

**Apostasy in the Pulpit  
and  
Apathy in the Pews  
A Study in the Book of Jude**



**Dr. Guy Lee**

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Guy Lee, D.D.

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## FOREWORD

The book of Jude is small, but it is packed full of warnings and insight about the apostasy of the last days.

Guy has written his little book, *Apostasy in the Pulpit and Apathy in the Pews*, to explain and share the urgency that Jude did so long ago. He warns us to be aware, to be informed, and to be involved. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. We cannot be neutral in these last days.

Thank you Guy for your time, study, help, and example of what to do in this world in which we live. You are truly an authentic example of how we are to fight for the faith.

Dr. Tom Etterlee  
March 2020

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Chapter 1</b> .....	<b>6</b>
I. Descendants – vs. 1.....	6
<b>Chapter 2</b> .....	<b>11</b>
II. Desire – vs. 2.....	11
<b>Chapter 3</b> .....	<b>13</b>
III. Diligence – vs. 3.....	13
<b>Chapter 4</b> .....	<b>17</b>
IV. Dangerous Men – vs. 4.....	17
<b>Chapter 5</b> .....	<b>26</b>
V. Destroyed – vs. 5, 6, 7.....	26
<b>Chapter 6</b> .....	<b>52</b>
VI. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah - vs. 7.....	52
<b>Chapter 7</b> .....	<b>64</b>
VII. Filthy Dreamers – vs. 8.....	64
<b>Chapter 8</b> .....	<b>66</b>
VIII. The Dispute over Moses' Body – vs. 9 .....	66
<b>Chapter 9</b> .....	<b>69</b>
IX. Debasing Behavior – vs. 10 .....	69
<b>Chapter 10</b> .....	<b>70</b>
X. Descriptive Pictures – vs. 11 .....	70
<b>Chapter 11</b> .....	<b>79</b>
XI. Degrading Conduct – vs. 12-13.....	79
<b>Chapter 12</b> .....	<b>83</b>
XII. Retribution – vs. 14-15.....	83
<b>Chapter 13</b> .....	<b>89</b>
XIII. Recognizing False Teachers and Preachers – vs. 16 .....	89
<b>Chapter 14</b> .....	<b>93</b>
XIV. Recognition – vs. 17-19 .....	93
<b>Chapter 15</b> .....	<b>98</b>
XV. Exhortation – vs. 20-23.....	98
<b>Chapter 16</b> .....	<b>103</b>
XVI. Adoration – vs. 24-25.....	103
<b>BIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>109</b>

## INTRODUCTION

I am grateful to the Lord for His help in the completion of this book on the book of Jude. It is my earnest hope that it will be a help to the Lord's people in a further appreciation for the Word of God.

I am aware that the subjects of fallen angels mentioned in Jude verses 6 and 7, and II Peter 2:4 are quite controversial and that my treatment of them may not endear me to many beloved brethren.

Through much prayer and study, I have tried hard to speak the truth in love in this book and can only hope that the reader may be able to receive it.

Many years ago, Augustine of Hippo, better known as Saint Augustine, made a statement about what attitude we should take when we differ in the body of Christ. Quote from Augustine of Hippo:

*"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."*

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# Chapter 1

The epistle of Jude deals primarily with apostasy. It presents Old Testament examples of those who corrupted the faith, and it predicts God's judgment at the appearing of our Lord's return to the earth. Apostasy is here shown to be a willful return to ungodliness.

## I. *Descendants* – vs. 1

Jude's mother, brothers, and sisters are recorded in Matthew 13:55-56, and Mark 6:3 that the writer Jude is a half-brother of Jesus.

- **Matthew 13:55** Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?
- **Matthew 13:56** And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this *man* all these things?
- **Mark 6:3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon?

This is the best explanation of the two phrases in his introduction.

First, he calls himself a servant of Jesus Christ. Jude simply calls himself a "servant" meaning a bond slave.

The second phrase identifies Jude as the brother of James. There is only one person in the New Testament Church whom everyone would know as just "James" and that was the brother of Jesus.

- **Galatians 1:19** But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

But another question may occur to us. If Jude is the half-brother of Jesus, why doesn't he say so straight out? The answer is probably twofold.

First, Jude recognizes that the physical ties of blood and genetics are of no eternal value. The spiritual tie with Jesus is what saves us.

Second, humility is also involved. Humility forbids Jude from mentioning himself as a physical half-brother of Jesus.

Joseph was Jude's father, but it was by the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb. Jesus is the eternal Son of God. Knowing that Jesus is Lord and God, Jude does not want to give any impression of being equal with Jesus. Announcing himself as being from the same family as Jesus could be misunderstood in such a way and Jude wishes to avoid that. So, he just calls himself a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. Jude's name means praise.

### **A. Description – vs. 1**

Jude gives us three remarkable descriptions of what it means to be a Christian.

#### **1. Sanctification**

“To them that are sanctified by God the Father”  
The word sanctify means to set apart for God. Christians are vessels of honor for the Master's use.

- **II Timothy 2:2** If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

We are to do all for God's glory whether it is eating, drinking, or working.

- **I Corinthians 10:31** Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

## **2. Preserved in Jesus Christ**

What an assuring word in the midst of a great apostasy as one considers the apostasy of angels and men! The word preserved means kept, provides comfort and assurance. Believers are kept by the power of God.

- **I Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In the midst of all the difficulties and dangers that we face today, the Christian has a place of security in Christ. We are preserved by the same One that has saved us. We are kept by Christ and in Christ.

Wherefore, he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him (Jesus) seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

- **Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

The Greek word “uttermost” means all and complete. It involves the arrival at the final destination with all aspects of the believer completed spiritually.

### 3. Called

God's people are said to be called of Jesus Christ.

- **Romans 1:6** Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

They are saints by calling.

- **I Corinthians 1:2** Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

God's children are a called people because all they have and enjoy is from The Lord himself. They are called from self to Christ and from sin to holiness.

- a. God by His Spirit has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- **I Peter 2:9** God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
- b. It is a heavenly calling
- **Hebrews 3:1** Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

c. It is a holy calling

- **II Timothy 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

d. It is a high calling

- **Philippians 3:14** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

## Chapter 2

### **II. Desire – vs. 2**

Jude desires a threefold blessing for his readers.

#### **1. Mercy**

Mercy is a perfection of God and is revealed in a special manner through Jesus Christ to all believers. We need redeeming mercy, eternal mercy, daily mercies, and future mercy.

#### **2. Peace**

There is a two-fold peace.

a. Peace with God through Jesus Christ

- **Romans 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

This points to the condition of well-being and inner peace that comes to those that have been reconciled to God.

a. Peace of God

- **Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Future, in outworking in our Christian lives, we experience that peace through faith in Jesus Christ. There may be troubles in our personal lives, or the Church itself may be

attacked physically and violently, but Jesus said “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”.

- **Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Therefore, there is the peace of God which passes all understanding, which we can know as we commit our lives to Him and trust His promises.

- **Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

### **3. Love**

Love is understood as that of God toward men as well as that of men toward God and toward one another. It is impossible to have one without the other.

- **I John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
- **I John 1:8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

The word Jude uses for love is the Greek word agape. It is a term which applies to God. It is a love which is unconditional and even embraces the unlovely and the undeserving.

## Chapter 3

### **III. Diligence – vs. 3**

#### **1. Common Salvation**

“Beloved” is a glorious title. The Greek word “agape” speaks of Divine love, never changing. It is the love of John 3:16. God demonstrated that love at Calvary when He sent His Son to die as our substitute.

- **Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Diligence means “to desire earnestly”. Jude was diligently preparing to write about our common salvation. The salvation we have in Christ is not in the sense that it is cheap, or of little use. It is an expression which means “to become a sharer, a partner”. The idea is of “a common salvation” possessed in common with others. All who have been saved, have been saved by grace through faith in Christ. Thus, it is common to every believer.

#### **2. Contend for the Faith**

Jude had originally intended to write a letter containing a positive presentation of the doctrines of the Christian faith. The Holy Spirit laid upon his heart the necessity of writing in defense of the Faith.

Contend means to struggle for, fervently, strive. It speaks of a vigorous, intense, determined struggle to defeat the opposition.

We must contend for the original faith of the Gospel which is being attacked today by false teachers that we might not endanger the truth. Uncontrolled error will affect both the present and the next generation. We must take a stand for the truth no matter what the cost.

### **3. Consummation**

Once, means once and for all. Jude declared that this was once, final, and without change. Every effort has been made throughout the centuries to destroy God's Word by banning, burning, or bending it. Today men seek to destroy The Scriptures under the guise of scholarship. In reality, they are adding to and taking away from God's eternal Word and upon those who do this, God has pronounced His eternal judgment.

- **Revelation 22:18** For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
- **Revelation 22:19** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

### **4. Custodians of the Faith**

#### **a. The Saints**

The faithful men to whom the trust is committed, they are the salt of the earth.

- **Matthew 5:13** Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

They must season the world with The Word of God, therefore, they must labor above all others in defense of the truth. Otherwise they are compared to dumb dogs that bark not when the thief comes to steal away the treasure.

- **Isaiah 56:10** His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.
- **Isaiah 56:11** Yea, *they are* greedy dogs *which* can never have enough, and they *are* shepherds *that* cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

The watchman and the shepherds in Israel had given way to selfishness and debauchery. They had abandoned their responsibilities toward God's people and instead of giving warning, they were blind to the impending danger. They were dumb dogs unable to bark. Instead of watching, they were dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber.

- **John 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

The words he uses are fitting pointers to the cost involved. It will be a hard difficult agonizing experience. The price is high. The test will be severe. In contending for the

faith, we must guard against being contentious! We must be careful not to bring reproach to the cause of Christ, or dishonor to the Church of God. We are to speak the truth in love.

- **Ephesians 4:15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even Christ*:

The great need of the Church is to wake up, stand up, pray up, speak up, and be ready to go up when Jesus comes for the Church.

## Chapter 4

### IV. *Dangerous Men – vs. 4*

#### 1. Their Entrance

##### a. Secret

Certain men crept in unawares. The most dangerous and subtle enemy is the one inside the Church.

- **II Peter 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- **I Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
- **I Timothy 4:2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;
- **I Timothy 4:3** Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Satan sows his tares among the wheat.

- **Matthew 13:24** Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened

unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

- **Matthew 13:25** But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.
- **Matthew 13:26** But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.
- **Matthew 13:27** So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?
- **Matthew 13:28** He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?
- **Matthew 13:29** But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.
- **Matthew 13:30** Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

He does this in the night while men slept in order to corrupt the Church. They creep in unnoticed and under false pretense. Ravening wolves in sheep's clothing

- **Matthew 7:15** Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

False apostles, deceitful workers, transforming

themselves into the apostles of Christ.

- **II Corinthians 11:13** For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
- **II Corinthians 11:14** And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
- **II Corinthians 11:15** Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Jude says apostasy was written and condemned long ago who were before of old ordained to this condemnation. Ordained means prepared. Condemnation means judgment. “Of old” – where was it written about? Jude has the scripture in mind. Later in his letter in verse 11, he is going to cite three examples of false teachers of previous generations who troubled God’s people.

## 2. Their Conniving

### a. Sly

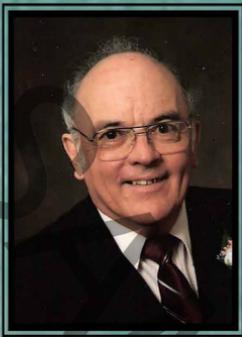
Conniving means to pretend not to see something wrong or evil; to help someone secretly in wrong doing; able to fool or trick others; cunning, crafty, the sly fox. This is practiced in both religion and politics.

Ungodly men turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. Lasciviousness denotes excess, absence of restraint, lewd or lustful, indecency. It describes a person so lost to dishonor, indecency, and shame he

does not care who sees his sin and immorality. This is sex perversion of the most ungodly kind without fear and reverence before God. As they fall away from the knowledge of God's truth, Satan easily blinds their minds to the moral and spiritual consequences of sin. They feel they can behave any way the like and still be covered by forgiveness of God. They have twisted the grace of God into a justification for sinning. They deny The Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

When a nation passes laws to protect the rights of people who are addicted to sodomy and same sex marriage to practice their perversion, society becomes partners to their excessive wickedness and is ripe for the judgment of God. What God thinks about the "alternate life-style" is abundantly clear.

- **Genesis 19:1** And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;
- **Genesis 19:2** And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.
- **Genesis 19:3** And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.
- **Genesis 19:4** But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:



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