

THE FINAL COMMAND TO THE FAITHFUL (II)

III. Rescue the ungodly (vs.22-23)

IV. Remain in divine security (24-25)

INTRODUCTION

Someone once uttered these words, & maybe you are familiar with them:

- “I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to my fellow creatures, let me do it now.
- “Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

Now that philosophy or principle of life should be most of all true for us Christians.

- it must be, for that’s what Bible teaches & Jude is emphasizing that in the last verses of his letter to us Christians.
- that kindness & mercy must be the hallmark & overriding character of a Christian’s attitude & actions regarding our fellow human beings.

Therefore, in vs.17-25 Jude gives us 4 commands we must obey.

- for then we will only be strong & safe & secure, & survive in our fight for the faith in today’s world.

So, last time we saw that 1<sup>st</sup> we must remember God’s Word.

- believe & obey it warnings so we are prepared & armed to withstand those who forsake the faith & the increasing evil & error that is happening.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, we saw we must remain in God’s love.
  - we must build ourselves & each other up in the faith.
  - & pray in the Spirit, & work as we wait for Christ’s return.

But, lest we get the impression from these 2 commands that we can just live for ourselves, --

- & conclude we can just sit back & enjoy God’s Word & love for ourselves, --.
- Jude immediately adds the 3<sup>rd</sup> command in vs.22-23 that we must rescue the ungodly.
  - & then he adds the 4<sup>th</sup> command in vs.24-25 to rest in divine security.
- well, it is these last 2 commands that we want to consider today as we conclude our study of Jude.

III. RESCUE THE UNGODLY

Now then, even though the world is filled with all kinds of wickedness & wrong, --

- the forsaking of the faith & apostasy & sin are getting greater & stronger, --
- yet, as Christians or Christ’s Church, we may never be self-centered.

- so concerned about ourselves that we keep God's Word of salvation & love for ourselves
- & we separate & shut ourselves off from our society.

We may never be so insensitive about those who ridicule & reject **Bible** & God's will, even the worst of them.

- even those most far gone in falsehood & filth.
  - even those who beliefs & behavior are most dangerous.
- for it is never our duty to destroy, but to always save.
  - to try to warmly win people back to the Christian faith & into the Christian fellowship.
    - & to living the Christian life. (OVER)

And so, **Scriptures** say, as those chosen, called, saved out of sin, kept by Lord through His mighty, marvelous mercy & love, we must also remember this important truth:

- we must always be lovingly concerned about all sinners.
- & we must desire their salvation & not their destruction.

Therefore **Jude** commands in **v.22-23** we must show divine mercy to those who despise & deny God & His Word.

- with loving & caring attitudes & actions we must reach out to them.
- we must share with them the good news of salvation in Christ to RESCUE THE UNGODLY from certain doom & destruction that's coming if we don't.

Now **Jude** says in doing that rescue job we must 1<sup>st</sup> be **merciful to those who doubt**.

- New English Bible says it so strikingly: "There are some doubting souls who need our pity."
- with that statement, Jude is alerting us to the dangers some weak Christians are facing when they are confronted by apostasy—Christians who surely need our help.

You see, there are those who flirt with falsehood & filth because they are attracted to the glowing promises of faith-forsakers.

- they are still open to the truth, but also to the untruth.
- for example, some are confused about the Christian faith & life.
  - they think it is only for Church & on Sunday, or just reading Bible & praying.
  - Christianity then is not to be mixed in with the rest of life.

Others are mixed up about belonging to the Church.

- they feel it is not important as long as you believe & belong to Jesus Christ.
- still others are confused about Christian freedom.
  - so they are attracted to evil & erroneous teachings.
  - that teach you can have real freedom & an exciting, happy life if you throw off Bible's old-fashion beliefs & laws.

Now, whenever we find these people doubting the Christian teachings, God says we must have mercy on them.

- we must quickly get into gear & aggressively reach out to reassure them of the faith by understanding & helping them.
- we must avoid harsh criticizing them, & instead show love to those who waver.
  - we must by kindly trying to convince & correct them that they are going in the wrong direction.

We must do that so they will be rescued & drawn to the truth while there is still time & hope.

- we must work hard to persuade them of all wickedness & wrong,
  - & that they are in danger of certain eternal death if they continue the way they are & in the way they are going.
- we must get them to believe & obey only what Scripture says about receiving true salvation & genuine, everlasting life with Lord.

But, of course, we can only do that if we ourselves believe & live God's Word & remain in His love.

- if we only pray in Holy Spirit, wait on Lord, & build ourselves up in the biblical faith.
- for it is only with Bible do we have all need to rescue the doubter.

You see. **II Tim. 3** says **Bible** is God's Word that only saves a person.

- it is the only Word that is true & trustworthy to teach & to train in the right way to believe & live.
  - to rebuke & convince & convict of sin; to correct the wrong.
  - to convert & change persons into real, mature, strong people of God.
- you see, we can never do that with our own ideas & methods, arguments & criticisms.

And so, we too must be convinced & certain about what we believe to be able to meet corruption & untruth head on with righteousness & the truth.

- we then must always be ready to speak the truth before others are lost.
- to be cowardly silent can often do more harm, for many are lost to Satan & sin because no one has said the right words of truth to them in time.

Well, there is another group of people we must reach out to in mercy & rescue.

- Jude commands we must snatch them from the fire & save them.
- now these have gone further in unbelief & sin, for they are more committed to them
  - & they are then being scorched by the fires of sin & are getting closer to hell.
  - they are teetering on its brink where immediate destruction is about to engulf them as they are ready to fall into the eternal flames of divine punishment.

Therefore in their case time is so precious that we must move quickly in love.

- it is then of greater & extreme urgency go after them to rescue them.
- & we must be more drastic & severe with them.

- warn them of great peril, & discipline them by Scripture & prayer.
- & try to get them away from filth & falsehood that will eventually destroy them if they don't watch out.

With much patience & love we must continually counsel these sinning, erring people.

- & that may even mean eventually we have to deny them the privileges of Church membership.
- or even finally separate them from the Church if they stubbornly refuse to repent.

You see, all of this is to be a shock treatment to pull them up right & persuade them of the terribleness of unbelief & sin.

- & to stop them in their track & rescue them from hell's fire, ICor.5 says.
- but, if we don't sound the warning as loudly & clearly as we can, --
  - try to save them with God's Word & prayer, through discipline, & they are lost, --
  - then Ezk.33 says we will be held accountable to Lord for their destruction.

Finally, **Bible** says in there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> class of the ungodly we must try to rescue in mercy.

- & these are those people who persist in sin so that they are firmly entrenched in gross sinning & way-out, perverted beliefs.
- but even these worst sinners we Christians must love while we hate their sinful life-styles & teachings.
  - & with prayer, we hope they will turn around & come to Christ.

But **Scriptures** warn, in dealing with these ungodly people who seem so hopelessly lost in stubborn unbelief & the worst wickedness & wrong there are, --

- vs.23 says we must do it "with fear, hating even the clothes stained by corrupted flesh."
- that is to say, yes, we must pity & treat these people in love.
  - but we must also be very cautious & wary of their sins.
  - we must, so that their sins don't entrap us instead.

For instance, how often isn't it true there are those who think they can marry an unbeliever & win them to Jesus Christ, but most of the time it is Christian spouse who ends up forsaking the faith?

- there are too those who think to save sinners you've got become almost like them, but in the end, they fall away to be like them.
 

(OVER)
- & too, there's always the danger & temptation to compromise or tone down Bible's truths so we won't antagonize & hurt people & we turn them away from the Church.
  - therefore, we want to take it easy on the sinner; we shouldn't preach about sin & hell.
  - but only about Lord's love & goodness.
- & there are those who don't want to stress too much what it means to be a Christian.
  - that it means giving your whole life to God in self-denial, sacrifice & service.

Well then, **Bible** teaches in **Jude** we must deal lovingly & patiently with people no matter how terribly bad a sinner they are.

- we must do all we can to try to rescue them from eternal punishment.
- yet we may never do that by being like them or compromising Scriptures or the Christian faith & life.
- instead we must in love for sinners be mighty fearful & stay away from all forms of sin.

And so, we see again why it's so important & necessary to keep & build ourselves up in God's Word, remain in His love, & pray while we wait & work for Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

- for dealing with sinners is a very dangerous business that requires a mature & strong faith.
  - of being convinced Jesus in our only Lord & Savior; constantly relying on Scripture.
  - all so that we will be mentally alert, spiritually perceptive, emotionally stable.
    - & be in Holy Spirit for power to withstand any & all sin.
- or else we will become confused in our thinking, & never be able to keep from today's terrible unbelief & horrible evils & errors.
  - & we will never be able to rescue the ungodly.

Yet, though there is danger in doing this so that we must always be on guard in Lord, --

- yet we must never shirk our duty to reach out to them in love before sin & hell consume them.
- for isn't too late to do this before Jesus returns.

#### IV. REST IN DIVINE SECURITY

But now, maybe you are thinking & saying what a tremendous task we Christians have!

- how frightening & impossible it seems that we must go up against all odds!
- that we must live dangerously with the risk of defilement as we reach out & rescue people out of the very clutches of sin & Satan's captivity!

Yet we must do that, & we can, for **Jude** adds his last command in **vs.24-25**.

- & it is a wonderful note of assurance: a beautiful blessing of God's security.
- he writes: "To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen!"

How then can we ever go up against the devil & his legions in a spiritual warfare?

- how can we stand strong & secure, & survive & win against such formidable enemies?
- well, of course, in & of ourselves we would easily be defeated & lose the joy of salvation & all Lord wants to give us.

But we can fight for the faith against all odds if we obey **Jude's** command to **REST IN DIVINE SECURITY.**

- if we rest with absolute assurance that God is able & will always protect & preserve us.
- for He can & will because vs.24 says: “He is the only God.”
  - the only true God, the almighty, sovereign, eternal, infinite Creator & King of the universe.
  - He then rules & controls & runs everything & everyone.
    - He does with all His might & power & authority now & forever!

But even more, our **text** also says this great & glorious God is **our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

- He is then the One who loves us so much He actually came to this planet as a true & total human being called Jesus of Nazareth.
- & He lived & died & arose to rescue us from sin & death
  - & to restore to eternal life with Him & to be with Him now & forever.

Therefore to possess this God as our only Lord & Savior by faith in Jesus Christ, we have all the protection & power we need.

- we share His very life & His love so that in His presence & with His power we are always safe & secure as His chosen, called, loved, & kept ones, as Jude reminds us in vs.1.

Now then he says, because God is this kind of God & Savior, He is willing & **able to keep us from falling.**

- He has saved us so that now He is concerned about us & constantly cares for us.
  - Bible says He continually holds us & will never let us go.
- & when our faith falters, we slip into sin, we will never fall away or be lost or eternally destroyed.

Instead, by the power of His Word & Holy Spirit, He guards & governs & guides us despite the dangers of sin around us as we contend for the faith.

- & we live for Him & rescue the perishing.

Well then, because Lord will & can do that, He will finish the saving work He has begun in us.

- for vs.24 also says He is determined “to present us before His glorious present without fault & with great joy.”
- now that phrase “without fault” refers to a sacrificial lamb without defects.
  - to present then a spotless sacrifice to God.

In other words, **Jude** is saying, as we submit ourselves more & more to Lord, He continues, with His Spirit & grace, to make us nothing less than a perfect sacrifice, fit for Him.

- He continues then to complete us until we will finally stand before Him in His glory where we will be perfect, & experience eternal joy & life.
- Rom.8 says those He chose & calls & justifies, He will glorify.
  - & so, He is working all things, good & bad, according to His will, for our good.
  - to save us & make us perfect & pure in His wonderful, joyful presence forever.
- now again, God is able to do that because He is almighty God.
  - & He is willing because He is God our Savior, our faithful Father & Friend in Jesus Christ.

No wonder then, having reminded us of that, all **Jude** can do, & we must do it too, is respond in praise to God.

- & say to this mighty, marvelous, merciful God & Savior, as vs.25 says, “To Him [only] be [all] glory, majesty, power, & authority before all ages, now & forevermore!”
- for He is God, exalted above all in eternity, in infinite grace & glory, in greatness & goodness, in purity & royalty as Lord of all.
- & He is then the sovereign, supreme One whose saving purpose & plan were determined before time began, is now being unfolded in history, & will be fulfilled forever in eternity.

Therefore, what more can we say to this than with **Jude** to conclude with that resounding **AMEN!**

- then to declare: “Amen, Lord, so let it be—it is all true!”

## CONCLUSION

**Christians**, let us then always confess & echo **Jude’s** final amen with lips & lives of love & praise to God, our Lord & Savior.

- let us declare & demonstrate that so let it be for me: that all this is personally true for you & me:
- that God is our only Lord & Savior in Jesus Christ.
- that we will do His will with all our life & love, faith & obedience, praise & worship & thanksgiving.
- that we will fight for the faith & the truths of Bible.
- that we will keep ourselves in His love, build ourselves up in His Word & pray.
- that we will live as one who eagerly waits & works for Jesus to return.
- & we will do all we can to rescue the ungodly.

It is then my hope & prayer that we will truly realize, as 1 of my favorite songs says:

- “People need the Lord. People need the Lord.  
At the end of broken dreams/He’s the open door.  
People need the Lord. People need the Lord.  
When will we realize/People need the Lord.”

May we then be concerned & really mean it when we sing in a few moments another of my favorite songs.

- “Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in m heart.”

And then let us be assured we can do this, for we believe & are certain God is our God & Savior who is willing & able to always keep us.

- & He will finally perfect us in eternal glory.

So then to God be all glory, majesty, dominion, power & authority.

- from eternity, now, & for all eternity.
- Amen & amen & AMEN!