God.” When we embrace the *power* in the Word by believing in it, it produces *dominion*. Over what? Sin! Read **Romans 6:12-14**. When we have *power* and *dominion* over sin, *majesty* is produced in our lives. Our reigning over sin in this life through Jesus Christ is what brings *glory* to God.

For two quarterlies we have viewed many unpleasant but needful truths; but Jude closed this epistle on a bright, positive note. We never need fall prey to apostasy! Thank God for His faithfulness!

Psalm 119:105 says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” If we ever follow its dictates, we can have unmarred victory *both now and ever*. To this I say, as Jude, *Amen*—it is true!

JUST A THOUGHT

It is much easier to pray before you make a move, than to pray to try to repair the move you made.