

## **KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD!!-DON'T BE STUMBLER!**

***Jud 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,***

1. V.3 “...the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” – “the faith” was the body of truth given once for all. In the Book of Acts it is called the apostles' doctrine: “*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers*” (Act 2:42). The apostles' doctrine is the first thing mentioned. First on the list for the early church—It needs to be first on our list as well!.

***Jud 1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God,***

2. We need to recognize that God *loves* the believer. He loves us so much! As believers, we are the beloved of *God*. We cannot keep God from loving us, but we can put up an umbrella or a roof so that you will not feel the warmth of God's love. “Keep yourselves in the sunshine of God's love.” Let His love flood your heart and life. This is so needed in days of apostasy.

***looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.***

3. Eternal life is to be looked for only through *mercy*; not merit; or if merit, not our own, but through the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ as Redeemer; all who come to heaven must come through our Lord Jesus Christ; -- “*there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved,*” A believing expectation of eternal life will arm us against the snares of sin (2Pe\_3:14); a lively faith of the blessed hope will help us to mortify our cursed lusts.

***Jud 1:22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;***

4. We ought to do all we can to rescue others out of the snares of the devil, that they may be saved-recovered, out of dangerous errors, or wrongful practices. We are not only (under God) our own keepers, but every man ought to be, as much as in him lies, his *brother's keeper*; We must watch over one another, must faithfully, yet prudently, reprove each other, and set a good example to all about us. This must be done with *compassion, making a distinction* – Distinguishing between the weak and the willful. -*On some* we must *have compassion*, treat them with all tenderness, *restore them in the spirit of meekness*, not harsh and severe, nor proud and haughty in our conduct towards them; not implacable, nor averse to reconciliation with them. If God has forgiven them, why shouldn't we?

***Jud 1:23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire,***

5. *Others save with fear*, urging upon them *the terrors of the Lord*; Endeavour to frighten them out of their sins; preaching hell and damnation to them. Reminding them of what we're told in the Scriptures concerning an eternal existence of torment, apart from God! As Jesus repeatedly said, “*THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.*”

***hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.***

6. As His children, we should hate “even the garment defiled by the *flesh*.” God cannot use anything that the flesh produces. Everything that we do in the flesh is repulsive to God; He *hates* it. And we should learn to hate it. Also it is, keeping ourselves at the furthest distance from what is or appears evil, and designing and endeavoring that others may do so too. Avoid all that leads to sin or that looks like sin,

***Jud 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,***

7. Whatever is the subject or argument we have been discussing, giving all glory to God is fittest for us to conclude with. God is able, and He is as willing as able, *to keep us from stumbling* (falling), He and only He is able to do that!

**And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,**

8. The Father has covenanted with the Son that all of His people will one day *see* and *share* His glory (*Joh 17:22-24*). Jesus Christ will have the special joy of presenting His bride, the church, before the Father's throne! It was the anticipation of this "joy" that helped Him endure the sufferings of the Cross (*Heb 12:2*). The purpose of salvation is not simply to rescue sinners from hell, as wonderful as that is. The grand purpose is that God may be glorified for all eternity (*Eph 1:6, 12, 14*). Today, there are spots and blemishes in the church, but on that day God's people shall be blameless. Satan will find nothing to accuse. The bride will be arrayed in the righteousness of Christ to the glory of God. Knowing this, the believer has a strong motive for living for Christ and obeying His Word. We want to bring joy to His heart today as we anticipate the joy He will have when He welcomes His bride to heaven!

**Jud 1:25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.**

9. It is not enough to say that Jesus Christ is "a Savior," or "the Savior"; we must say that He is "our Savior — my Savior."

He is "the only wise God." He can give you the wisdom you need to live your life to the glory of God. If Christians would seek the wisdom of God in the Word of God, they would not stumble into the traps of the false teachers, but would walk to please the Lord.

Why should we walk in obedience to God's will? So that Christ might receive the glory! *Glory* is the sum total of all that God is and all that God does. Everything about Him is glorious! The glory of man fades as the mown grass, but the glory of God goes on eternally.

*Majesty* means "greatness, magnificence." Only God is great. When we praise God, we praise the most magnificent Person in the universe. He is not simply King; He is King of kings! He is not simply Lord; He is Lord of lords!

*Dominion* has to do with God's sovereignty and rule over all things. The Greek word means "strength, might," but it carries the idea of complete control over all things.

Power means "authority," which is the right to use power. All authority belongs to Jesus Christ, including authority over the powers of darkness. As we yield to Him, we share His authority and accomplish His will.

*Both now and forever. Amen.* Way beyond our understanding! Now and forever and ever!

- **You don't have to stumble.**
- **If you will remember the Word, build your Christian life in faith, hope, and love, exercise spiritual discernment, and commit yourself to Christ, then He will keep you from stumbling.**
- **Be alert!**
- **The enemy is subtle and the dangers are great.**
- **But the only wise God your Savior will keep you safe and one day present you joyfully in glory!**

**"SANCTUARY"**

**Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true**  
**With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, sanctuary, for you. [2x]**