

WHAT A CHRISTIAN MUST NOT LOSE

Jude 20-25

Introduction:

Jude is a powerful little book with only one chapter nestled right before Revelation. The Apostle Jude was the brother of James and half-brother of Jesus who was anointed by the Holy Spirit to write this small book. Jude testifies in v. 3 that he did not write what he intended but was of necessity compelled to write to Christians to earnestly contend and stand for the unchangeable faith and doctrines that were delivered to the saints.

There are some unchangeable, immoveable, and non-negotiable foundation of being a Christian that we must not lose. However, there are some things we can afford to lose out of the church regardless of its size. We can afford to lose the following: 1) the formal, the fussers, and fighters; 2) the doubtful, the dull, and the dead; and 3) the cold, the complacent, the complainers and the critical. We usually start our meetings with prayer. Some use the terminology of leading in a “word of prayer.” Wouldn’t it be amazing if we said to the critical, would you lead us in a “word of criticism” before we get started? We can afford to lose that, but the book of Jude warns us that there are some things a Christian must not lose.

I. (v. 20) OUR CONVICTIONS

1. Convictions about the Bible.
 - A. Matthew 24:35 – ***Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.***
 - B. Hebrews 4:12 – ***For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***
2. Convictions about the Blood of Jesus.
 - A. Redemption through the blood (used over 300 times).
 - B. Hebrews 9:22 – ***And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.***

3. Convictions from a Bold faith.
 - A. We must be building ourselves up in a most holy faith.
 - B. Hebrews 11:6 – ***But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.***
4. A Convicting Burden for Prayer.
 - A. Praying is to be done in the Holy Spirit.
 - B. Romans 8:26-27 – ***Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***

{We must not lose our Convictions, but also: }

II. (v. 21) OUR CHARACTER

1. Our Character is constantly under attack [Warfare].
 - A. We must keep ourselves constantly in the love of God.
 - B. We receive His mercy when we obey Him.
2. God’s reputation is in the hands of Christians.
 - A. We must let our light shine (Matthew 5:16).
 - B. We must not quench the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).
 - C. We must not put a stumbling block in someone’s way.
 - 1) Romans 14:13, 21 – ***Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way. . . . It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby your brother stumbles, or is offended, or is made weak.***
 - 2) Why would I need to drink wine and wound my testimony and dull my senses when I have drunk from the fountain of living waters (John 7:37-38)?

- 3) I need nothing on the rocks, because my feet are upon
“THE ROCK.”
 - a. Psalm 62:2 – ***He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.***
 - b. Psalm 89:26 – ***He shall cry unto me, You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.***
 - c. I Corinthians 8:12 – ***But when you sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.***

III. (vv. 22-23) **OUR COMPASSION**

1. (v. 22) Having compassion makes a difference.
 - A. Psalm 126:5-6 tells us how to sow the seeds of the Gospel.
 - B. We’ve lost our tears and brokenness.
 - C. Most have lost their Christian joy.
2. (v. 23) Having a holy fear makes a difference.
 - A. Holy fear leads us to snatch the falling from the fire.
 - B. Holy fear leads us to hate garments that are spotted by the sins of the flesh.

IV. (vv. 24-25) **OUR COMMITMENT AND GOD’S COMMITMENT TO US**

1. Admit our inadequacy.
 - A. I Peter 1:5 – we’re kept by the power of God.
 - B. John 10:28 – we’re kept in the palm of God’s hand.
2. Accept Christ’s sufficiency.
 - A. v. 24a – Jesus can keep me from falling.
 - B. v. 24b – Jesus can finally present me faultless.
 - C. v. 24c – Jesus will present me with His divine favor.
3. (v. 25) Adore and worship Christ’s supremacy.

Conclusion:

What about your Convictions?

What about your Character?

What about your Compassion?

What about your Commitment?