

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 1- Introduction **Jude 1**

4. Preserved in Jesus Christ

WOSM Thursday 11/8/07; WPAS Thursday 04/24/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse journey through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue look at what Jude taught about being "Preserved in Jesus Christ"- so let's read Jude 1 again together:

Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:

Now on the last broadcast, we saw how that God called and chose us to serve Him from before the foundation of the world and now here at the end of verse 1- we also see that Jude wrote this letter to those who he said were "**kept for Jesus Christ**".

Now just what does it mean to be preserved? Well, the word that was translated into English here as "kept" is the Greek word, *teereoo* (tee-ray-oh), which means: *to guard; to take care of; to maintain; or to keep*. So, the Bible teaches that those who are saved are not only chosen by God- but they are also preserved or kept by the same God Who saved them.

The Holy Scriptures teach that those who are saved, beloved, will be *kept* by Jesus Christ for Jesus Christ; those who are saved will be *maintained* by Christ; and those who are saved will be *taken care of* by Jesus Christ. Those whom God called; those whom God chose in Him before the foundation of the world; those whom God's Spirit drew; those for whom Christ died; those who have been washed in the pure Blood of the Lamb of God- the Bible says- that those people will also be preserved by God.

Beloved, we didn't save ourselves. We didn't call ourselves. We didn't choose ourselves. We didn't draw ourselves to the Cross. We didn't shed our own Blood to save ourselves. And we must know that

we won't keep ourselves, either. We cannot empower ourselves- it God Who graciously empowers us. We cannot give ourselves the strength to continue to serve Jesus Christ- God gives all those who are saved the desire and the power to serve Him and Praise God- God has promised to keep those that are His. Now Jude was saying here in verse 1 the very same thing that the Apostle John was saying in **John 1:11-13** when he said that Jesus:

11 ... came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Jude was also saying the same thing that Jesus Himself taught in **John 10:27-29** when He said:

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

29 "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

Jesus Christ has promised to keep or preserve believers throughout all eternity. Now many people talk today about the "Eternal Security" of the Believer, but very few really preach this Doctrine fully and completely- which is why so many take this precious Truth as nothing more than a license to sin.

But thanks be to God that those who are truly born again **are** absolutely secure in Jesus Christ. We, who are genuinely saved **are forever** safe in the Arms of Jesus. That is exactly what the Word of God says. Listen, if we aren't secure in Christ,- then where would we ever be secure? In ourselves? It is tragic that some feel safer and more secure operating under their *own* power than by being preserved by the Power of God. The Bible clearly teaches right here in **Jude** that those who are saved are kept *in* and kept *by* and kept *for* Jesus Christ.

But the other side of this precious Truth- that is seldom if ever talked about- is that all who name the Name of Jesus have not been

born again. Going down front and praying a prayer doesn't mean that you are saved. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than going to McDonalds makes you a hamburger.

Every Apostle of the Lord and all of God's faithful servants today preach the same thing about Salvation. It really means something to be saved. So, it isn't just about joining the Church. It isn't about singing in the choir. It isn't about preaching or teaching. It isn't about being baptized. It isn't about casting out devils. It isn't about speaking in tongues. It isn't about doing great things for the Lord. Those who are saved may do some or all of those things; but those things in and of themselves do not make anyone saved.

The Bible says in **Ephesians 2:8&9**, that we are saved by Grace through Faith in Christ **alone**. The Bible says that Salvation is not of *any* man's human works. So, it is not about how hard you prayed; it is not about how much you did for Jesus. No one can lay any claim of any work that He did in order to be saved. Salvation is wholly and solely and totally and completely a Sovereign act of a loving God to undeserving sinful Man- which is why God receives all Glory and all Honor for Salvation.

And the Bible says that when a person is saved- he hasn't simply mentally agreed with some information about God. It isn't that he has adopted some religious moral code. It isn't that he is now an improved version of the same old person. No. God forbid. May it never be.

Salvation occurs when God Sovereignly reaches down and washes all of your sins away with the Blood of Jesus Christ- but there is a second part to Salvation that is rarely if ever preached and taught today. You see, because Jesus lived a sinless and holy life- He literally *earned* God's Favor by never transgressing a single time in thought, word, or deed. So, after God washes you in the Blood of Jesus Christ and you are forgiven- God then *declares* you to be Righteous and He "imputes" or credits to you the very same spotless Righteousness of Jesus Christ Himself!

And that makes Salvation to be the single most radical miracle that has ever been performed, because you don't just *feel* better when you are saved- no , what has happened is that God has literally transformed the nature of the person who is saved from being fallen to being divine.

Let's read what Peter said about this by looking at **2Peter 1:4**:

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

So, Salvation- by definition- means that you are no longer the same person that you used to be. Oh, you still look the same and you still have the same fleshly body- but you have been changed down to the DNA level of your nature. You now have residing within you the divine nature of Jesus Christ. You now have within you the third part of the Godhead – the Holy Spirit- Who now walks in you. You now love the things you used to hate, and you hate the things that you used to love. Here is how the Apostle Paul described Salvation in **2Corinthians 5:17**:

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

So not only have saved people been forgiven- but saved people have been reborn. Not only have saved people trusted in Jesus Christ- but saved people have been regenerated and transformed and been adopted into the very Family of God.

Church member- have your “old things” passed away? If not, then you are yet in your sins. If you are not a new Creature, then you have not experienced the New Birth. It's just that way. Beloved, Salvation is so great a gift; Salvation is so radical a miracle; Salvation is so powerful a force of God that it is *impossible* for anyone to be saved and not be radically changed. It is *impossible* for anyone to be saved and not fall in love with Jesus. It is *impossible* for anyone to be saved and not serve God and love the things of God. And it is *impossible* for anyone to be saved and not bear godly fruit.

And this is the second part about the Doctrine of Eternal Security that is hardly ever preached today. God will absolutely keep those that are His- yes, He will- but everybody is not His. Everyone in the Church is not His. Those who belong to Christ will love Christ. And those who love Christ will serve Christ; they will obey Christ; they will follow Christ; and God will preserve them- not perfectly- but honestly.

Listen to me. The Bible says if you don't serve and obey Jesus Christ- it is because you really don't love Him. You say, "*But that's not true, Brother Blair. I am a member of first Church and I love the Lord- but I just don't serve Him.*" But that really isn't true ,dear friend. People don't serve God because they don't love God- that is the Truth. And you may think that I am false or hard for saying that- but listen to the red letter words of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself about this in **John 14:21, 23&24a:**

21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

23 If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

24 He who does not love Me does not keep my words...

Brothers and sisters, I didn't write this Holy Book- but I sure believe what it says. Jesus Himself said it is *impossible* for anyone to love Jesus and not serve Him. Jesus said those that love Him will strive continually to obey Him. So, there is no such thing as being saved and not being changed- Jesus said so. There is no such thing as being saved and not becoming a new creature- Jesus said so. And there is no such thing as being saved and not being kept- Jesus said so.

Those who are saved are absolutely kept by Jesus Christ and no man can take them out of His Hand. But if you don't follow Christ and if you don't serve Christ and if you don't obey Christ, then you are proving that you have never been truly saved to begin with and you are still lost and you lost people have absolutely no security in Christ at all.

Now over the last 150 years or so, we in the Church have lowered the bar about what it really means to be saved. And I understand why we did that. We lowered the bar so that more people would come to Church in the hope that more people would be saved. So, we reduced and minimized what it meant to be saved so that more people would qualify as being saved. We changed the definition of being saved from being a new creature to being a better person. We told people to just "try" Jesus and they did. They tried Him and they don't like Him- so they left. We told them that Jesus loves them "just

like they are” instead of telling them that God is angry with the wicked every day according to **Psalms 7:11**. We told them that all you have to do is to believe in Jesus instead of telling them that if they really believe in Jesus, then they would repent of their sins and obey Jesus.

Beloved, we were wrong. And we did the Cause of Jesus Christ a great disservice by this wayward effort and now we are reaping the whirlwind of our folly today. We now have legions of people in the Church who we told were saved- yet who have absolutely no desire at all to obey Jesus Christ because they have not been truly regenerated. Beloved, we who lead in the Church need to repent and return to our First Love and do God’s Business God’s Way and raise the bar back to where God had it in the beginning about what it means to be saved.

I tell you that we need a revival of the fear of God in the Church today. We need a revival of the sanctity and the dignity of Jesus Christ in the Church today. We need to know that God hates sin. God hates sin so much that He required Jesus to be brutally murdered to pay for it. And those who are saved; those who have trusted in Jesus as Lord and Master and King and Savior will walk with Him and they will bear good fruit and they will serve Christ to their dying breath and God will keep them unto the coming of the Lord and no man will ever take them out of God’s Hand.

Well, I’ve got to stop right here- but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.