

# ***GOD'S PRESERVATION AND PERFECTION OF THE BELIEVER***

Jude 24

## **INTRODUCTION**

- There are many stories of people who would otherwise have fallen to their deaths, but someone came to their aid and kept them from falling
- In the spiritual realm, every one of us would fall from the faith, and be cast into the depths of the abyss, without the preserving hand of God to support us
- Jude is bringing his brief epistle to a close. He has warned the brethren in some detail regarding the awful threat that these false teachers with their antinomian gospel pose to the churches (4-19); then he had encouraged them to persevere by a series of admonitions to build them up in the faith (20-23)
- But in the final two verses, Jude delivers a beautiful doxology
- A doxology is an ascription of glory to God (Romans 11:36; 16:25-27; Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 1:17)
- Embedded within this doxology Jude gives a description of the preserving care that God has over His people, which compels us to burst forth in adoration and praise to Him
- Remember that Jude's original intention for this letter was to write of the "common salvation" (v.3), but necessity required him instead to call the brethren to contend for the faith that was under attack
- In v.24, he comes to the theme of God's salvation, beginning with, "Now", indicating a change of thought
- To these embattled brethren, assaulted by the enemy, who have witnessed many professing believers fall away from the faith, and may have asked themselves, "will I also fall away and deny the Lord?", Jude gives a final note of confident encouragement

- Even in the face of the fiercest opposition, we are able to overcome through God's grace
- All who are truly justified will be kept, not because of any power of their own, but through the power of God

## **I. HE IS ABLE TO PRESERVE FROM FALLING**

A. There is a role for the believer in his own sanctification

1. We are told “keep yourselves in the love of God”

B. The ultimate means of the believer's perseverance is the grace of God

C. God's ability is instrumental in every part of our salvation

1. In justification (Hebrews 7:25)
2. In establishing us (Romans 16:25)
3. In succouring us (Hebrews 2:18)
4. In answering prayer (Ephesians 3:20)
5. In glorification (Philippians 3:21)

D. He keeps His children

1. This word means to watch, to carry out the function as a military guard or sentinel
2. It is used in 2 Peter 2:5 where God “saved” Noah
3. While the apostates are reserved for judgment (vv.6,13) believers are kept from falling

E. He keeps from falling

1. “Falling” or stumbling is not referring to occasional sin
2. Believers can and do fall into sin (Proverbs 24:16; 1 John 2:1)
3. It is a complete falling away from the faith, a departure into apostasy, denying Christ. (cf. v.4)

4. An apostate is someone who once professed Christianity, but later renounced it
  5. Satan desires to destroy our faith (Luke 22:31-32)
  6. Yet no true child of God will ever become an apostate
- F. The scriptures repeatedly declare the eternal security of the believer
1. All that come to Christ, He will in no wise cast out (John 6:35-40)
  2. They shall never perish, and none can pluck them from His hand (John 10:27-30)
  3. They are kept in His name (John 17:11-12)
  4. They are kept by the power of God (1 Peter 1:3-5)
  5. He will finish the good work He began (Philippians 1:6)
  6. They shall be preserved unto His heavenly kingdom (2 Timothy 4:18)

## **II. HE IS ABLE TO PRESENT US FAULTLESS**

- A. Those who would enter God's presence must be perfectly holy
1. He cannot behold evil (Habakkuk 1:13)
  2. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14)
  3. Nothing that defiles shall enter the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:27)
- B. The Lord will make His children fit for heaven
1. "Faultless" means literally without spot or blemish, above reproach, blameless (Ephesians 5:27; 1 Peter 1:19)
  2. He will completely sanctify – spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

3. This is the doctrine of glorification
  4. The believer is justified, is being sanctified, and will be glorified (Romans 8:30)
- C. At Christ's coming, all that are His will be like Him (1 John 3:2)
1. This is the purpose for which we are predestinated (Romans 8:29)
  2. "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness" (Psalm 17:15)
- D. This will take place only when we enter into His presence
1. It is false to teach that believers may be sinlessly perfect in this life
  2. It is God's presence that makes Heaven glorious
    - a. Much of modern "christianity" diminishes and omits the doctrine of heaven
    - b. There are those who do speak of heaven, but it is not because they desire to be with Christ, but to have their carnal lusts satisfied eternally
- E. This will be a time of perfect joy
1. For those who are granted entrance there (Psalm 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:13)
  2. For God Himself (Psalm 149:4; Zephaniah 3:17; Hebrews 12:2)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Those who are not in Christ will suffer a great fall; yet those who are in Christ shall never fall (Matthew 7:24-27)
2. Were it not for God's grace, none of us would be saved, and were it not for God's grace, all of us would become apostates
3. Knowing that God keeps and preserves His saints should be a great comfort to us