

TO KEEP US FROM STUMBLING

Wednesday Gathering; Jude; Week of Sunday, August 15, 2021; Steve Thiel

Theme: God made a way for sinful people to be reconciled to a holy God through Christ's death on the cross. So, God saves us, but God also protects us and promises to take us home to glory. In response, we are called to contend for the faith even as we persevere in the faith!

I. Contend for the Faith – Read Jude 1-16

- A. Who wrote the letter of Jude and what do we know about him? Who is the intended audience and what do we know about them? What seems to be Jude's purpose for writing?

- B. Jude charges the believers to contend for the faith. As you think about it, what are some of the core tenants of the Christian faith? How would you like to grow in knowing those core truths? What do you think it looks like to contend for the faith in the midst of false teachers?

- C. In verses 5-16, Jude highlights the reality of false teachers within the church. What are some marks of these false teachers and what specific verses highlight these marks? How many different ways does Jude highlight the impending judgment of the false teachers?

- D. As you think about contending for the faith once for all delivered to the saints, would you say that the Bible is your final authority in life? What are some contending authorities?

II. Persevere in the Faith – Read Jude 17-25

- A. In verses 17-23, how does Jude signal that he has transitioned from looking at the lives of the false teachers to the believers in Christ?

- B. List the 4 commands that Jude makes in verses 17-23? What does it mean to “keep yourself in the love of God”? What does it look like to “hate even the garment stained by the flesh”? Which command is the greatest challenge to you personally?

- C. How would you interpret verses 24-25? In verse 24, what is “stumbling” in reference to? Why is it essential for God to preserve us and to present us blameless before His throne?

III. To Keep Us From Stumbling – Application

- A. How does God keeping the people of God for Jesus an encouragement to you this week? In what ways is God's promise to present believers blameless an overwhelming thought? How do these guarantees strengthen your heart during difficulty and persecution?

- B. God is worthy of our worship. This is clearly demonstrated in verse 25. What do you think it looks like to glory in your Savior on a daily basis with your words, actions, and attitudes?