

CALL TO ARMS

Jude 1-7



EVERY

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NEW MERCIES CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JOHN 4: 28-30

Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 2
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 548–553.

Jude 1–7 (NKJV)

1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Why Did Jude Write This Letter?

- To warn his readers that the apostates were already on the scene! Peter had prophesied that they would come (*2 Peter 2:1–3; 3:3ff*), and his prophecy had been fulfilled.
- Apparently Jude wrote to the same believers who had received Peter's letters, intending to stir them up and remind them to take Peter's warnings to heart. You will discover a number of parallels between Jude and 2 Peter as you study this fascinating but neglected letter.

- He wrote to “exhort” them (*Jude 3*). In the Greek language, this word was used to describe a general giving orders to the army; hence the atmosphere of this letter is “military.”
- Jude had started to write a quiet devotional letter about salvation, but the Spirit led him to put down his harp and sound the trumpet!
- The Epistle of Jude is a **CALL^{TO}ARMS!**

The Army

Jude 1–2 (NKJV)

1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Jesus Is Our Captain

- The Captain of the army is Jesus Christ, and the soldiers He commands are people who share a “common salvation” through faith in Him.
- Jude called them *saints* (*Jude 3*), which simply means “set-apart ones.” He addressed them as *sanctified*, which, again, means “set apart.”

- Certainly salvation begins in the heart of God and not in the will of man (*Rom. 9:16*).

Romans 9:16 (NKJV)

So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

- The mysteries of God's sovereign electing grace are beyond us in this life and will never be understood until we enter His glorious presence.
- For that reason, we are wise not to make them the basis for arguments and divisions.
- “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God” (*Deut. 29:29*).

Set Apart By The Holy Spirit!

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Second Thessalonians 2:13–14 makes it clear that the same God who chose us also set us apart by the Spirit and then called us by the Gospel to trust in Jesus Christ.
- God’s choosing and God’s calling go together, for the God who ordains the end (*our salvation*) also ordains the *means to the end* (*someone calling us to Christ*).
- We did not understand how God’s Spirit was working in our lives prior to our conversion, but He was working just the same to “set us apart” for Jesus Christ.



God's Soldiers Are The Recipients Of God's Choicest Blessings:

Mercy,

Peace,

& Love

- Like the Apostle Peter, Jude wanted these special blessings to be multiplied in their lives.

1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

2 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

- God in His mercy does not give us what we deserve. Instead, He gave our punishment to His own Son on the cross.

Isaiah 53:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Because Of Christ's Work On The Cross, Believers Enjoy *Peace*

- The unsaved person is at war with God and cannot please Him.

Romans 8:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- He who trusts the Saviour, the war ends and he receives God's peace.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

- He also experiences God's *love* (Rom. 5:5).

Romans 5:5 (NKJV)

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- The Cross is God's demonstration of love (*Rom. 5:8*), but His love is not experienced within until His Spirit comes into the believing heart.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- As the believer grows in his spiritual life, he enters into a deeper relationship of love (*John 14:21–24*).

John 14:21–24 (NKJV)

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.



**Certainly Those Who
Know Christ As
Their Saviour Enjoy
A Unique Position.**

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- They are called by God to be set apart for God that they might enjoy love with God.
- While their fellowship with the Father might change from day to day, their relationship as children cannot change.
- They are “preserved in Jesus Christ.” Because Jude would write a great deal in this letter about sin and judgment, he was careful at the very outset to define the special place that believers have in the heart and plan of God.

- The apostates would sin, fall, and suffer condemnation; but the true believers would be kept safe in Jesus Christ for all eternity.
- It bears saying that an apostate is not a true believer who has abandoned his salvation.
- He is a person who has professed to accept the truth and trust the Saviour, and then turns from “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (*Jude 3*).

- Jude would not contradict what Peter wrote, and Peter made it clear that the apostates were not God's sheep, but were instead pigs and dogs.

2 Peter 2:21–22 (NKJV)

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

- The sow had been cleaned on the outside, and the dog on the inside, but neither had been given that new nature which is characteristic of God's true children. These confess, but never truly believed.

2 Peter 1:3–4 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Spiritual Army

- Here, then, we have the “spiritual army” that Jude was addressing.
- If you have trusted Jesus Christ, you are in this army.
- God is not looking for volunteers; He has already enlisted you! The question is not, “Shall I become a soldier?” Rather, it is, “Will I be a *loyal soldier*?”

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NKJV)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

The Enemy

Jude 3–4 (NKJV)

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

- We have already noted that Jude set out to write an encouraging letter about “the common salvation.”
- The name Jude (*Judah*) means “praise,” and he was anxious to praise God and rejoice in the salvation God gives in Jesus Christ. But the Spirit of God changed his mind and led Jude to write about the battle against the forces of evil in the world. Why? Because it was “needful” for the church.

- I must confess that I sympathize with Jude. In my own ministry, I would much rather encourage the saints than declare war on the apostates. But when the enemy is in the field, the watchmen dare not go to sleep. The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground.
- Jude wasted no time in identifying the enemy.

They Were Ungodly

V. 4b

- This is one of Jude's favorite words. While these men *claimed* to belong to God, they were, in fact, ungodly in their thinking and their living.

2 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV)

having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

They Were Deceitful

V. 4c

- They “crept in unawares.” The Greek word means “to slip in secretly, to steal in undercover.”
- Sometimes Satan’s undercover agents are “*brought in secretly*” by those already on the inside (*Gal. 2:4*), but these men came in on their own.

They Were Deceitful

V. 4c

Galatians 2:4 (NKJV)

And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),

- Peter warned that these men were coming (2 *Peter* 2:1) and now they had arrived on the scene.
- How could false brethren get into true assemblies of the saints?
- The soldiers had gone to sleep at the post!

- The spiritual leaders in the churches had grown complacent and careless.
- This explains why Jude had to “blow the trumpet” to wake them up. Our Lord and His Apostles all warned that false teachers would arise, yet the churches did not heed the warnings.
- Sad to say, some churches are not heeding the warnings today.

They Were Enemies Of God's Grace

V. 4c

- Why did they enter the churches? To attempt to change the doctrine and “turn the grace of our God into lasciviousness” (*Jude 4*).
- The word *Lewdness* simply means “wantonness, absence of moral restraint, indecency.”

They Were Enemies Of God's Grace

V. 4c

- A person who is lewd thinks *only* of satisfying his lusts, and whatever he touches is stained by his base appetites.
- Lewdness is one of the works of the flesh (*Gal. 5:19*) that proceeds from the evil heart of man (*Mark 7:21–22*).

- Peter had already warned these people that the apostates would argue, “You have been saved by grace, so you are free to live as you please!”
- They promised the people freedom, but it was the kind of freedom that led to terrible bondage.

2 Peter 2:13–14 (NKJV)

13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.

2 Peter 2:19 (NKJV)

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

- The apostates, like the cultists today, use the Word of God to promote and defend their false doctrines.
- They seduce young, immature Christians who have not yet been grounded in the Scriptures.
- Every soldier of the Cross needs to go through “basic training” in a local church so that he knows how to use the weapons of spiritual warfare (*2 Cor. 10:4–5*).

They Denied God's Truth

V. 4e

- “Even denying the Lord that bought them,” Peter had warned *(2 Peter 2:1)*.
- Jude was not writing about two different persons when he wrote “the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” for the Greek construction demands that these two names refer to one Person.
- In other words, Jude was affirming strongly the deity of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God!

- But the apostates would deny this.
- They would agree that Jesus Christ was a good man and a great teacher, but not that He was eternal God come in human flesh. The first test of any religious teacher, as we have seen, is, “What do you think of Jesus Christ?”
- Is He God come in the flesh?” Anyone who denies this cardinal doctrine is a false teacher *no matter how correct he may be in other matters*. If he denies the deity of Christ, something will always be missing in whatever he affirms.

They Were Ordained To Judgment

V. 4e

- Jude did not write that these men were ordained to become apostates, as though God were responsible for their sin.
- They became apostates because they willfully turned away from the truth. But God did ordain that such people would be judged and condemned.
- The Old Testament prophets denounced the false prophets of their day, and both Jesus Christ and His Apostles pronounced judgment on them.

- Why should these men be judged by God? To begin with, they had denied His Son!
- That is reason enough for their condemnation! But they had also defiled God's people by teaching them that God's grace permitted them to practice sin.
- Furthermore, they mocked the doctrine of Christ's coming (*2 Peter 3*). "Where is the promise of His coming?"
- They mocked the very promise of Christ's coming and the judgment He would bring against the ungodly.



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