

JUDE AND HIS BOOK TO THE CHURCH

Jude is one of the four half-brothers of our Lord Jesus. None of them were followers of Jesus during His lifetime. One of the loneliest lines in the New Testament is:

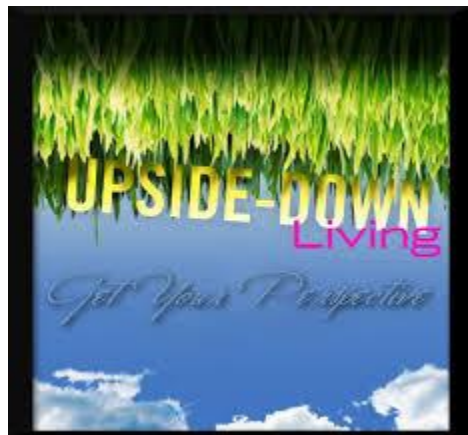
John 7:5: For neither did His [Jesus] brethren believe in Him.

That is why Jesus, before dying on the Cross, bade John to care for his mother. (Sometimes our own loved ones come to know the love of our Lord Jesus the hard way.) But all four of Jesus' half-brothers got saved after Jesus' death and resurrection. When they saw those miraculous experiences of 40 days of infallible proofs, it turned them to Jesus. James became the head of the early church at Jerusalem.

This Book, hurriedly written by Jude amidst his busy life, was intended to be but a quick answer to looming problems and questions having arisen in the Churches. He intended to write a further and fuller treatise, but the time never came to set it forth.

Just as your life and my life are full of unfinished tasks and broken plans, this is no new taunting tragedy. If only we could have shut the world out, disconnect the door bell and thrown the telephone in the waste basket - - then finish our more important tasks, there would be more happy endings.

But, life is not like that. It is complex that plans are cut to shreds, many little duties cutting into our big purposes. We are leaving unfinished, incomplete ambitions.



Jude, instead of writing a bulky book, wrote merely one page. How many good intentions we have had, but they have mostly fallen through. The work we haven't done - not what we intended to do, will meet us at the Judgment.

Whatever you do – give it your best.

Jude wrote sharply - re-proving the sins that had entered the Church under the cloak of the Doctrine of Grace. Heathen customs crept in and he called them for earnest contention for the faith once delivered to the saints. Not by doctrine, but by practice.

The greater part of the book is in warnings. He reminds the saints of the fate of the children of Israel who perished after being delivered from Egypt.

He reminds them of the fate of angels who left their habitation; then, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah which God destroyed with fire.



Therefore, he said, let none of you think he shall escape because these things are done in the day of grace.

He tells them, in no uncertain terms, the face of God is set against all uncleanness and disobedience.

Jude 12a: These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear:

What, undetected corrupters in the Church? Yes! And he calls them:

Jude 12b-13: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

¹³ Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

And Jude said,

Jude 11: "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."

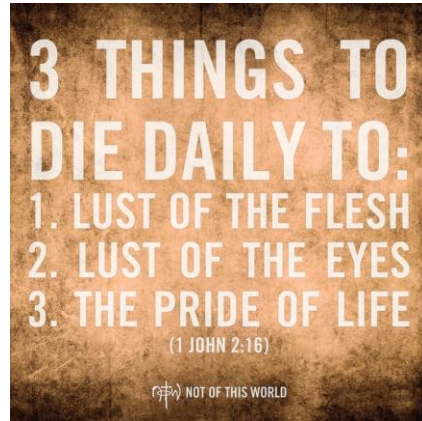
Then, he tells us what Enoch, by the Spirit, said 5,000 years before when looking down the corridors of time to this closing day. He tells what Enoch prophesied, for till Jude, we never knew of Enoch's preaching. The Holy Spirit brought it back to life by revelation to Jude.

Jude 14-16: And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints,

¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly

committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.

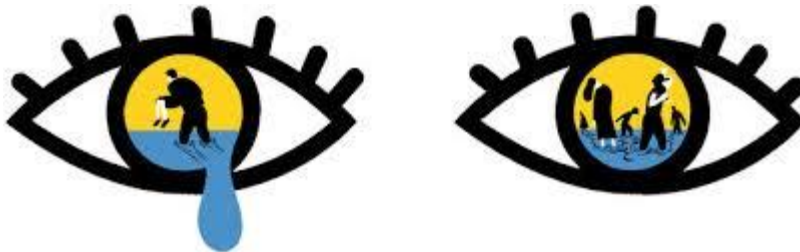
¹⁶ These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.”



The exhortation is to remember the Gospel preached by the apostles of our Lord Jesus, and the building of themselves up on their most holy Faith!

He tells them to pray in the Holy Spirit and to keep themselves in the love of God. Then, they are to look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Finally, Jude turns the attention of the believers to the lost; tells them of the Christ-like attitude of compassion, making allowances for the weak ones.



Others win souls to Christ with great struggling effort, even as pulling some out of the fire.

He concludes the Book of Jude with a well needed encouragement in the keeping-power of our Lord, to strengthen the end-time saints. He, as well as we, know there is danger of falling – therefore, the necessity of keeping power. If there were no such danger, there would have been no need to make this provision.

Suppose Jude would have argued, **“I’m too busy to do what God wants me to do,”** The result would have been:

“We would not have heard from Him at all!”

Our lesson is this:

Do what God wants you to do, however inconvenient, small or difficult. Do it with both hands. In these services, He is well pleased. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. The things we think are big and important in life might not be half so big when staring eternity in the face.

Never let foolish pride get in your way. Bow your knees now, and let it be a mark of your submission to God. Present your soul and body as a living sacrifice to Him.

Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Let the Spirit of God make you a vessel unto honor, a vessel that is meant for the Master's use. If you belong to Christ through the redemption of the Blood, you are not your own anyway. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19
[19] Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

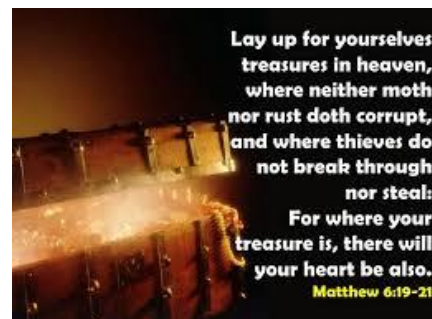
He wants to use you to bless the lost, the weak, the sad, the forsaken and forgotten. The Lord is sending laborers into the fields for harvesting of souls.

I am asking the Lord for your life – that your life will be no longer fruitless, empty, self-centered. Will you answer the call of God and give Him your body as well as your soul?

Luke 12:20:

20 But God said unto him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."



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