

# Jude

“Mercy...is that in God which duly provided for the need of sinful man.”

—Lewis Sperry Chafer

## The Mercy & Judgement of God

### “Keeping Ourselves in the Love of God”

#### Introduction

Verses 5-19 have justified Jude’s warning (v. 4) about the presence of false teachers and he now addresses the believers in the churches in order to further describe what things are involved in ‘contending for the faith’ (v. 3).

Having spent much of the letter warning believers what they must guard against, he now transitions to remind them of the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ God and one another.

#### Jude’s Commands to Believers—Jude 20-23

*<sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And have mercy on those who doubt; <sup>23</sup> save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.*

#### 1. You must \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s love!

“keep”—**τηρέω (tēreō)**— To cause a state, condition, or activity to continue; to keep, hold, reserve, or preserve.

- Jude has already referred to believers as ‘beloved in God’ and those ‘kept for Jesus Christ’ at the beginning of the letter (v. 1). His exhortation in these verses refers therefore to the response of believers to the love of God which has been shown to them.

#### How? (1) “...building yourselves up in your most holy faith”

- \* The term translated ‘building’ carries the idea of strengthening or edifying.
- \* The ‘holy faith’ referenced here is the body of teachings or doctrines of the church of Jesus Christ.

#### (2) “...praying in the Holy Spirit...”

- \* This is not a reference to prayer in tongues, but instead to a life of prayer that should characterize the individual as well as the church as a whole.

Eph. 6:18—...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

- \* This phrase draws a deliberate contrast with the false teachers referenced in v. 19 who are said to be ‘devoid of the Spirit.’

#### (3) “...waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.”

- \* The term ‘waiting’ carries the idea of looking forward or expecting something.

Titus 2:13—...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

- \* The ‘mercy’ of our Lord Jesus Christ’ refers here to the full experience of our salvation which will be accomplished when Christ returns for us.

#### Important Observations:

⇒ Jude’s exhortation emphasizes the \_\_\_\_\_ work of God in the spiritual growth of believers.

⇒ Jude’s exhortation recognizes the importance of the various aspects of \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. You must show concern for those who are struggling with \_\_\_\_\_!

- Jude recognizes a cause/effect relationship between the command to believers to keep themselves in the love of God and the commands regarding how they are to care for their fellow believers.

### How? (1) “And have mercy on those who doubt;”

ἐλεᾶω (*eleaō*)—To have mercy on, to have compassion or pity.

- \* The emphasis is on showing compassion towards those who are struggling (uncertain, lacking assurance) in their faith.

→ Jude is probably referring to those who are considering that what the false teachers are claiming might be true.

### (2) “save others by snatching them out of the fire;”

- \* The emphasis is on saving someone from judgment or destruction.

→ Jude seems to be referring here to those who have come to be influenced by the false teachers and who are therefore in danger of facing the judgment of the Lord.

### (3) “to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.”

- \* Mercy is to be shown to this third group, but Jude qualifies how that mercy is to be shown.

φόβος (*phobos*)—The product of an intimidating, alarming force; fear, alarm, fright.

→ Jude refers here to those who have embraced the false teaching to the point that they have defiled themselves by living in the immorality that was characteristic of the false teachers.

## Jude’s Allusion to Zechariah 3

Zechariah 3:1-4—1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. 2 And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” 3 Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. 4 And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.”

- This vision concerned Joshua the high priest who represented the people before God.
- The imagery was intended to assure the people that God would remove their defilement and forgive their sin.

## Applying the Allusion

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ promised in Zechariah has been accomplished through Christ.
2. Believers have had their \_\_\_\_\_ removed and have been delivered from eternal judgement.
3. Therefore, those in the churches must not walk in sin and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If they do, one of two things is true of them:

(1) They were never truly \_\_\_\_\_ to begin with.

1 John 2:19—They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

(2) If they truly are believers, they will face temporal \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Cor. 5:4-5—<sup>4</sup>When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup>you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

## The Importance of the Church

1. Our consistent fellowship with a local body of believers is intended to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Our meaningful relationships within that body allow for \_\_\_\_\_ when necessary.