



**Bible Study**

# **Jude**

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**Jude is writing to believers to exhort faithfulness to the truth and adherence to the teaching delivered by the apostles of Christ. He has grown from being a member of Jesus' family home in childhood, to become a devoted servant of his brother, our Lord Jesus Christ. He speaks very powerfully, about how Jesus is able to bring us through life into eternal triumph and victory!**

## **Faithfulness to the Truth**

There are those among us who appear to be believers but they are not. They teach that the grace of God is such that sin doesn't matter because God will forgive us and, in particular, they say that immorality is not serious, so we can indulge our desires and God will overlook it. What is very clear from their behaviour and teaching, is that they deny Christ. As true believers, Christ is central and our devotion to him must be total. Jude reminds his readers that, although many were delivered from Egypt, they did not enter the Promised Land because of their faithlessness. He also speaks of angels who enjoyed heaven but were bound with everlasting chains when they rebelled and whose final judgement will occur when Jesus returns. It is a terrible thing when people become so comfortable with their sin, that God chooses to walk away and they never find repentance!

## **The Punishment of Eternal Fire**

The eternal fire of hell is a reality too terrible to describe but Sodom and Gomorrah serve as an example of the fate of those who reject morality. The misuse of the gift of our bodies, opens up great spiritual warfare and only the godly can rely on the intervention of our mighty God, to take us safely from earth to heaven. The dispute over Moses' body is recorded and is a picture of the battle for deliverance from Satan that we all need. Jude describes several attitudes of the human heart, which might give the impression of godliness but are far from what God wants.

## **The Way of Cain**

Cain's offering was rejected because he believed that he could please God by his efforts. Balaam was a prophet but he was not walking with God. Korah was a Levite but rebellion entered his heart and God's judgement was very strong - the ground opened up and swallowed him and his family! Religion and good works cannot save us, only Christ's work on the cross can save. Being greedy and selfish with no consideration for others, will reap judgement. Shepherds who have no commitment to the flock but are only looking to serve their own ends, will see God's wrath. Such people are empty, shallow, fruitless, rootless, aimless and heading for a lost eternity!

## **Ungodliness**

History has recorded times of immense ungodliness, such as in the time of Noah. Grumbling, defiant, flatterers sadly still exist. Enoch walked with God in a time of great wickedness and warned of great judgement, pointing to the time when Jesus will return with all the saints, to rule and reign and bring judgement to the world. However, the last times will see attempts to divide the godly, by those who lack the Spirit of God. They implement worldly solutions, which result in chaos, confusion and discouragement.

## **Building Faith**

Jude instructs us to build ourselves up in our most holy faith. True faith comes from hearing God's word, knowing God's word, understanding God's word and obeying God's word. Praying in accordance with the Holy Spirit will strengthen us and enable us to withstand the evil day. We must be attentive to the Spirit's promptings so that we can pray with confidence, even when we don't know how to respond to a situation. Walking in God's love is so important. To love what God loves and to value what He values, will keep us on the right path. We are on a journey to heaven so, as we wait for that call, we want to live correctly ourselves but also show mercy to our fellow travellers. We need to watch out for others and humbly seek to help them draw closer to God, by maintaining clear righteousness and making no worldly compromises!

## **Secure in Jesus**

We are immensely secure in this unreliable and devious world, because we commit ourselves to Jesus, the one who will keep us from falling. He desires to present us before the Father, without stain and with great joy! Jesus is truly God our Saviour and Christ our Lord. To him alone, belong glory, majesty, power and authority, now and forever. Amen.

## **Points to Consider:**

1. Christ wants a pure church. How clear are we about issues such as immorality and adultery?
2. Consider Cain and Korah. Where do we see this sort of rebellion emerging in our churches and how do we deal with it?
3. What are the ways that Satan uses, in his attempts to undermine and destroy the church of Jesus?
4. How do you encourage people to build up their faith?
5. Jude points us to the magnificence of who Christ is. How do we do that for those around us?