

Wednesday Preaching CFBC
Sermon: Pursue your Faith in Christ, Contend for the Faith!
(05/15/2024)
Jude vv.17–23

We Rest on Thee by Sibelius Jean 1899

- We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender!
 We go not forth alone against the foe;
 strong in thy strength, safe in thy keeping tender,
 we rest on thee, and in thy name we go;
 strong in thy strength, safe in thy keeping tender,
 we rest on thee, and in thy name we go.
 •
- Yea, in thy name, O Captain of salvation!
 In thy dear name, all other names above:
 Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,
 our Prince of glory and our King of love,
 Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,
 our Prince of glory and our King of love.
 •
- We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling,
 and needing more each day thy grace to know:
 yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,
 “We rest on thee, and in thy name we go”;
 yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,
 “We rest on thee, and in thy name we go.”
 •
- We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender!
 Thine is the battle, thine shall be the praise;
 when passing through the gates of pearly splendor,
 victors, we rest with thee, through endless days;
 when passing through the gates of pearly splendor,
 victors, we rest with thee, through endless days.

Introduction

A key characteristic of the true Christian is that he contends for the faith.

Jude's epistle is the 4th shortest book in the NT. The letter of Philemon, 2 John and 3 John are the shorter letters. Jude identifies himself as the brother of James. Both Jude and James, are half-brothers of Christ.

During this time it seems the church had struggled with spiritual attacks from gnostic heretics from apostates. It was not a full blown Gnosticism – mystical esoteric knowledge.

There is no room for passivity. The redeemed will show forth the type of perseverance that is wrought by divine initiative in the heart.

*In Jude's letter in vv. 17-23 we find three reminders that you must **call to mind and practice** that will help you to contend for the faith, a warning to remember, a walk to remember and finally, a mercy to remember.*

1st Reminder: The warning to remember vv. 17–19

By divine revelation the redeemed knows better!

(1 Jn. 2:19a) *"They went out from us, but they were not of us"*

Dr. John MacArthur *"that these men do not know God so there is nothing that would restrain their sexual immorality."*

There is potential for every church to have false teachers spring up. They will fracture the church, there is every kinds of sin that accompanies them. They don't create unity in the Church. Their divisions reveal by **haughty opinions, lofty theological arguments which create controversy.**

James 3:17 *"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."*

2nd Reminder: The walk to remember vv. 20–22

Colossians 2:6–7 *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”*

“a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.” - in Psalm 42:1

“Praying in the Holy Spirit is a call to pursue constant intercessory prayer in the power and the will of the Spirit in the name of Christ” (MacArthur).

Colossians 1:10–11 *“so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*

The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints shows the contrast of divine action and human responsibility. *The perseverance of the Saints is a counterbalance to God’s sovereign work of preserving the elect in Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:6 *“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*

Jude 1:24–25 *“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

3rd Reminder: The mercy to remember vv. 23

Amos 4:11 *“I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me,” declares the Lord.*”

Titus 3:5 *“he [God] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit”*

As we reach in to the fire to snatch these victims of Apostasy, there are three aspects of a the fear of God we must keep in the forefront of our minds!

We are to remember the ***Holiness of God.***

We are to remember ***Christ’s coming Judgment!***

We are to remember ***that sin stains and sin is pollution to the regenerate soul.***

Conclusion

Wonderful Doxology

Jude 24–25 *“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*