

Jude 1-2 — Meet Jude, Servant of Jesus

August 22, 2021

Good morning! Welcome to CrossWinds. This morning, we begin a new teaching series in the book of Jude. Pastor Jordan and I originally planned to begin a series in 1 Samuel today. With the Clay County Fair in Spencer, we felt it would be best to wait until after the fair to launch that series. So instead of 1 Samuel, we decided to have a short study in the book of Jude until after the fair. If you have read the book of Jude, you know it is a super short book. It has only 24 verses. It is so small, it doesn't even have a chapter. Even though Jude is short, it is extremely relevant.

It is relevant because the book of Jude is about truth. It is about the importance of knowing the truth. It is about the importance of speaking the truth and standing up for the truth when people around you aren't telling the truth. It is no secret that today truth is in short supply in our society. Most of the major news outlets no longer tell us the truth. They shape their stories to fit a preconceived political agenda. They only tell us what they want us to know. In addition to twisting truth, news organization are more about getting clicks on their headlines than they are with telling the truth in their headlines.

Think about some of these things that happened this past year. Remember Hunter Biden's laptop? Remember how the story about Hunter Biden's laptop was buried on Twitter? We were told the story was a lie. It was a political smear campaign. Now we know it was the truth, truth that was hidden from us. Remember when people were talking about COVID coming from a lab in

China instead of an animal market? We were told that was a lie. Now it is considered established fact that the virus was engineered in a Chinese lab.

While we live in a world dedicated to twisting the truth, at CrossWinds, we are a church dedicated to speaking the truth. We are dedicated to the most important truth in the world, which is the Word of God. John 17:17 says God's Word is the truth. Jesus said about himself in John 14:6 that "I am the way, the truth, and the life." This is why we preach the Bible and talk about Jesus. Both of them are the truth we need to hear.

The world around us is committed to lies and deception. That makes sense because the Bible says Satan is the father of lies. At CrossWinds, we are committed to the truth, because Jesus is the truth.

This is what we should expect. Paul said in 1 Timothy 3:15 that the church is to be the pillar and foundation of the truth in this world. You want the truth, you should be able to find it at church. Don't expect to find it in the world around us.

It is a sad day when you go to church and don't hear the truth.

Since the church speaks the truth, we should expect to find the church under attack. Satan is going to do everything he can to obliterate a church that is speaking the truth. Satan will do everything he can to twist and distort the truth that is spoken in that church.

In this war that the devil is waging against the truth of God's Word and the truth of Jesus, Satan's most effective weapon is those who are able to attack the church from inside the church. These are people who claim to be Christians but in reality never knew the truth in the first place. They are people who now fight

against the truth from the inside the church, not from outside. In war, we call these people spies or defectors. In church, we call them apostates. The reason they are so effective at undermining the church is because, while they claim to be part of the church, in reality they are working for Satan, not Jesus. Let me give you an example.

Friday, I dropped off Deanna at college. It was hard dropping my last child at college. Cindy and I are officially empty nesters. When Deanna was applying to colleges, I interviewed the Bible professors. What I learned with my two earlier children is just because you send your child to a Christian college, that does not mean he or she will have Christian professors. You can have professors at a Christian college who don't believe the Bible teaching your child about the Bible. That is a disaster.

While this is not a school where Deanna applied, it illustrates my point. At the University of North Carolina, they have Bible professor named Bart Ehrman. He graduated from Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton College. He specialized in Greek. He appeared to be a conservative, Bible-believing Christian. After graduation, he became a liberal Christian. After tenure fifteen years later, he became an atheist. He currently serves in the biblical studies department at the University of North Carolina. There he can attack and undermine the faith of young adults from inside biblical circles. Can you imagine what college students think about the Bible after coming out of his classes?

1. Jude is about preserving the truth when false Christians inside the church try to destroy the truth.

The book of Jude is a short book that tells the church how to contend for the truth when you have people like Bart Ehrman in your midst, people who are fighting against the truth of Jesus from inside the church. Look what Jude says.

For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God... Jude 4 (ESV)

Ungodly people have crept into the church and are perverting God's grace. They are fighting against the truth from inside the church.

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3 (ESV)

Why did Jude change from writing about our salvation to writing about the importance of contending for the truth? Ungodly people had crept into the church and were leading people astray.

This is why Jordan and I titled this series, "Preserve the truth." The truth about Jesus that was delivered to us must be preserved. We must hold fast to the truth that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone. We cannot let anyone come into the church who plans to distort that truth, because if they do, there is no other way to be saved.

2. Jude comes before Revelation for a reason.

In the Bible, Jesus taught the truth. Paul taught the truth. James and Peter taught the truth. Jude jumps in before Revelation and says, "Don't expect it to be easy to stand for the truth. Until Jesus returns, there will be many enemies of the truth fighting against you."

While the book of Acts describes the teaching of the apostles, Jude is the only book in the New Testament completely dedicated to describing the teaching of the apostates.

The book of Revelation describes how Jesus will bring this world to an end. Jude describes the vicious battle for the truth that will continue all the way until the end.

Second Peter, which comes a few books before Jude, warns us that false teachers will be coming. They will try to lead people astray from inside the church.

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 Peter 2:1 (ESV)

Jude says these false teaching inside the church are not just coming, they are here.

The false teachers that were inside the church in Jude's day are still inside the church in our day. Today we have liberal theologians inside the church. They don't believe the Bible. They don't believe Jesus was a real historical person. They dress in clerical collars so they look religious. They teach in seminaries to corrupt young minds. They write books to lead people astray.

One example of this is a Christian college professor I ran across that doesn't believe the first half of the book of Genesis is historically true. He claims there was no Noah. There was no tower of Babel. He claims were no literal days in the creation account. It is all myth. He claims they are all myth. The problem is Adam is referred to as a historical person in the New Testament. Noah is referred

to as a historical person in the New Testament. If the New Testament considers them factual people, what right does this professor have to call them fictional people?

Jude would call that college professor an apostate. He is attacking the church from inside the church. He is teaching our children they cannot trust the Bible instead of showing them reasons why they can trust the Bible. When we have people such as that in Christian colleges, we must fight to preserve the truth. We cannot simply let them go on destroying the truth.

Another example is when Wheaton College fired a professor in its political science department because she was teaching her students that Muslims and Christians worship the same God. They do not. We have a professor at a Christian college deceiving our children and not telling them the truth. She was an apostate. She was fighting against the truth from inside the church.

Jude tell us the reason we must fight to preserve the truth is because nobody can be saved apart from the truth. A distorted gospel doesn't save anybody from sin. Muslims and Christians do not worship the same God.

3. Jude was written just before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Jude was probably written shortly after 2 Peter. Most of 2 Peter is devoted to talking about people who have become apostates. Jude is a sequel to 2 Peter. 2 Peter says to get ready because the false teachers who will attack the church from the inside are coming. Jude says they are here.

2 Peter was written around the year 68 A.D. just before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. That means Jude was written around 69 A.D., right before the destruction of Jerusalem.

One of Jude's big messages is the church is not to accept everybody who claims to be a Christian teacher or who has a book in a Christian bookstore or a radio or television program. We must not just accept popular Christian teachers. We must be more discerning. We have to see if that teacher knows the truth or if that teacher is trying to twist the truth and attack the church from the inside.

4. Jude teaches us how to recognize false teachers.

The book of Jude doesn't tell us to recognize false teachers. Interestingly, Jude didn't tell us how to recognize false teachers by what they teach. He told us to recognize false teachers by how they live. When I began studying this book, I kept wondering why Jude did not spend time telling us the particulars of what was wrong with some of the false teachers in his day. Then I realized why Jude is silent on the particulars of the false teaching he faced. How many ways are there to get something wrong? There are hundreds or thousands! If Jude was to identify all the particulars of how false teachers in his day were twisting the truth about Jesus, he would have had a list of 500 ways. He would have had a super long book people wouldn't read. For Jude to keep his book short, instead of telling us the specific ways false teachers were getting Jesus wrong, he told us something all false teachers have in common --- they live corrupt lifestyles. All false teachers can be recognized by their messed up lives on the outside that come from corrupted beliefs about Jesus on the inside. The way we live is always a reflection of what we believe. If we believe the truth, we will live the truth. If we don't believe the truth, we won't live the truth.

Think of all the false teachers you know on television and radio. Don't they have messed up lives? That comes from messed up beliefs about Jesus.

Let me show you how Jude taught this.

They turn the grace of God into sensuality. (Jude 4)

In Jude 4, Jude said you can recognize false teachers because they will turn the grace of God into sensuality. All false teachers will say, God always forgives, so live any way you want. You can look at Internet porn, God always forgives. You don't need to be faithful to your spouse. God always forgives. Get involved premaritally and live together. God always forgives. False teachers will say God's grace is a green light for sin.

They disrespect authority and want no authority but themselves. (Jude 8)

Jude said we can recognize false teachers by their lack of respect for those in authority. They want to be accountable to no one but themselves.

This past week, I was listening to a podcast about the inside story behind a mega-church pastor that went off the rails. As he was going off the rails, he changed the church bylaws to eliminate the authority of his elder board over him. That way, he didn't need to listen to anyone but himself. Jude said, "That is the way you recognize a false teacher."

So instead of getting caught up in the specific details of what false teachers believe, Jude said to look at the way spiritual leaders live and you will know right away if they have veered away from the truth.

Let's begin the book. This morning, we will only look at the first two verses.

5. Who is Jude?

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James... Jude 1 (ESV)

The author of this book was a man named Jude. In Hebrew, his name was Judah. In Greek, his name was Judas. I find it interesting that a book written

entirely about apostasy in the church was written by a man who had the same name as Judas, the disciple of Jesus who betrayed him, the all-time greatest apostate.

Jude is a servant of Jesus Christ.

Jude called himself a servant of Jesus Christ. This may not sound important, but this is very important. Jude called himself a bondservant of Jesus. This is a particular kind of slavery talked described in the Old Testament. If a slave loved his master so much that he never wanted to be set free, he could become a bondservant to his master and joyfully serve his master for life. To do that, the slave would have his ear pierced. That way everyone knew this slave loved his master and that he joyfully and willfully gave his entire life to serving his master out of gratitude and love.

But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever. Exodus 21:5–6 (ESV)

This is the way Jude described his relationship with Jesus. He joyfully and willingly gave his life to serving Jesus. That is not because he was forced to but because he wanted to. Jude loved Jesus.

This kind of relationship to Jesus is not exclusive to Jude. It should be the type of relationship all of us have with Jesus. Being a bondservant of Jesus is what it means to be a Christian. We love Jesus. Jesus is a good master. He died for us. He saved us. We joyfully give the rest of our lives to serve Jesus because we love him. A Christian is a slave with a pierced ear. We publicly want everyone

to know our lives are being lived for Jesus and that we love Jesus. He is a good master.

Jude is the brother of James.

Jude is also the brother of James. Who is James? James is Jesus' half brother. The Catholic Church says Mary was a perpetual virgin. The problem with that is the Bible tells us Mary and Joseph had children after Mary gave birth to Jesus. Mary could not have been a perpetual virgin.

[Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? Matthew 13:55 \(ESV\)](#)

So here we see James and Judas listed as half-brothers of Jesus. James, the half-brother of Jesus, was famous in the early church because he was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. Everybody knew about James. This is why all Jude needed to do was give James' first name. Everyone knew him. Having James as your brother was like having your brother as a star NFL quarterback. All you need to do is say "Brady" and everyone knows who you are talking about. This was the name recognition that James had in the early church.

What is also interesting is Jesus' half-brothers did not originally believe in him. John 7:5 tells us not even Jesus' brothers believed that Jesus was the Christ. You can guess what changed their minds. All that changed after the resurrection. When they saw Jesus, their half-brother, killed, then they saw Jesus risen from the dead, their minds changed quickly. 1 Corinthians 15 tells us Jesus personally appeared to his half-brother James after Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' half-brothers had no choice but to believe that Jesus is the very son of God and Jesus is alive.

What I thought was interesting is Jude didn't refer to himself as the half-brother of Jesus, although he could have used that calling card. Jude was so humble. He referred to himself as a bondservant of Jesus, a willing slave of Jesus. Jude dedicated his life to serving Jesus. Very clearly Jude was a humble man. As we will see, one of the hallmarks of false teachers is they are prideful men. Jude was the opposite.

What do Christians need to remember in the battle to preserve the truth?

After Jude identified himself, he told Christians what they need to remember in the battle to preserve the truth.

...To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ...
Jude 1 (ESV)

It is easy for these words to roll right off the tongue and miss the significance of what Jude wrote. Jude told us the church is under attack. It is under the most sinister form of attack, from false teachers leading people astray from the inside.

I am sure people were wondering why God was not protecting the church from these type of attacks. If God is really in control, why does it look like things are out of control? If God can't stop attacks against his church from inside, can God protect me? If God can't protect his church, if I stand up for the truth, can God protect me? To the fearful church members that are wondering if God is really in control, Jude said to remember they are called, love, and kept in the battle. This means we may be injured in the battle for the truth but we will not be a spiritual casualty. Christians are spiritually bulletproof because we are called, loved, and kept by God. Let's unpack this triad.

We were called by God.

Jude said we must remember we are called. Every time the Greek word *called* is used in the apostle Paul's writings or in the book of Revelation, it means chosen. As Christians, we are called by God. That means we are chosen by God.

In the Bible, the calling of God is spoken of in two different ways. There is a general call of God and a specific call of God.

The general call of God is the offer of salvation. It is extended to everyone.

The general call of God is the offer of salvation that is extended to everyone. When we share the good news of Jesus and urge people to repent of their sin and trust in Jesus to forgive their sin, that call is offered to everyone who hears. That is what is termed the general call.

“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” Isaiah 45:22 (ESV)

When this general call of God is given, there are always one of two responses from people. Second Corinthians 2:16 tells us that for some people God's invitation is a fragrance of death. They hear about their sin and Jesus loving them to save them from their sin and it is totally repulsive. Emotionally, it smells like a dead body. The preaching of the gospel and Jesus' offer of forgiveness and new life is repulsive to them. We should expect that response from some people.

Paul said the second category of people are those who hear the good news of God and for them it is a fragrance of life. It is like a sweet-smelling perfume. They are drawn to the good news of what God has done for them

through Jesus. They repent of their sin and trust Jesus to forgive their sin. They are born again. That is the other type of response people have to the good news of Jesus.

People respond to the general call of God in one of these two ways.

The efficacious call of God is only for those chosen by God.

When Jude identifies his audience as those who are called by God, he is not talking about God's general call that is extended to all people. He is talking about a different way the word *called* is used in the Bible. He is describing what theologians call God's efficacious call. This kind of call is not a general invitation extended to all people. It is a supernatural choice God makes to work inside of the heart of some people to supernaturally bringing them repentance of sin, enabling them to understand what Jesus has done for them as God draws them to himself. They are called by God. This is a call people cannot resist. It is God choosing people in eternity past, before they have even heard the good news of what Jesus has done for them. God decides to draw these people to himself. They are called by God.

All those who respond to the general call of God with repentance and faith are those who in eternity past were efficaciously called by God, that is chosen by God. Nobody can come to Jesus unless God supernaturally works in his or her heart to soften his or her heart and draw that person to Jesus.

Sometimes we hear people talk about this efficacious calling as the doctrine of election. We can read about it in 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

God chose you to bring you to himself. He called you.

Romans 8 tells us why God called some people to himself. It says the purpose of God calling some people to himself is so they would be conformed to the image of God's son. It was God's plan in eternity past to call some people to Jesus and to transform them to be made like Jesus. Theologians sometimes call this efficacious call of God the irresistible call.

Some of you will ask why God has called some people to himself and why he hasn't called other people to himself. I don't know why God calls some people and he doesn't call others. That is an answer only God can provide. What I do know is the calling of God is not based on anything we did or would do in this life.

We see an example of this call in Romans 9. There Paul used the example of Jacob and Esau in the Old Testament. Before Jacob and Esau were born or had done anything, God said he loved Jacob and God hated Esau. Jacob was called by God and Esau wasn't. This calling had nothing to do with what either of them did in life. God's calling on the life of Jacob and not Esau happened before they were born in eternity past. The only reason Jacob was called by God and Esau wasn't was God's purposes. As I said, God doesn't give us an answer on that one. We just know Jacob was no more deserving of God's grace than Esau.

This is the foundation of why we as Christians are secure when we enter into this battle to preserve the truth about Jesus in the church. Even though we are battling against demonic powers and human beings who will try to destroy us,

we must remember that no matter what happens to us, our relationship with God is secure. Ultimately, we are Christians and we are saved not because of how tight we are holding onto God but because God chose us in eternity past and he is holding onto us. God chose to make us like Jesus. The evidence of God choosing us is he drew us to himself so we could understand the gospel.

According to Ephesians 1, God's plan is to make us the most blessed beings in the universe for all of eternity. God is the one who is doing all of this for us. We are not doing it for ourselves. God is the one who chose us in eternity past to be with his son. God is the one who justified us through Jesus at the cross and empty tomb. God is the one who is sanctifying us right now, making us holy, and changing our lives. God is the one who when we die will bring us to glory in heaven. We cannot bring ourselves to heaven! Only God can do that! Since our salvation is all from God and based on the power of God, the good news is that in the battle to preserve the truth, we will not be a casualty who is lost along the way. God will be faithful to complete process of salvation that he began in our lives.

Jesus said it this way:

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. John 6:37 (ESV)

Some of you will say, "How can God hold me responsible to come to him yet I ultimately cannot come to God unless he chose me in eternity past? How do I resolve this? As I said before, the answer is, you can't. How does our human responsibility fit with God's sovereignty? Nobody knows. What the Bible does say is this:

You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? Romans 9:19–21 (ESV)

We are just pots made by God. We have no right to tell God what he must do with us? If you think there is a great gap of understanding between a pot and the potter, there is an even greater gap of understanding between us and God. Why God has chosen to call some of us to himself and not others, I do not know.

What I do know is I can celebrate that in the battle to preserve the truth, I will not be a spiritual casualty. I will not lose my salvation along the way. God who chose me will sustain me and bring me safely home to heaven, no matter what I face in the war for truth. When you know you can't be killed, it gives you a lot more courage for the battle.

We are loved by God the Father.

We rest in the fact that we are not just called by God --- that is chosen by God in eternity past to be saved --- but we are also loved by God the Father. This is amazing. God's call on our lives is not an indifferent call. It is as if we won a lottery in heaven and nobody cares. For reasons unknown to us, even though we don't deserve God the Father's love for us, he determined to not just indifferently save us but to passionately love us. While we were still God's enemies and filled with sin --- therefore fully deserving of the lake of fire --- we were loved.

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (ESV)

In the moment in eternity past when God called us and chose to save us, we were also loved in the heart of God the Father when our election occurred.

God the Father's love for us is more than we can comprehend. He loves us so much he sent Jesus, his only begotten son to die for us on the cross. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity, the one who created the entire universe. God the Father loves us so much that for all of eternity we will inherit the universe and reign over the new creation with Jesus. We reign over the universe with the one who created the universe and the one who died to break the power of sin and re-create the universe.

...and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ... Romans 8:17 (ESV)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3:1 (ESV)

This is incredible love. Do you understand what we just read? We are children of God. We are heirs of the entire universe with Jesus. This is incomprehensible.

This is the kind of love God has for us!

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. John 17:22–23 (ESV)

Circle the phrase “loved them even as you loved me.” God the Father loves us as much as he loves Jesus, his own son! This is staggering. It is one thing for God the Father to perfectly love the second person of the Trinity. It is something else entirely for God to love us --- filthy sinners deserving the lake of fire. Think of this. God the Father loves us with the very same love he has for his own son! That is what the text says:

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. John 17:24 (ESV)

Jesus' prayer for us is that we would be with him in eternity and that we would know the kind of love and the depth of love that God the Father has for his own son. This is the kind of love God has for us.

If God chose us in eternity past before we could choose him and loves us with a love that is out of this world, how secure do you think we are in this battle to preserve the truth? Do you think God would let anything happen to us that would take us out of his hands? Absolutely not!

As we fight to preserve the truth of the gospel in this world, it will not be like what happened in Afghanistan where the Americans abandoned 5,000-10,000 of their own citizens to survive against the Taliban. God loves us. He would never, never, never abandon us in the battle.

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38–39 (ESV)

We are kept by Jesus.

If you look in the footnotes of your Bible, you will see the Greek can mean either we are kept *by* Jesus or we are kept *for* Jesus.

I think the slightly better translation is the one used in the footnotes, which is we are kept *by* Jesus. The point is that no matter what happens to us in the battle for the truth, Jesus will guard us. He will protect us.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. John 10:27–28 (ESV)

Once we are in Jesus' hand, nobody can take us. We are kept by Jesus and protected by Jesus. Jesus has our backs.

Understand that other passages of Scripture describe us as a love gift from God the Father to God the Son. We are an expression of God the Father's love for his own son given to the son. You don't think that Jesus, who created everything in the universe, is going to lose one of us when we were given as a token of God the Father's love, do you?

On my finger is a wedding ring. It was given to me by Cindy on our wedding day. It is an expression of her love to me and her exclusive commitment to me. I treasure the ring. I value the ring. I will not lose the ring. It stays on my finger. All of us do everything we can to keep our wedding rings, our love gifts from our spouses, in a secure place. We don't want anything to happen to them.

We are like a wedding ring on the finger of Jesus given to him from God the Father. Jesus will let nothing snatch us out of his hand and off his finger. No matter what happens to us in life, Jesus will protect us, keep us and bring us safely home to heaven.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3–5 (ESV)

Peter said we are being guarded by God's power for a salvation that will be ours in the last time. Jesus guards us in the battle for the truth. He keeps us in the battle for the truth.

As Christians, we are going to be in a battle to preserve the truth. We should expect opposition of the worst kind, including from apostates inside the church not just from enemies outside the church. We are not fighting alone. Jesus will guard us, help us, and protect us as we defend the truth of the gospel.

Our salvation is never in jeopardy. We were called by God, chosen by God to be saved in eternity past. We are loved by God. We are loved by God the Father as much as he loves his own son. We are also kept by Jesus until our full salvation is revealed in eternity. We are like a wedding ring on Jesus' finger. Nothing can take us out of Jesus' hand.

Conclusion

Jude is a book that is about the importance of standing for the truth of Jesus in a world that is opposed to the truth. Jude is about standing for the truth of Jesus when the truth is being attacked from inside the church by those who have become apostates.

The battle for the truth will not be easy battle. In the battle, we may be wounded but we will not be spiritual casualties. We must remember our identity.

In eternity past, God chose us. Before we had done anything, for some reason unknown to us, God chose us. He put us together with Jesus, his son. Since God chose us, he will not let us go. The salvation he began in us he will be faithful to complete in us.

We also know God the Father loves us. He loves us more than we can comprehend. God the Father has chosen to love us as much as he loves his own son. Nobody in all the universe is loved more than we are by God the Father.

In the battle for the truth, we will be kept by Jesus, protected by Jesus. Jesus will make sure to bring us through the battle for the final salvation that will be ours on the day we stand before Jesus.

How are we to respond to this amazing identity that is ours? How are we to respond to God's calling, his love and his promise to keep and protect our lives?

The same way Jude did. We must see ourselves as bondservants of Jesus. We are to joyfully and willingly give our lives to serve Jesus. We have a good master. There can be no better master than Jesus. After all God has done for us, it is a joy and privilege to give our lives in service to him.

It is an honor to be servants of Jesus with pierced ears.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, and time with his family. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

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