

Preached on 7/31/22 at GBC - Ruston

"KEPT And PRESENTED"

Jude 24,25

As we gather today to worship God in Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh, we will at the conclusion of this service exercise our privilege and responsibility as **JUSTIFIED SINNERS** to participate in one of the two ordinances our Lord instituted for the comfort and encouragement of His redeemed people. According to our Lord's words to His disciples in **Lk.22:17-20**, and Paul's restating of these same words in **I Cor.11:23-26**, the Lord's Table is a time of "**remembrance**", basically a **MEMORIAL SERVICE** by His children to "**Him who loved us and gave Himself for us**" – "**For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the [same] night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake [it], and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also [he took] the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink [it], in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**" The original word translated "**remembrance**" means 'to call to remembrance, to remind, to admonish, or a **RECOLLECTION**'. Christ's **COMMAND (not a request or invitation if they are willing or have time) TO HIS REDEEMED, JUSTIFIED, and SAVED** children is 'to call to remembrance, to be reminded, **to RECOLLECT**' "**ME**"! As justified saints we should often and always **THINK ON CHRIST** in both His Person and His Work – "**Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**"(**Phil.3:13,14**); "**Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**"(**Heb.12:1,2**) When I think of **MEMORIALS**, two verses come to mind – "**And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.**" The original word translated "**this is my memorial**" means 'to remember, or to recall, or to call to mind'. What is God's "**memorial unto all generations**"? **HIS NAME! Listen to David** – "**Thy name, O LORD, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations.**"(**Ps.135:13**) We are to **RECALL** and **REMEMBER** His name. Paul made this very clear – "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"(**Rom.10:13**) Once again this morning, we want to exalt and magnify that **NAME** which is above every name, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ promised us that if we do so, He will be pleased to bless our meager effort – "**And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me.**"(**Jn.12:32**) I'll remind us once more, the word translated "**if I be lifted up**" means 'to exalt to the very summit of opulence and prosperity'. That **EXALTATION** and **REMEMBRANCE** is on **FULL DISPLAY** in the verses we want to consider briefly this morning - "**Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.**"

Truly these words written by Jude place before our eyes the reality Jonah proclaimed while in the belly of the whale – “**Salvation** [is] **of the LORD**. I’d have us consider the words Jude uses to exalt and magnify the God of salvation. The word “**now**” means ‘**moreover**’. The word translated “**unto Him that is able**” is from the root word Paul used in **Rom.1:16** – “**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**” In both cases it means ‘**strength power, or ability**’. So Jude’s words in this letter to all God’s redeemed is simply this: “**MOREOVER God ALONE has the POWER, STRENGTH, and ABILITY**” to do **TWO IMPORTANT THINGS** for every object of His love.

First, “**to keep you from falling**.” The word translated “**to keep**” means ‘to guard or watch, have an eye upon: **lest he escape**’, **OR** ‘to guard a person (or thing) that he may remain safe’. The word translated “**from falling**” mean ‘not stumbling, standing firm, exempt from falling’. **Now let’s be honest** - all of us **KNOW** all too well and realize we are so prone to fall, and we actually do fall into unbelief and all manner of sin. Jude **IS NOT** saying those Christ redeemed **NEVER FALL**, i.e., that they can achieve sinless perfection in this life. Wise Solomon declared – “**For a just [man] falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.**”(Prov.24:16) Even the Apostle Paul realized our weakness in every area of our life – “**For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.**”(Rom.7:18,19) So Jude isn’t saying God keeps His children from ever falling into sinful disobedience, but is speaking about a **PARTICULAR SIN** which Christ alone by His Holy Spirit has the strength and ability and power to keep us from committing, **APOSTACY** from His blood and righteousness as our **ONLY HOPE** of salvation – “**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**”(Jn.6:37-40); “**For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.**”(Heb.2:10-13) **Turn over to I Pet.1:3-5**, It is by God’s power which rests in Christ’s accomplished work that He is able to **KEEP HIS CHILDREN FROM FALLING!**

Here’s the **SECOND IMPORTANT THING** – “**and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.**” The word “**to present**” means ‘to make firm, fix, establish, or to cause a person or a thing to keep his or its place’. The **SAME** God who “**keeps us from falling**”, also fixes, makes firm, or establishes us on that **ROCK** or **FOUNDATION** which is Christ alone, based on His accomplished work which established the **ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS** by which God can be both “**Just and Justifier of the ungodly.**” God in Christ presents **US** (sinners by birth, by nature, by practice, and even by choice) as “**FAULTLESS before the presence of His glory.**” **LET THAT SINK IN FOR A MOMENT**. The word “**faultless**” means exactly what you think it means – “**without blemish, as a sacrifice without spot or blemish, faultless, unblameable**’. There is **NO WAY** you or I as sinners (**even empowered by the Holy Spirit**) can achieve this status of

being without blemish, faultless, or unblameable – “*Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?*”(Prov.20:9); Listen to Eliphaz the Temanite – “*What [is] man, that he should be clean? and [he which is] born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. How much more abominable and filthy [is] man, which drinketh iniquity like water?*”(Job 15:14-16) There’s only **ONE WAY** that sinners can be made to stand before a God “*who will by NO MEANS clear the guilty*” – **THEY MUST BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BASED ON THE ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS GOD CAN, WILL, AND MUST ACCEPT**, that righteousness established by Christ’s obedience unto death and imputed to His people’s account. Paul stated it perfectly – “*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.*”(II Cor.5:21) Pastor Mahan used to state it this way: “With His **SPOTLESS GARMENT** on, **HOLY AS THE HOLY ONE.**” That’s **AMAZING GRACE!** This brings to my mind the Passover Lamb which **TYPIFIED** Christ, “*the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world*” – “*Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take [it] out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.*”(Exo.12:5,6) According to Hebrews, it was **IMPOSSIBLE** for the offering of even the **PASSOVER LAMB** to put away sin. But **THIS LAMB, OH THIS LAMB**, by His accomplished work, fulfilled what the Passover Lamb could only imperfectly typify – **Quickly turn to Heb.10:10-14.** But there’s even more: He “*presents us faultless before the presence of His glory.*” What’s **HIS GLORY**? It’s God’s “**NAME**”. Moses asked God to “*show me thy glory*”. God did what Moses requested – “*And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear [the guilty]; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth [generation].*”(Exo.34:5-7) God’s name is how He can be “*just and justify the ungodly*”, and that “**NAME OF THE LORD**” is “**JESUS (Jehovah Our Salvation) Christ our Lord.**” God Almighty presents us faultless before His glory with “**EXCEEDING JOY**” (which in the original means ‘exultation, exuberant joy, gladness’) because He is well-pleased with Christ alone. **Listen to Zephaniah** – “*The LORD thy God in the midst of thee [is] mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.*”(Zeph.3:17) What an amazing truth for God’s redeemed to rejoice in, that the Lord thy God is in our midst, and He is a well-pleased with all those who are “**IN HIM.**”

Look at Vs.25 – All of this can only be attributed to and accomplished by “*the ONLY WISE GOD our Savior.*” This isn’t referring to the Trinity, but to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is truly God, (and not to exclude the Father and the Spirit), Christ is called the “wisdom of God”. Christ is the author of all wisdom, both natural and spiritual, and Christ alone is the only Saviour of his people – “*For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*”(I Cor.1:21-24) Because Christ is the wisdom of God, all glory, majesty, dominion, and power belongs to Him as the God sent Savior of sinners. This brings to my mind Christ’s words in His Priestly prayer – “*These words spake Jesus, and lifted up*

his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”(Jn.17:1-5)

Jude closes this glorious memorial statement concerning our blessed Lord with a fitting word – “**AMEN**”. When this word is used at the beginning of discourse it means ‘surely, truly, of a truth’. But when it is used at the end of a discourse it means ‘**SO IT IS, SO BE IT, MAY IT BE FULFILLED.**’ One more verse concerning the Great **AMEN** of God, even our Lord Jesus Christ – “*For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in **him Amen**, unto the glory of God by us.”(II Cor.1:20)* What a glorious promise for those who see and know themselves to be sinners! “*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*” My hope and prayer is that this is our glorious **MEMORIAL** or **REMEMBRANCE** of Christ our Lord!