

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

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

Chapter 19- God is Able to Present us Faultless **Jude 24&25** 211 Standing in God's Presence Blameless Part 3

WOSM Wednesday 09/03/08

Welcome again my beloved in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about "God Empowering us to be able to Stand in God's Presence Blameless and with Great Joy." So, let's read Jude verses 24 and 25 again together:

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,
25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Now these last two verses of Jude deal with one of the most important and misunderstood subjects that is in the entire Bible. And that subject is just how God can make us stand in the Presence of His Glory- blameless with great joy.

In other words- Jude is telling us here that not only is God able to keep us from stumbling- but God is also able to make us blameless on that day. But just how does God do that if we continue to sin after we are saved? Do the sins that we commit after we are saved affect our Salvation to the point where a genuinely saved person can lose his Salvation? Some sincere believers say, "Yes", while others who are equally saved and equally sincere say, "No.." So, who's right?

And on the last broadcast- we looked at the three views of Salvation that is taught in the modern world and we saw that that only the *third* view that teaches that Salvation is a Sovereign Work of God alone is taught in the Bible. And we saw that because we are saved because of what God has done for us rather than what we did- that Salvation is then eternal and is not temporary. And because Salvation

is eternal and is not temporary- then Jude makes the statement that he made in verses 24 & 25 that God is able both to keep us from stumbling and to make us stand in the Presence of His Glory- blameless with great joy.

You see, dear friends, saved people will enter into eternity with great joy because all doubt; all fear; all concern; and all worry about where they stand with God has already been settled. Perfect love- John says in **1John 4:18**- the Sovereign Love that sent Jesus to die on the Cross- has cast out all fear for those who place all their hope and all their trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ.

So genuine believers do not get to Heaven by the skin of their teeth as some people say. You may have heard that phrase used before. No, believers go to Heaven with full confidence that they are safe, and they are secure in Jesus Christ because their Salvation is not based on what they have done by and through their own human power- but their Salvation is safe because it is based on what God has done for us.

Now some would ask, *“But what about the sins that we commit after we are saved? Don’t those sins destroy Salvation?”* If you are a Roman Catholic and believe what the Roman Catechism teaches- then, “Yes!”- sins *do* destroy Salvation- but not all sins. You see, dear friends, in Roman Theology- Salvation is not an event that happened at some point in the past. To those who trust in the Roman Church for Salvation- Being saved is a *process* that began at infant baptism and carries forward all throughout your life and even into several hundred thousand years into Purgatory. So, to those who have faith in the Roman Church for Salvation- they are not “saved” but they are “being saved.”

And the huge difference between what the Roman Church teaches and what the Bible teaches is about the issue of Righteousness. Both the Bible and the Roman Church teach that in order for anyone to go to Heaven- they must be forgiven, and they must be made Righteous. Nobody enters into Heaven unless and until they are just as Righteous as God is- that is exactly what the Bible teaches.

That is why so many hundreds of millions of people all over the world are working so hard- trying to earn Righteousness by what they do. And the only real difference in one false religion and the other is in what people have to do to earn that Righteousness- because all false religions teach the very same thing about this issue- we have to do

something to be good enough to go to Heaven. Some teach that we have to be baptized; others teach that we have to keep the Sacraments of the Church; still other teach that you have to speak in tongues or wear certain clothes; while Islam teaches that you have to blow yourself up.

All false religions teach the very same thing about Righteousness- We are made righteous by what we do- and the only difference between them is the details of what we must do.

But Biblical Christianity teaches that we cannot become righteous by what we do because no matter what we do- it isn't good enough because we are not perfect, and we will never be perfect. So Biblical Christianity says that we become Righteous by what Christ does for us. That Jesus lived a perfectly sinless life while on earth and He kept His Father's Law perfectly without ever sinning one time in thought, word, or deed, and Jesus literally earned His very Own Personal Righteousness by doing that.

And we become Righteous only because at the very moment that we are washed in the Blood of Jesus and forgiven- God "imputes" or credits the sinless spotless Righteousness of Jesus to us. And the vehicle by which we receive the Righteousness of Jesus Christ is not our works or our participation in the Sacraments- but is faith alone. So, we personally do not become righteous by what we do- but we are *declared* to be Righteous by a Sovereign act of God as God imputes the Righteousness of God to us by faith alone- and not by works.

So, the Righteousness that allows us entrance into Heaven is not ours- it is Christ's and because it is Christ's and not ours- we can't stain it when we fall short. That is exactly what the Bible teaches.

Now the Roman Church does not agree with Scripture about this, and they teach that we are made righteous by what we do and the righteousness that allows us entrance into Heaven must be our own righteousness that we develop over our lifetime by doing good works and by keeping the Sacraments.

So, the big kahunnah issue that divides those who follow the teachings of the Roman Church and those who follow the teachings of the Scriptures about Salvation is in how sinners are made righteous. They teach that we have to literally develop our own personal righteousness over our lifetime by keeping Sacraments and doing other things even into Purgatory while we teach that we are instantly and eternally declared to be Righteous by the imputation of Christ's

Righteousness to us by faith alone. This issue was one of the main causes of the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago and the rallying Cry that summarized all that I just told you was the Latin phrase, “Sola Fide” which means: *By faith alone*. And this issue was what was called “the material cause” of the Protestant Reformation.

So, Protestants believe that sinners are made Righteous by faith *alone*- while Romans believe that we are made Righteous by faith plus works of Righteousness.

Now the problem with accepting Roman Theology about Salvation aside from the fact that it isn't taught in the Bible- is that most of the time- we don't attain perfect Righteousness before we die. So, the Roman Church had to invent a way whereby almost righteous but not quite perfect people could still go on in what they call, “The Process of Salvation”- even after they die.

So many years ago- the Roman Church devised a plan to help their followers handle the various sins that they commit during what they call, “The Salvation Process”. They divided sins into two categories. There are those sins that are so bad- that Rome teaches that these sins actually *destroy* the Salvation process and those who commit such sins have to go back and start all over again. Those sins are called, “mortal” sins- from the Latin word, “*morti*” which means: *to kill*.

Then there are those sins that, while bad, are not so bad that they kill the Salvation process. They need to be repented of- to be sure- but Roman Theology says that these sins won't kill the Salvation process like mortal sins do. These sins are called, “*venial*” sins.

Now as I go over this with you, please do not think that I am just bashing Roman Catholics because I'm talking about this- I'm not. The information that I am teaching here comes directly from their very own catechism that you can buy in any bookstore. I am simply trying to give us a background into why *some* people believe that Salvation is *permanent* while *others* believe that Salvation is *temporary*.

So, because all sins are not the same in Roman Theology- they then saw the need to create a means by which sins that were committed during the salvation Process could be forgiven. This is where Confession and The Rite of Penance comes in.

In Roman Theology- those who commit sins during the Salvation Process must go to Confession where the priest absolves them of guilt.

He then directs them to do something noble or kind or to pray certain prayers a certain number of times so that God will look bad if He does not forgive them.

And this process is repeated all through their lives until they die. But we still have a problem, Houston. Even after all of this- the Roman Church acknowledges that most human beings are still not perfectly sinless. So those who die just short of being perfectly Righteousness- must go to a Place called Purgatory. And it is in Purgatory where they are purged of all remaining sins. Sometimes this happens rather quickly- but most people will spend upwards of hundreds of thousands of years in Purgatory until they are pure and clean.

Now we have to know that the concept of Purgatory- as taught today by the Roman Church- is not even mentioned one time in all the Bible. There is one very obscure verse located in a book that is not inspired that suggests Purgatory one time- but that certainly does not validate what they teach about this entire system.

But while it cannot be said that Purgatory is Biblical- it *does* serve a purpose. You see, Purgatory is the logical end of any religion where Salvation can be lost and that depends on what *we* do rather than on what Christ does for us. And here is where the rubber meets the road.

Most so called Evangelical Protestants who believe that they can lose their Salvation do not accept the concept of Purgatory- but I see that as a terrible mistake. Because if you believe that you can lose your Salvation- you need something like Purgatory or else your theology is only half done.

Now some would say here, "*Wait a Minute, Brother Blair- Purgatory is not in the Bible!*" That's true- Purgatory is not taught anywhere in Scripture- but neither is a Salvation that can be lost and that is brought about by what we do rather than what Christ does for us. That isn't in the Bible either. And all I'm saying is that if your theology about Salvation is not Biblical anyway- you might as well complete it with something else that's not in the Bible.

Because the truth of the matter is this- if you believe that committing certain sins causes you to lose your Salvation- then you're a Roman Catholic- even if you don't call yourself one. The Bible has never taught that. But we need to know that Protestantism doesn't teach that either.

Every false religion and manmade philosophy on earth teaches that Salvation can be won or lost several times a day. And the only teaching that accepts that premise about Salvation and yet dares to call itself “Christian” is Roman Catholicism.

So, if you have accepted the unbiblical notion that Salvation is the result of what Man does for himself- either outright or in cooperation with God- and therefore can be lost- then you’re already off base anyway and you might as well accept some form of Purgatory to handle the sin issue so that at least you can be consistent. Other than that- your theology about Salvation is not only unbiblical- it is terribly contradictory. So, I just think it is better to believe what the Bible teaches about Salvation rather than what Man teaches in the first place and know that it is eternal.

Because if any sin can cause us to lose our Salvation- then we are left with deciding just which sins qualify for that. And the Roman Church has already done that for you. So why overwork- if you want a theology of Salvation that is at least consistent- even if it is unbiblical- then just convert to Catholicism.

But if you believe that Jude was telling the truth here and God is able to not only keep us from stumbling but is also able to make us stand in the Presence of His Glory blameless with great joy- then the one single way is that Salvation must be a Sovereign Work of God alone- utterly separated from anything that we do or do not do and therefore Salvation is eternal and it is wonderful and we can be assured and certain that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Well, I have 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.