

“The Truth War”

Jude 1:12-25

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Teaching Aim: To realize apostates will infiltrate the church in the last days pretending to be true servants of God; in reality, they are servants of Satan. To recognize the apostate false teachers have come to cause division within the local church body and to damage the faith of many. To better prepare ourselves as Christians to resist the attacks of the enemy and to rescue those who are being misled by apostate teachers.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: Apostates stain the body of Christ with their sin (Jude 1:12-15)

1. Who is referred to in **verse 12** as “spots” in your love feasts? Note: The Greek word for “spot” can also be interpreted as “hidden reefs.” Why is this an appropriate illustration of the damage false teachers can do? (See **1 Tim. 1:18-20**) What kind of “love feasts” are referred to in **verse 12**? (See Commentaries) Why should apostates “not” be allowed to participate at the Lord’s Supper? (See **1 Cor. 11:23-32**)

2. How does the image of “clouds without water, carried by the wind” picture the apostate or false teacher (**vs. 1b**)? What would clouds with water be expected to do? What normally happens to healthy fruit trees by late autumn? In this illustration, did the fruit trees bear any fruit? What is normally done to fruit trees once they stop bearing fruit and die? How should this illustration relate to believers and the false teacher? (See **Matt. 7:15-16**)

3. According to **verse 13**, how do the “raging waves of the sea” and “wandering stars” of the heavens picture the apostate teacher? What kind of bearing (or direction) do people get from them? What do people gain spiritually from apostates and their evil teaching according to **verses 12 & 13**?

4. What can we learn about Enoch from **verse 14**? How about from **Gen. 5:21-24** and **Heb. 11:5**? Did Enoch live before or after the flood in Noah’s time? (See **Gen. 6 & 7**) What did Enoch prophesy according to **verses 14 & 15**? What do we call this period today? (See **Rev. 19:11-16**)

5. Jude quotes from two Jewish apocryphal (non-canonical or possibly fictitious) books in his epistle, these are: *"The Assumption Of Moses"* and *"The Book Of Enoch."* Does Jude using these two apocryphal books in his inspired epistle make them equal to Scripture? Why or why not? What are some other non-Scriptural works quoted in the Bible? (See **Acts 17:28; 1 Cor. 15:33; Tit. 1:12**) Why did the biblical writers use outside references?

Part II: Apostates cause division in the Church (Jude 1:16-19)

1. According to John MacArthur, *"Apostasy is defection from the true, biblical faith."* What five charges did Jude make against apostate teachers in **verse 16**? What will apostates who live by these characteristics do to the local church? How should the local church respond to attendees who live their lives as characterized by **verse 16**? (See **Matt. 18:15-17**) What should be done if this kind of biblical confrontation doesn't work? (See **Eph. 5:11**)

2. As of the writing of Jude's epistle, the New Testament had not yet been completed. What were the Christians of Jude's day to do according to **verse 17**? How much time do you spend in God's Word each day? Why is this important? If you are not spending time, what is stopping you?

3. What did Jude warn Christians about in **verse 18**? What descriptive word did Jude use to describe these apostate false teachers? According to this description, how effective is their ministry spiritually? If the motivation behind their work is not honoring God, what is it doing (**vs. 18b**)?

4. What can we learn additionally about the motivation of these false teachers from **verse 19**? What is guaranteed to happen when an apostate teacher is permitted to teach in a local church? How long should attendees remain in a church that embraces false teaching? What are three steps that church leaders can take to protect their churches from false teachers slipping in?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

Part III: Be prepared to help others who have been led astray (June 1:20-25)

1. According to **verse 20**, how should every believer respond to these challenges? List five practical steps you can take to build yourself up in the Christian faith.

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| 1) | 4) |
| 2) | 5) |
| 3) | |

2. Jude instructs believers to be “*praying in the Holy Spirit.*” How does a person pray in the Holy Spirit today (**vs. 20**)? What did Charles Spurgeon mean when he said we are to be in “*an atmosphere*” of prayer? How can we tell when we are truly praying in the Holy Spirit? Why is it so important for believers to spend quality time in prayer each day? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your prayer life?

3. What can we do to “*keep ourselves in the love of God*” (**vs. 21**)? According to **verse 21**, what should help us get through the struggles of life? Are you looking forward to the imminent return of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

4. In **verses 20-23**, we see the three Christian virtues of “*faith, hope and love*” at work. Describe how you see each of the three virtues in action:

Faith (**vs. 20**):

Hope (**vs. 21**):

Love (**vv. 22-23**):

5. According to **verses 22 & 23**, how should Christians respond to those who have come under the influence of apostate teachers? Should we treat the apostates themselves differently from those in whom they have influenced? If so, how? Is there a danger in being contaminated by the sin of the very people you are trying to help? What is that danger?

6. Jude finishes his epistle with a “*doxology*,” a beautiful statement of praise to God. What can we learn about God’s involvement in the salvation process from **verse 24**? How does it make you feel to know that it is God who “*is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy?*”

7. Jude closes by speaking of our salvation in **verses 20-25**, the very theme he had originally desired to write about in this epistle. After being captivated by the sustaining power of God in salvation (**vs. 24**), how did Jude finish his epistle (**vs. 25**)? What do you see as the most amazing thing about your salvation?
8. If you have never received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, why not do so right now in prayer? If you have received Christ but have wandered from your Christian faith, why not repent and take this opportunity to get right with God in the quietness of this moment? (See **1 John 1:9**)

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Apostates are not true believers in Christ; they were never born-again.
- Apostates may know a lot about Christianity and pretend to be Christians, but their intent is to lead people astray from the God of the Bible and the true biblical faith.
- Apostates walk according to their own ungodly lusts and willingly cause division in the body of Christ; they do not have the Spirit of God within them.
- As Christians, we are to build ourselves up in the biblical faith while at the same time reaching out to help those who have been led astray by the false teachers.
- It is God who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless on the Day of Judgment; He does this by grace through faith in Jesus Christ – *to Him be the glory!*