

JUDE: Lesson 12

Verses 20-21: But Ye, Beloved

1 September 2023

God makes a distinction between his saints and “certain men” who creep into our churches to cause ruin. But God doesn’t want us to become preoccupied looking for heretics and sinners in the church until we lose all our joy in the Lord. Beware of them, but don’t make it your life’s work. Your fellowship should center on the truth, not the errors of others.

These are the 24 characteristics of certain men who “crept in unawares”

“ungodly men”	“Clouds without water”
“turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness”	“Trees whose fruit withereth”
“denying the only Lord God”	“Foaming out their own shame”
“defile the flesh”	“Wandering stars”
“despise dominion”	“Murmurers”
“speak evil of dignities”	“Complainers”
“Speak evil of those things which they know not”	“Walking after their own lusts”
“corrupt themselves”	“Great swelling words”
“Have gone in the way of Cain”	“Men’s persons in admiration because of advantage”
“ran greedily after the error of Balaam”	“Separate themselves”
“Perished in the gainsaying of Core”	“Sensual”
“Spots in your feasts”	“Having not the Spirit”

Vs 20 “**But ye, beloved...**” You are different from these certain men. They are against holiness and godliness, but you are not. This is a plea for God’s people to be different, to draw a clear line of distinction.

Notice: the four things that God’s people are instructed to do here involve drawing closer to God, not spending our time studying the varieties of evil men who might creep into the church.

- When you become an expert on the true, you won’t be fooled by the false.
- Stay close to God and you’ll instinctively know who to stay away from.

Jude is returning to his initial theme in verse 3: “**Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation...**”

- By inserting the warnings about “certain men” in the church (verses 3-19), Jude’s instructions to the church about staying close to God carry more weight.

FOUR THINGS GOD’S BELOVED PEOPLE ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO:

1. **Building up yourselves on your most holy faith** (vs 20).
 - a. Jude started out by telling us to earnestly contend for the faith (vs 3).
 - b. After that he showed us what happens if you turn away from the faith (3-19).
 - c. Now he tells us to build ourselves up on our most holy faith.
 - i. This takes personal time, effort, study, and determination to build upon the faith that God gave you at salvation.
 1. Not the efforts and knowledge of someone else, but your own efforts.
 - d. See 2 Peter 1:1-9. The Lord didn’t just give you a trip to heaven. He gave you what you need for “**life and godliness**” and He “**called us to glory and virtue.**” (vs 3)
 - i. This involves maintaining our separation from sin and ungodliness.
 - ii. “**Giving all diligence, add to your faith...**” (vs 5). (building...on your most holy faith)

- iii. Virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity (vs 6-7). If you take steps to diligently build these things upon your most holy faith, you will become a fruitful Christian (vs 8).
- iv. If you don't build these things onto your faith, you'll forget that Jesus died to get sin out of your life (vs 9).

2. **Praying in the Holy Ghost** (Jude 20). This is not talking about speaking in tongues.

- a. See 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. Everyone who is saved has the Holy Spirit.
- b. See Romans 8:9. If you don't have the Holy Spirit, you're not saved.
- c. Jude is admonishing saved people to pray in the Spirit that is already in them since salvation.
 - i. Praying will keep you close to God and prevent anyone from getting between you and God to draw you away.
- d. See Ephesians 6:10-11, 18. We are told to pray in the Spirit...for all saints. Prayer is an important part of our stand against the wiles of the devil. It keeps us constantly at the feet of Jesus. The things we pray for others also affect our own heart and assures us of what is good and holy and right.
- e. See Romans 8:26. When we pray, the Holy Spirit knows what we need better than we do. He's praying to the Father on our behalf.

3. **Keep yourselves in the love of God** (Jude 21). We already have the love of God (vs 2).

- a. Don't let the iniquity of certain men cause you to mistreat them and become bitter towards them and hateful. That is sinful.
- b. See 1 John 3:16. Jesus taught us what it means to love the brethren. Sacrifice is involved.
 - i. Jude encourages us to stay so close to God that when someone mistreats us, we won't stop loving them and being kind to them. Keep yourselves in the love of God.
- c. See Romans 5:5. When you got saved, God gave you the Holy Ghost and the love of God. Keep yourself there.
 - i. Don't let your increased knowledge of bible truth cause you to wish evil upon those who lack or reject that truth.
 - 1. God wants you to be able to recognize evil men when you see them, so you won't be influence by them. But He also wants you to keep loving them.

4. **Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life** (Jude 21). The Lord is our example. He doesn't want to discard sinning saints. He looks for an opportunity to show mercy to them.

- a. **Example:** The father of the prodigal son (Luke 15).
 - i. He didn't go along with his son's sins, but he patiently waited for his return when he was ready to repent.
- b. See Luke 6:35-36. "**Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.**"
- c. See Luke 18:13-14. "**God be merciful to me a sinner.**" God is merciful to repentant sinners.
 - i. It isn't merciful to justify sin. God justifies the repentant sinner, not the sin.

If you treat people right when they sin, there's a good chance they'll get right.

If you withhold mercy toward the repentant sinner, there's a good chance they'll turn back to their sin.