

SERMON NOTES

Stand Firm/Fight For Truth
Jude 1-4

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.” *Jude 3, NASB95*

Jude writes to the early church, warning and encouraging the people to stand firm and fight for truth. In this short letter, there are profound truths that help us to stand firm and fight for the truth of the gospel!

I. IDENTIFY THE CHURCH (VERSE 1)

- Christians are those who are called by God.
- Christians are those who are beloved in God.
- Christians are those who are kept for Jesus Christ.

II. PRAY FOR THE CHURCH (VERSE 2)

Mercy, peace, and love are a triad of virtues that are imparted by God’s grace. Jude’s prayer is that Christians abound in these and that they receive them in abundance.

III. REMIND THE CHURCH (VERSE 3)

- A sacred gift: “our common salvation.”
 - Unmerited
 - Unchangeable - Gospel - *1 Corinthians 15:1-5*
- A sacred trust: “once for all delivered to the saints.”

The Christian faith is something which is entrusted to God’s consecrated people. That is to say, the Christian faith is not the possession of any one person but of the church. It comes down within the church, it is preserved within the church, and it is understood within the church.

IV. CHALLENGE THE CHURCH (VERSE 3-4)

- Contend for the faith, (*ἐπάγγελμα*) - to make a strenuous effort on behalf of, to struggle, to fight.
- Recognize those that are a threat to the church and the gospel.
 - Perversion of God’s Grace - They perverted the grace of God into an excuse for blatant immorality. The Greek which we have translated *blatant immorality* is a grim and terrible word (*aselgeia*).
 - Rejection of Jesus as Lord (God in the flesh) - Gnosticism

How are Christians to react to this danger? “Contend earnestly for the faith!” (v. 3) is Jude’s command. We are to defend God’s truth and the body of doctrine the NT calls “the faith.” We are to be soldiers who hold the fort at any cost.