

October 21, 2012

Jude

Evidence Of Intimacy
Living in a House
does not make it HOME



The book of Jude

Jude was the half brother of Jesus. He grew up with Him, knew Him but he did not connect with Him. We can see in John 7:2-9 that they did not believe Him and they even mocked Him and was resentful of Him. It was only after the Resurrection, that they came to know who He was. (Acts 1:14)

It was ironic to be with someone all your life and still not know who He really was. This is the same for most Christians. We pray when we wake up, we pray before we eat, we pray at bedtime and yet we do not really make a connection to the Father or to Jesus. Our Christianity becomes a religion, not a relationship.

But when we make that connection, something changes. This is evident in the life of Jude. When he finally accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior, everything about him changed. Because now he not only had knowledge of Jesus, but he understood. This then becomes the greatest evidence of intimacy – UNDERSTANDING.

Because it is when we open our eyes and begin to:

- Understand who Jesus is
- Understand oneness
- Understand possession
- Understand the leveler of salvation
- Understand the essential truth
- Understand our hope
- Understand the mercy of restoration
- Understand that love means evangelism
- Understand praise

In verse 1, Jude refers to himself as a slave of Jesus Christ. He did not claim relationship with him because he understood who Jesus is – He is Lord and Savior. He opted to call himself a slave – this kind of humility is only possible when something changes from the inside.

He addresses his letter to “all who have been called by God the Father” because he understood that in the eyes of the Father we are all equals. There are no Jews and Gentiles – only His chosen children. That we are all one in the eyes of the Father.

He goes on to say that we are “kept for Jesus Christ” -- this denotes possession. Jude understood that when we have been called to be God’s chosen child and we receive the grace of salvation through Jesus Christ, we belong to Jesus. That nothing can change that and nothing can destroy that. John 10:10 says that we are in the hand of not only God the Father but in the hands of Jesus as well and no one can snatch us out. We have to understand that when we become saved, we become a new creature. . . we are regenerated. And it is also at this time that we become indwelt with the Holy Spirit. . . and this seals us for God.



380 S. Rosemead Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107

Sundays
945 AM
Heart
Preparation

1000 AM
WORSHIP

Dgroup Schedules

Tuesdays
700 pm
1102 E Swanee Lane
West Covina, CA

Thursdays
730 pm
2617 N Parish Place
Burbank, CA

Fridays
700 pm
5124 Ashworth St
Lakewood, CA

Fridays
730 PM
4706 Ivar Ave
Rosemead, CA

A common misconception that we have often we threatened with is that we will lose our salvation if we sin. Once we become adopted children of God our salvation is secure because our salvation is given to us by grace through faith. Believing that we lose our salvation if we fall into sin is like saying that we can earn it back by our efforts. But this we know is not true, because Jesus' sacrifice was the ultimate payment for our eternal deaths and nothing we can do, no amount of good deeds can amount to that sacrifice.

We have to keep in mind that although our salvation is secure in Jesus Christ, this does not give us license to sin. When we sin we will be forgiven but we can never escape the consequences of our sin.

The word "kept" here is very significant since it denotes a relationship similar to a warden-prisoner relationship. By being kept for Jesus this means that we cannot escape, that we in fact lose our identity in Him. Because when we receive His salvation, we lose our rights and we are no longer our own because we have been bought for a price.

Verse 2-3 tells us that no matter who we are, where we came from, what we do – we will all come to God in the same way because we share the same faith. That salvation is the same for the rich or for the poor, for the young and the old – we are not discriminated by our status in life, our profession, material possessions or for the kind of life we lead. When it comes to our salvation – we all receive the same grace -- that in our faith in Jesus we all belong to the same level – there is no one higher than the other, so no one can boast.

Verses 3 – 19 reminds us to be wary of false teachers who can divide, of people who pretend to be a part of God's family but are not filled with the spirit. Jude cautions us against falling into the same sins that brought destruction and punishment to those before us: the Israelites out of Egypt with their rebellion and slander; the sexual immorality of Sodom and Gomorrah; and envy and greed as in the case of Cain. He also identified attitudes that can be the cause of our destruction such as grumbling, complaining, selfishness, being boastful, bragging, and being manipulative. Jude reminds us that God dealt with their sins in the past and He will deal with those sins today. He warns us of the coming judgment and that all will be convicted of the ungodly things they have done.

But Jude doesn't stop there – he also reminds us that as those in the faith, we must build each up and pray in the power of the Holy Spirit and to await the mercy of our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that if we come to the Lord in confession and humble acceptance of our sins, we will be forgiven and be kept safe in God's love.

He also encourages us to share this love, God's love to others. To be merciful to those whose faith is wavering and to share the gospel of salvation to all those we come across. This challenges us to not only show kindness and mercy to those around us, but more importantly to care for their eternal life. That when given an opportunity, we must find courage to share to them the love and grace of our Lord Jesus.

And lastly, he understood praise. . . He ends by saying *²⁴Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. ²⁵All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.*

Discussion:

1. How do we understand:
 - A. Who Jesus is
 - B. To be a child of God
 - C. What is the essential truth
 - D. Where does our hope lie

2. When was the last time you had an epiphany or a moment or understanding of something new about God? What was it? What lesson did you learn?

Works

C.S. Lewis in his book Mere Christianity said: “ A car is made to run on petrol and it will not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other.”

Using this analogy let us ask ourselves: Are we running on?

- A. A full tank?
- B. 3/4's full
- C. Half tank
- D. 1/4 full
- E. empty
- F. Or maybe we've parked our car somewhere as non operational.

We have always been told that we cannot give what we do not have. If the love of God is missing from our lives — how can we share His love to others? In our quiet time, let us honestly answer the question. Are we truly growing in intimacy with God, or are we merely appearing to be intimate? Let us continue to ask God to intervene in our lives, to take control and be Lord over our lives — so that we may truly belong to Him.