

PRAISE BUILDS US UP

God's Word:

Jude 17-25

Key Verse:

"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, 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."

JUDE 24-25

Breaking It Down:

We read in the first verse of Jude that he was the brother of James, who was also the half brother of Jesus. Jude didn't believe in Jesus while Jesus was here on Earth, but became a follower after Jesus' resurrection. Some scholars believe Jude did not write this letter but have come to the conclusion that someone else wrote it and attached Jude's name to give it more authority. But in any case, the author of this letter wanted to warn his readers to beware of false teachers who were infiltrating the churches of their day. Jude's message regarding false teachers is that they are ungodly; they pervert the message of grace and deny the Lord Jesus Christ. They are destined for condemnation for opposing the true faith in Christ.



False teachers were teaching a twisted version of Christianity, leading people to live a depraved life as they did, which resulted in people becoming enslaved to sin once more. Jude writes in a period of time where numerous people within the church were leaving the truth. He writes an epistle to tell Christians to be willing to defend the truth that was given to them. This is the purpose for this short epistle: to encourage Christians to defend the faith.

Jude is asking believers to stand up for the faith they have been entrusted with. They aren't to follow those who taught that Jesus was not God and that everything He taught should be discarded. They weren't to follow the teaching that sin did not defile a person's spirit and one could live as one pleased because there would be no judgment at the end.

Jude brings to their attention the outcome for those who reject God's word and pursue their evil desires. He tells them of the angels who rejected God and now await eternal judgment (verse 6). Romans 1:18 tells us this same fate awaits all who reject God: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

Jude realizes that the battle against these false teachings was not an easy one. That is why he reminds them of the assurance believers have in God. He reminds them that believers must give praise to the only One who can keep them from falling into sin, and bring them into His heavenly glory without fault and great joy. "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." (verse 25)

Living It:

It's important to give praise to God in recognition of how glorious and awesome He is. Some might say, What is the point of telling the all-knowing God something He already knows,



especially about Himself? But God needs to hear your voice with your gratitude and acknowledgement towards Him. It's not that He can't survive, or becomes any less holy if we don't praise Him. But we must realize that we were designed to praise God, and only God. When something has been specifically designed for a purpose and it doesn't fulfill its purpose, it loses its value and usefulness. This is what happens to those who choose to set aside their God-given

purpose of praise and fellowship with Him, and instead seek their own purpose in life. “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” (Romans 1:21). “Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” (Romans 1:24 -25)

“And thou art holy, thou that dwellest amid the praises of Israel” (Psalm 22:3 DBY*). This is another reason why it is important to praise God in our day-to-day lives as well as when we are gathered in our congregations. Psalm 22 tells us that God dwells in the praises of His people. When we take the time to praise Him with singing or by being obedient to His word, God doesn’t sit back and chill. The psalmist said He comes and moves among you and everyone that is present. He gets involved and brings joy, strength, peace and blessing upon those that are praising Him. Wow! How awesome it is to know that God has designed us for His praise and glory. When we take the time to praise Him, He comes and fills our life and our surroundings with His presence. Praising God will build you up to be a better follower and a better all-around person, because when you praise Him, God will empower you to be more like Him. Remember to praise **only** God, because He is the **only** true God and the **only** One deserving of it.



*Darby Translation

Understanding it:

1. Who was Jude trying to warn his fellow Christians about?
2. What is the solution that Jude gives to them to handle the situation?
3. Why is it important to give praise to God?
4. What are some things you can say to God to give Him praise?

Doing It!

This week, start praising God each day for all that He does in your life. As you do, take note of the blessings you see in your life as a result of praising Him.

Share with the class next week some of the blessings you have received.

