

Jude 1:17-24

Today we come to our next essential. We are getting close to the end of this series.

1. We have talked about the essential of Global Missions, local missions, the gospel message, persecution, the reliability of Scripture, and now this morning...the danger of false teachers and false teaching.
2. Next Sunday Zach is going to talk about the essential of unity and I will hopefully tie it all together the following Sunday to conclude our study.

But this morning, in the epistle of Jude, we are going to consider the danger of false teachers/teaching. I want to ask you this morning: "Do you recognize and reject ALL false teaching and teachers?"

1. This is an issue where we can show no mercy.
2. They stoned false teachers to death in the Old Testament!
3. Unfortunately many of us wont even turn them off!

Do you recognize and reject ALL false teaching and teachers? Jude's gives us insight into this danger... this essential. He gives practical instruction on how to stand firm in the face of false teachers and false teaching in verses 17-24.

#### READ/PRAY

In order to understand the context of these verses, let's walk through the entirety of Jude's short epistle and then conclude with a brief look at verse 17-24 and learn to stand firm in the face of false teachers/teaching.

*1:1 Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,*

Jude was the brother of James.

1. This is not James the brother of John, but James, the half brother of Jesus
2. That means that Jude was also the half brother of Jesus.
3. He grew up with Jesus as his older brother!

*To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.*

1. He is writing to fellow believers
2. Those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, kept for Christ!
3. They are loved by Jude, as well, as we see in verse 3: beloved

*3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.*

1. Jude wanted to write about the good news of the gospel and the salvation they have enjoyed in Christ.
2. However, he did not feel liberty to do that because he felt an urgency, a necessity to write them appealing to them to contend earnestly for the faith.
3. That word contend means "to oppose with skill and commitment" and to do so earnestly.
4. He is calling upon them to commit themselves to use all of their skill to earnestly defend the gospel.
5. In other words, for Jude, for the Holy Spirit who inspired him, this is an essential! Why?

4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed,

1. They secretly sneak in pretending to offer help
2. They slip in under the radar because they “seem to have good intentions.”
3. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

*those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

1. They turn God’s grace into licentiousness...your translation might say sensuality
  2. But that word literally means “violent spite that rejects restraint.”
  3. These ungodly people turn the grace of god into a violent, spiteful rejection of restraint...a violent, spiteful, abuse of true liberty...and thus deny our Master, our Lord, our king
- Is their message about the Lord Jesus Christ and His desires or is this about me and my desires? Is their focus eternal or temporal? Earthly or heavenly?

Submitting to the Lordship of Christ, the authority of Christ, over our lives is vital. For, what happens to those who reject the good restraints of God?

*5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.*

1. When we cast off restraint and reject the Lordship of Christ and His authority, we get too big for our britches.
2. We start believing that we are really in charge.
3. We see that presumption and arrogance in these false teachers.

*8 Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. 9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” 10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.*

Acts 19:13-16 *But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” 16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

- Do they try to display their supernatural power and authority or do they exemplify dependence upon the supernatural power and authority of Christ?
1. It is about them and their popularity, their power, their desires
  2. But it is also about their pocketbooks.

*11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.*

1. They aren't going to preach, say, or do anything that will compromise their prosperity
2. They are in it for the paycheck...and whatever brings in more money

- Do they talk about money?

*12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves*

1. *On February 25, 1852, the British troopship HMS Birkenhead steamed along the South African coastline, transporting 643 soldiers, passengers, and crew for battle. In the early hours of the following morning, they woke with a start when the Birkenhead struck a **hidden reef** which put a fatal gash in its iron hull. Water quickly flooded the lower decks, drowning dozens of soldiers in their hammocks. When the ship went down shortly thereafter, more than 400 people drowned in the waves or fell prey to prowling great white sharks.*

2. Hidden reefs cause shipwreck!
3. And false teachers, like hidden reefs shipwreck people's faith.

*v12b clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;*

1. Empty clouds
  - a. Imagine the farmer praying and hoping for rain
  - b. Clouds roll upon the horizon. Joy builds in his heart
  - c. They roll right over his fields, without a drop of rain.
  - d. That is what these false teachers are like: clouds without water carried along by winds
  - e. They may cause you to feel good for a bit, but in the end they are a disappointment.
2. Fruitless trees
  - a. Jesus approaches a fig tree, anticipating fruit.
  - b. Instead he finds it empty, so he puts an end to it ...disappointment.
  - c. That is the fate of the false teachers who should be bearing good fruit, but are in reality dead and unsatisfying...they eventually will be uprooted.

*v13a wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam;*

1. They are reckless and leave a residue wherever they go
2. Isaiah 57:20 *But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.*

*v13b wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.*

1. Can you imagine the north star wandering?
2. Maybe a falling star, like Satan fell from heaven...they are going down.

*14 It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, 15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." 16 These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.*

What do we need to do?

### 1. Remember the Warnings v17-19

*17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.*

- a. The Bible is filled with warnings concerning false teachers
- b. If they were an issue in the 1st century church, they will definitely be an issue in the 21st century church...and moreso with all the avenues they have to get to us.
- c. Pay careful attention to these warnings...there is a reason there are so many of them.

### 2. Revive Your Faith v20-21

a. **Be Progressing** *20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith,*

1. Build yourself up...don't stagnate...don't ever put it in neutral
2. Be edified...built up...progressing in the faith.

b. **Be Praying** *praying in the Holy Spirit,*

1. Pray without ceasing
2. Prayer in the Holy Spirit, is a good deterrent to false teacher's false doctrine.

c. **Be Persevering** *21 keep yourselves in the love of God,*

1. The Bible tells us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling
2. It tells us that the one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of heaven
3. It tells us that those who went out from among us, were never of us
4. We must persevere! Strive. Endure. Keep ourselves in the love of God.

d. **Be Patient** *waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.*

### 3. Rescue the Perishing v22-23

*22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.*

- a. Don't overlook the necessity of watching out for one another.
- b. If you hear of any of your brothers and sisters listening to, reading, or watching anyone who is not teaching sound doctrine, warn them!
- c. Take note:
  1. Is their message about the Lord Jesus Christ and His desires or is this about me and my desires? Is their focus eternal or temporal, heavenly or earthly?
  2. Do they try to display their supernatural power and authority or do they exemplify dependence upon the supernatural power and authority of Christ?
  3. Do they talk about money?
- d. Send up that warning flag. Snatch them out of the fire.

#### 4. Rest in Christ v24-25

*24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless 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.*

1. He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.
2. No one can snatch us out of His hand if we are truly in His hand. So rest.

Are you in his hand? The greatest deterrent against false teachers is to truly know Christ, believe His Word, and embrace His gospel. Have you?