

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH  
THE BOOK OF JUDE  
THE PICTURE OF A TRUE BELIEVER--JUDE 1b-2

**INTRODUCTION**

Jude says here that he is not only “*a servant of Jesus Christ*” which we saw last time, but that he is also “*the brother of James.*” The only James who would be so famous and well known that all the believers of the first century would know him by his first name was **the James who wrote the Book of James and was also the half-brother of the Saviour.**

**He could have easily been jealous of his brother James** who was more prominent in the early Church than he was. **He could have also easily been resentful of having to live under the shadow of his more famous brother and having to use his brother’s name to get a hearing from believers.**

But we don’t get the sense that Jude was either jealous or resentful. **By all appearances here he was a true minister of God who walked humbly among the believers of the world and humbly before God.**

**In addressing this letter, Jude gives us “THE PICTURE OF A TRUE BELIEVER”. Notice how he addresses those this letter is intended for:**

**I. BELIEVERS ARE “SANCTIFIED BY GOD THE FATHER!” 1b**

Jude addresses this epistle “*...to them that are sanctified by God the Father*”, which is a reference to Believers in general.

**The basic meaning of the word “*sanctified*” is “*to be separated, set apart.*” Morally, it means “*pure, sinless, righteous, holy.*” Something that is “*holy*” is “*set apart, separated, different from all other persons or things.*”**

In Scripture, we find that “*sanctification*” is first something that God does for us! **Man first has to be set aside as “*holy*” by God Himself! That happens when a person responds to the Gospel!**

A ***holy*** thing is something that God has set aside for Himself! **Apart from God, man cannot set aside anything as holy, because that which is unholy contaminates that which would be holy. (Cf. Haggai 2:11-14)**

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**So, the sense in which we are “*sanctified by God the Father*” happens at salvation when we are “*made the righteousness of God*” in Christ!**

*2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

**That moment when we are “*made the righteousness of God*” in Christ is the moment when we were “*sanctified by God the Father*”**

**So, there is a sense in which we were “*sanctified by God the Father*”, but understand there is also a “*sanctifying*” of ourselves which can only take place after being “*sanctified by God!*”**

**God has “*sanctified*” us unto Himself at the point of salvation! And because He has done that, we are to “*sanctify*” ourselves!**

**The person who has “*sanctified*” himself is a person who turns away from sin by God’s grace and power working in his life and has “*set himself apart*” to follow God by that same power!**

**He is a person who is “*set apart unto God*”—i.e. He is a person who separates himself from the things pertaining to his former self and who is dedicated to wholly following God! He is a person who has given all he is and has to God!**

**If one has been “*sanctified by God the Father*”, all the honor and glory must be ascribed to God, and to Him alone! As one “*sanctifies*” himself unto God, all the honor and glory still must be ascribed to God, and to Him alone!**

**God is the One Who begins the work of grace in the souls of men and it is He Who carries it on, and perfects it!**

**“*Sanctified by God the Father*” = speaks of Salvation in our souls!  
“*Sanctify yourselves*” = speaks of Sanctification in our walk!**

II. BELIEVERS ARE “**PRESERVED**” IN JESUS CHRIST!” 1c

The word translated “*preserved*” here means “*to be kept; to be guarded and watched after.*” God *keeps* the Believer! i.e. He guards and watches over the Believer! (e.g. *A lifeguard at a swimming pool.*)

Being “*preserved*” gives the Believer *assurance*! *Assurance* is the Believer’s full conviction that, through the work of Christ alone, received by faith, he is in possession of a salvation in which he will be eternally kept! This *assurance* rests entirely upon God’s promises in the Scripture to the one who believes!

The Believer is a person...

- who is watched over by God.
- who is guided and directed by God day by day.
- who is strengthened by God to walk through all the trials and temptations of life.
- who is protected from all the enemies of life, even death.
- who is to be escorted into heaven quicker than the blink of an eye when the time comes for him to leave this world.
- who is given life, both abundant and eternal.
- who is given assurance of God’s presence and love through all of life.

The true Believer is a person who is *preserved* and *kept* by God. He is a person who is looked after and cared for by God. But note that it is in Jesus Christ that God *keeps* a person. The Believer is a person who has placed his life into Jesus Christ; he is a person who has trusted Jesus Christ to save him! It is the true Believer in Jesus Christ whom God preserves.

III. BELIEVERS ARE “**CALLED**” IN JESUS CHRIST! 1d

Believers are **called out of the world**, from the evil of it and all that goes with it; **called above the world**, to higher and better things, to heaven, to things unseen and eternal; **called from sin to Christ**, from the former vanity to seriousness, from uncleanness to holiness; and this calling is according to God’s Divine purpose and grace in us!

This means several things.

- A. **Being Called In Christ Jesus Means That Believers Are The Persons Who Have Responded To The Call Of The Gospel!** God *calls* on all people to accept and believe the Gospel!

*2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is...longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

We know that God’s Holy Spirit tugs and pulls at folks heart strings! He reprovcs or convicts the world “*of sin and of righteousness and of judgment!*” (John 16:8-11)

He convinces people to believe the Gospel and accept His righteousness offered in and through Jesus Christ alone, but **in order to be saved folks have to respond to the call of God!**

God cannot and does not make the decision for man. The true Believer is a person who has genuinely **accepted the call of God**. God summoned him, called him, and he responded with repentance and faith. He became a Believer—a person who truly believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

*“[God] who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began” (2 Timothy 1:9).*

- B. **Being Called In Christ Jesus Means That A Believer Has Been Called To Be A Saint, That Is, To Live A Life Of Holiness!**

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The word translated “*saint*” in both the O.T. and N.T. means “*sacred*” or “*holy one*.”

The Believer **has been both made holy** and is **called to be holy!** We’ve been made holy by the blood of the Lamb!  
*Romans 1:7*—“*To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints [holy ones]: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

*1 Corinthians 1:2*—“*Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.*”

*1 Peter 1:15*—“*But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.*”

**C. Being Called In Christ Jesus Means That The Believer Is Called To A Heavenly Hope!**

He is called to an eternal hope, the hope of living forever with God.

He is called to be perfected and conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ forever.

*Ephesians 4:4*—“*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling [i.e. the hope of eternal life]*”

*Hebrews 3:1*—“*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.*”

*Philippians 3:14*—“*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*”

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**D. Being Called In Christ Jesus Means That The Believer Is Appointed To A Very Special Task And Duty While On Earth.**

He is called to serve Jesus Christ!

*Romans 1:1*—“*Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God*”

*1 Corinthians 1:1*—“*Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother.*”

**IV. BELIEVERS HAVE RECEIVED THE MULTIPLIED MERCY, PEACE, AND LOVE OF GOD! (JUDE 2)**

**Conclusion**

Are you a true Believer? **Have you been sanctified by God the Father?**

**Are you preserved in Jesus Christ?**

**Have you been called in Christ?**

**Have you received the multiplied mercy, peace, and love of God?**