

## Jude 1:14-21 "Keeping Well"

**For the Children:** The people we choose to hang around with will often affect the way we behave. If you hang around with naughty, disobedient children, who are rude to parents and others in authority, you might find yourself starting to act like they do. That shows how important it is to choose friends who will encourage you to love the Lord and obey His Word. The Bible describes those who are a bad influence in the church, such as those who teach error, so that we can recognize the bad influences and not listen to them. But God's Word also tells us how to build ourselves up, with His help, so that we are better able to resist sin and error.

**Questions:** How do false teachers usually treat those who oppose them? How do they usually win people over to side with them? What can we do to keep ourselves in God's love?

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### Introduction:

#### **First Point: The Ungodly Who Forget**

- 1) Enoch's Prophecy: The reference to Enoch's prophecy is not taken from the OT. It is somewhat similar to the "Book of Enoch." However, we may simply assume that Jude writes under inspiration. Note the emphasis on ungodliness (irreverence). The parallel in 2 Pet.3 suggests that Jude also had in mind a prophecy about God's judgement on the ungodly – first, in the Flood, then at the End.
- 2) Arrogant Grumblers: These men are arrogant grumblers, finding fault with the orthodox, their view of God's Word, and faithful leaders who oppose them. At the same time they flatter potential allies to get them on-side.
- 3) Name-Callers: The apostles warned that such men would arise in the "last time" = the Last Days – the time between Christ's first and second coming (Heb.1:2; 1 Pet.1:20; 1 John.2:8). They are described as "mockers," implying childish name-calling. They follow after their own lusts – worldly and immoral men. They cause divisions. They are devoid of the Spirit.

#### **Second Point: The Beloved Who Remember**

- 1) Remember the Apostolic Warning: Jude contrasts the faithful – "But you, beloved..." (vss.17, 20). The faithful are called to "remember" (v.17), while the false teachers forget the truth. The faithful must remember the warnings of the OT, the apostles and God's Word.
- 2) Keeping in God's Love: In addition to remembering, the faithful are urged, "Keep yourselves..." (v.21). God keeps His people (v.1), then we respond, with His help, by focusing on His grace rather than rebelling against it. There are 3 aspects to this, based on the means the Spirit uses to preserve us:
  - a) Building on Your Holy Faith: We are to build ourselves up on the faith i.e., on God's Word. This will help us to recognize error and sin, resist it and to practice a Biblical kind of separation from the false teachers.
  - b) Praying in the Spirit: Resisting error and sin also requires prayer. This is also important for winning over those who are going the wrong way. We cannot simply turn them around by logic, debating skills etc.
  - c) Waiting for Mercy: "Waiting anxiously" for the mercy of the Lord Jesus (v.21) implies an expectation that we will be accepted into heaven. We have a "pilgrim-view" of our life here, that helps us to resist all views or practices that could interfere with us reaching that goal. It keeps us fixed upon the Lord Jesus, filled with gratitude to Him – rather than pursuing things that lead us away from Him. Christian hope is essential for orthodoxy!

### Conclusion: