

Message #7

Jude 1:24-25

We have just come through another Christmas season. Christmas is a time that most people truly love. I can remember as a little boy lying upstairs in our bedroom and my brother and I would be asking about every hour or so “is it time to get up yet?” We would go to bed Christmas Eve knowing that by morning there would be presents under the tree. We didn’t have a lot of money, but our parents always made Christmas special.

At Christmas time there are lights and colors and the great music of the Christmas carols. There are also those sales in stores. I don’t mind the hustle and bustle of all of the people because Mary does most of the shopping. **But the one thing that I love the most about Christmas is that it is the one time of year when, in some ways, Jesus Christ is honored.** I know that there is a battle over that now, but the truth is Jesus Christ is still honored all over the world. In fact, in 2013 a record of 2 million people visited Bethlehem to see the “little town” where Jesus was born. This almost doubles the number of people who visited Bethlehem in 2012. So Christmas time is a time that truly does honor Jesus Christ.

The problem is many do not really know who Jesus Christ is, but you won’t have that problem if you carefully analyze the last two verses of the book of Jude. When we turn to the last two verses of the book of Jude, we turn to a passage that exalts the Lord Jesus Christ at the highest possible level. It is an amazing conclusion to a remarkable little epistle.

Jude has written this powerful epistle and warned the believers to be on the lookout for immoral and heretical religious people who try to come into the church and convince us that there is nothing wrong with pursuing sin.

Back in the 60’s and 70’s, there was a promotion of what was called “free love.” It was a time of “sexual revolution” that was supposed to promote freedom and happiness. Well, as we look back on that time today, it didn’t bring people happiness, it brought them misery. Marriages collapsed, diseases spread, abortions skyrocketed and suicides began to rise. Life without God doesn’t work.

Here we are in the year 2014 and now there is a new push not only that promotes immoral and abnormal sexual behavior, but that tries to remove the truth about Jesus Christ from even Christmas. As believers we find ourselves in a war. If we are not careful we can get pulled in and pulled off track and pulled down.

I think this book of Jude clearly teaches us that as the Church Age nears its conclusion there will be a rise of immoral behavior, arrogant religion and worldly-minded focus. This is the world in which God’s people will finish their time. How do we keep from falling? How do we keep from being depressed? How do we keep accomplishing things for God?

Jude ends by informing us by giving us instruction that:

GOD'S PEOPLE NEED TO KEEP THEIR FOCUS ON THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY GOD AND SAVIOR, BECAUSE HE IS THE ONE WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE OUR EARTHLY AND ETERNAL LIVES JOYOUS.

Now this is one of the most famous doxologies in the entire Bible. I love a story told by Dr. S. Lewis Johnson. Dr. Johnson said that he believed that most of the worship choruses that he heard were “theologically worthless.” He said most of the worship choruses repeat words over and over again which do not in any way give us a “theological under girding” that would help us live our lives wisely before God.

He said that one of the choruses that he did kind of like was the chorus we sang today, “Majesty.” But he also observed that even that chorus is often attached to “Arminian theology.” If there is anything that should promote the great sovereign work of God, it should be a chorus that is designed to honor the majesty of Jesus Christ.

Jude honors the majesty of Jesus Christ in these final two verses and it is very clear that Jude was no Arminian. If we are going to contend for the faith, we need to take a hardcore stand for Jesus Christ.

Now, for the most part when you look through this book of Jude, Jude has used a series of illustrations about a bunch of religious failures. Israel failed (Jude 5). Angels failed (Jude 6). Sodom and Gomorrah failed (Jude 7). Cain failed (Jude 11). Balaam failed (Jude 11). Korah failed (Jude 11). Most of the people in this book were immoral, godless failures.

But there is One who never failed one time. There is one who was Perfect. There is One that cannot and will not ever fail and that One is Jesus Christ and we need to keep our focus on Him.

Now these two final verses have been discussed as to whether or not they are a prayer of Jude or a declaration of Jude. It is our opinion that these verses are giving us a series of five concluding declarations.

**CONCLUDING DECLARATION #1 – Jesus Christ is able to keep us from stumbling.
1:24a**

Do not miss what is stated here—we are not able to keep ourselves from stumbling, Jesus Christ is able to keep us from stumbling. Jude has just discussed a godless and immoral world that even works its way into religion and the one Person who is able to keep us from stumbling as we live in this world is Jesus Christ. This is a point we had better grasp because Jude knew the importance of it.

Now this is a very interesting construction that is worth parsing. The word “keep” (φυλαξαι) means to keep in the sense of being on guard. This describes one who actually watches over us and guards us (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, pp. 474-475). The word is an aorist infinitive. Now the verb “able” is a present tense verb in the passive voice.

The emphasis of this is that Jesus Christ is the only One who can guard us continually all the time and actually make us the recipient of the action of “not stumbling” (απταιστος). Now the word “not stumbling” refers to being very sure-footed in situations that cause most of the rest of the people to stumble.

So Jude basically says here, before I stop writing I want God’s people to realize that you are living in a world in which there are many things that can trip you up. Don’t be fooled here, a person is capable of stumbling if left to himself. In fact, Paul said in I Corinthians 10:12 “let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

There are many things in this world that can trip us up. But there is One and only One who can keep us and guard us so that we do not ever trip up and that One is Jesus Christ.

Now contextually there are a couple of significant points here that we want to consider.

First, the one who is able to keep us from falling into depraved sin is Jesus Christ and we need to keep our focus on Him all the way through this ungodly, immoral world.

Second, this, along with the last statement of this verse, establishes our eternal security. If you have believed on Jesus Christ, you never need worry about falling away from your status as a child of God because Jesus Christ is guarding you all the time. In other words, our security for going to heaven is not found in ourselves; it is found in Him.

CONCLUDING DECLARATION #2 – Jesus Christ is able to make us stand . **1:24b**

You do not want to miss what is stated right here in this verse. Jesus Christ is able to make you stand. We are not able to make ourselves stand. Our focus must be on Him because He can make us stand in three qualifying ways:

Qualifying Way #1 - Jesus Christ is able to make us stand in His glorious presence .

When Jesus Christ prayed for us, He asked God the Father to see to it that all of those who believed in Him would have the privilege of seeing Him in all of His glory (John 17:24). The work that Jesus Christ accomplished on that cross is so complete that it guarantees that we will actually stand in His presence.

Qualifying Way #2 - Jesus Christ is able to make us stand blameless .

The word “blameless” (αμωμος) is one that means to stand before him without any fault or blemish (*Ibid.*, p. 26). Now if we are honest we will quickly admit that we have many blemishes and faults.

We are born with a sin nature and we are born into this sinful world and we have all sinned. Our minds, our hearts and our lives are spotted with many blemishes and many faults and failures.

We are all leprous. How is it possible for us to stand in the presence of Jesus Christ and be without any fault or blemish?

It is possible through Jesus Christ. He is our unblemished Savior. He is our unblemished sacrifice. His finished work on that cross is able to save to the uttermost the most depraved sinners. When you believe on Jesus Christ, you have your sins washed away and your status in the presence of God is forever sealed.

Qualifying Way #3 - Jesus Christ is able to make us stand with great joy.

Now the natural thought most of us have when it comes to going into the Holy Presence of Jesus Christ is one of great fear. If we look at ourselves, we certainly will be afraid and should be. However, if we look at Jesus Christ, we may go into His presence with great joy.

Those Christmas songs we sing tell the story of a sacred night when Jesus Christ was born in a little town of Bethlehem and laid in a manger. The whole reason for that is so He could save us from our sins and that is cause for tidings of great joy unto all people. When those shepherds saw Him, they rejoiced and when we see Him we will rejoice. Not because of who we are but because of who He is.

CONCLUDING DECLARATION #3 – There is only One God who is our Savior. **1:25a**

This is a critical point of theology. This verse is deep. Now Jude is defending the fact that there is only One God. There are not multiple Gods, there is only one God. This One true God is the only One who is able to devise a plan that can save people from their sins.

Since there is only One God, He is the only Savior. He is the only God capable of saving sinners.

We cannot save ourselves; religion cannot save us; our money cannot save us; our works cannot save us; our trying to keep the O.T. Law cannot save us. Only God can save us. There is only One God who can save, who is the Savior.

CONCLUDING DECLARATION #4 – The only God will save only through One Person.
1:25b

Do not overlook the prepositional phrase “through Jesus Christ our Lord” (δια Ιησου Χριστου του ημων). This prepositional phrase is critical. **God is the Savior and there is only One way God will save and it is through Jesus Christ.**

This prepositional phrase absolutely proves that God will not ever save you by your works or by your religion, or by your lifestyle or by your church affiliation. God will only save you through one Person. **That one Person is identified by Jude as being Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Jesus is the Savior. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the Lord/God. God is the Savior and in order to be saved, one must be saved by placing faith in Him. He is the only Savior. He is the only way to God.

Now Jude did not initially believe this. It took more than the incarnation to cause Jude to believe; it also took the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is why every December 25 we celebrate Christmas and every spring we celebrate Easter. The second member of the Trinity stepped into history to secure our redemption. It demanded His incarnation, but it also demanded His death and resurrection.

Do not miss this point. If you do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ, no matter how religious you have been in your life, you will not be saved. You need to be “snatched from the fire” because that is where you are heading.

CONCLUDING DECLARATION #5 – These members of the Godhead that provide salvation truly deserve to be praised and worshipped forever. **1:25c**

The grammar of the end of **verse 25** demands that God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son be praised for seven ascribed realities. There are seven “Amen” or “truly” realities that Jude presents about God the Father and God the Son:

Reality #1 - God and His Son Jesus Christ have glory.

What this means is that our opinion of God and His Son is to be at the highest level of honor because this, in all reality, is the honor they have.

Reality #2 - God and His Son Jesus Christ have majesty.

The word “majesty” means that we are to consider God and His Son as being at the greatest level of greatness that there is because this is the truth about them. A good way to understand this is to think in terms of majestic greatness. There is nothing greater than the majestic God.

Reality #3 - God and His Son Jesus Christ have dominion.

This word speaks of the fact that God and His Son have all might and strength.

Reality #4 - God and His Son Jesus Christ have authority.

God has all power and authority at all times over everything. This particular word implies God has total freedom and total power over everything.

Reality #5 - God and His Son Jesus Christ had these great qualities before all time.

God and His Son have had these Divine qualities throughout all of time; in fact, even before time.

Reality #6 - God and His Son Jesus Christ have these great qualities in present time.

Reality #7 - God and His Son Jesus Christ have these great qualities forever.

In other words, this Godhead has existed before all of time and continues to exist now and forever.

Now these last couple of verses are very convicting. In and of ourselves we have the potential of stumbling, but our safety and our security is not found in ourselves. It is found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Without Jesus Christ we cannot stand in the presence of this great glorious God, because we are sinners and have a sin nature. But the Lord Jesus Christ is able to make us stand because He is the great glorious God who came here to save us.

Now we who know the Lord realize how desperately we need Jesus Christ. We recognize that our only hope of heaven lies totally and only in Jesus Christ. Now if we who know the Lord realize that, how much more do you need to realize that if you are here today without Christ?

If you do not believe on Jesus Christ, you are doomed. By your works you can eternally destroy yourself, but you cannot ever eternally save yourself. You cannot make yourself sinless. You cannot make yourself blemish-free. But there is One and only One who can. Our only God/Savior is Jesus Christ. If you will believe on Him, He will save you and one day make you stand in His presence.