

TITLE: *The Security of ~~Christ~~ ^{Christ}*

Text: Jude 1:1-2

Will you take your Bibles, please, and turn to the Book of Jude.... The Book of Jude.....Just 25 verses in this little book, but 25 powerful verses of tremendous truth, especially relating to false teaching and false teachers. I find that this book is extremely relevant to a lot of the problems and difficulties that we are experiencing in our world today.

~~The Book of Jude~~. As some have rightly concluded the Book of Jude presents a defense of the Word of God. It warns about those who would take our minds away from the truth of the Word. Those who would cause us to compromise with what the Word really says.

In Jude verses 1-2 we want to begin ^{with} the subject of: *The Security of ~~the Believer~~ ^{the Believer}* or *The Security of the Believer*.

(Read Jude 1:1-2)

.....Join me in a moment of prayer as we begin....

Our Father we do thank you for your Word. And we rejoice in it. And we pray that in these moments together as we study your Word that you would alert our minds to the importance of contending earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints..We pray, Father, that you would remove from our midst attitudes of toleration and compromise in areas that we know the Word of God striactly forbids us to go. God, we pray, that you would help us to be alert to those who would undermined our faith and confidence in your Word. Those who would cause us to go into sinful practices that would continue to compromise your blessed truth....We pray that you would deal with us individuallly about our own commitment to you. And I pray this throug Jesus name.....Amen.....

(1A) By way of introduction we want to look at just three things from verses 1 and 2.

(1B) First of all, the man who wrote this little book. He describes himself in two basic ways.....By the way the word "Jude" simply means: "praise."...Here is a man from the beginning was named as one who would bring praise and honor to God. Jude is called two things...

(1C) One, "a bond servant"....and number two he is called a brother of James. And these two terms really characterize him.....One, deals with his spiritual relationship. The other deals with his physical relationship.

As a bond-servant of Christ, and you will know if you have read any of Paul's letters that Paul refers to himself, constantly, as a "bond-slave" or a "bond-servant."

Now, what is it talking about?...Mainly two things are emphasized in that little ~~are~~ phrases "bond-servant of Jesus Christ."

(1D) One, is certainly ownership. A bond-servant is owned by somebody. He is owned totally. You have no rights of your own in terms of property possessions. You don't own a cotton-picking thing. Even the clothes on your back belong to the master. So, a bond-servant is one who truly understands the ownership of the one who is his master.

(2D) And secondly, it indicates committed service. So, committed that if you violate the will of your master it can result in your own death. ~~Here is~~
~~Here~~ Here is a man who says "I am a bond-servant of Jesus Christ." "He is my master. He owns me lock stock and barrel. And I am committed to him, totally, in terms of service.

I can't think of a more beautiful description of the servant of God. Then the fact that we know and understand that everything that we ~~and~~ are and have belongs to God. And he wants to use it. And he wants committed service out-off ~~in~~ all of us..

The will of the bond-slave is the will of his master. He has no will of his own. And I remind myself of what Jesus said in the Garden, which

becomes an example of commitment..."Not my will, but thine be done."

The man who writes this little book is a bond-servant of Jesus Christ.

(24) As to his physical relationship, he is a brother of James. This gives us a little clue as to his back-ground. There were many men called "James" in the N.T. Jude as the brother of James is the half-brother of J.C. In Mark 6:3 there are four half-brothers of J.C. That is, brothers who were born to Mary after her marriage to Joseph. Yes, Mary and Joseph had other children...Jesus, also, had half-sisters as well as half-brothers.

And according to John chapter 7:5 during the childhood of Jesus and as he grew up and even during his ministry, his half-brothers did not believe in him. Now, here is a man who writes a book who during the life time of Jesus, a relative of Christ, yet, he did not believe in J.C. until after the resurrection.

There are some who teach that Jude was an Apostle. Yet, there is no where that we learn that Jude was an apostle.

We do know that his brother James, who was a half-brother of the Lord, was an Apostle...

I personally hold the view that Jude was a prophet and not an apostle. If you would like to just turn in your Bibles to Acts 15....In Acts 15 there are two important prophets that are mentioned. Both were in the church in Jerusalem. We do know that James the half-brother of Jesus was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. At least he was the spokesman of, the group in the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15. The result of that council was to give some advise to Gentile believers regarding things that would be offensive to Jews. And the Council sent two men to the church in Antioch, which was a Gentile church, who were called prophets to give them the results of the Council.

In Vs 32 of Acts 15 we read: "And Judas or Jude and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message."

Now, the Bible teaches in Ephesians 2, that the ~~disciples~~ Apostles and Prophets laid the foundation of the church. ~~Paul~~ And I believe that every writer in the N.T. is either "an apostle" or close to one, or ~~a~~ a prophet....The prophets are put together several times with the Apostles. Paul wrote in Ephesians 3 that God gave the mystery of the church to his Holy Apostle and prophets. Therefore, it makes sense to me that this man Jude is the same one as recorded in Acts 15:32. He is a prophet. One who is in the church in Jerusalem. The half-brother of our Lord Jesus. And he did not become a believer until after the resurrection of Christ.

(2B) Now, a little bit about the manner in which he describes his readers.

Back to Jude 1, again....In Jude 1:1 he gives to us three simple descriptions of the believers to whom he is writing....He calls them: "Those who are called".....secondly, "beloved in God the Father," and "kept for J.C." Now, let's look at those three statements and apply them to our own lives.

(1C) First of all he describes them by way of POSITION. You are Called Ones.....In 1 Cor. 1:9 we learn that we are called unto the fellowship of God's son. In 2 Tim. 1:9 we learn that we are called with a holy calling. And we have been made one with Jesus Christ.....That is our POSITION. We are those who are the called ones.....

(2C) Secondly, they are described as "beloved in God the Father." Now, this phrase if translated literally from the Greek would read: "the having been loved ones by means of God the Father." That means that from a previous point it now have present finished results in my life. That God the Father loved me at some point in the past which results in me being called into the family of God. I like that.....

Well, when did this happen?....Turn to Ephesians chapter 1, please. Ephesians chapter 1 ~~verses~~/....

In Verse 3-14 we learn about our Position in Christ. That we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. In other words, if you are a Christian you got all that intends to give to you, in terms of Position....

Then in Vs 4 it says "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him."

Now, notice Vs 5..."In love he predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ.....What does that mean?....That means that God had a plan for us long before we were born and the motivation behind God's selection of us is not our worthiness because it was done before we were born. It is not based on our decision to receive him because it was decided before we were ever born...NO...It WAS IN LOVE...IN THE WHOLE SPHERE OF LOVE...God ...so...loved...the...world..that he gave his only begotten son....
In love he chose us.

Now, come back to Jude....It simply says,"I have already been loved and as a result I am continuing to be loved by God the Father....Not Christ.. but God the Father. This points back to the ultimate intention of God in choosing us and selecting us. In Love he did this.

(3c) The third thing that I learn deals with Preservation...Preservation...

The last phrase in Vs 1 says "and kept for Jesus Christ."

And again, literally it says, "Having been kept by means of J.C."
You know, that is a precious thing....

It seems in this day and age there is a false doctrine that is going around among evangelical Christians. And it concerns me. There are those who say we can lose our salvation...And young people and young adults are growing up in great insecurity in such an environment. This text tells me that I am kept by Jesus Christ.....What does that mean?.....
It is not that I keep myself. It is I HAVE BEEN KEPT....It is already done. It is already secure.

In the Book of Peter I learn that I am kept by the power of God. I have complete security...In Philippians 1:6 it says that I should be confident of this very thing. That he who has begun a good work in you. He will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.

And I find the same word "kept" in a beautiful passage in John. AND I would like you to turn to it. John 17....In John 17 the Lord is praying his high priestly prayer. And there is a beautiful statement there which indicates what Jude said. And that is that we are being kept by the Lord Jesus Christ himself.....John 17 and notice verse 11 and 15 when Jesus prayed to the Father about our security and being kept by him.

(Read Vs 11 and 15)

Look Christian friends, we are left in this world and it is pretty bad. And a lot of times it is pretty hard to live for Christ in a rotten world. We face a lot of problems and there is a lot of sin all around us. But isn't it wonderful to know that your security is being kept by the power of God.....We are not taken out off the world. Jesus leaves us in the world. But he keeps us from the evil one.....

What tremendous protection. Even from Satan, himself....The security of Christ.....Come back to Jude again.....

In this third verse we have three tremendous statements about ~~the~~ ~~that can be applied to~~ the believer....

One...I am called....That is my position....

Two...I have already been loved by the Father....He choose us before the foundation of the world. Because in love he chose me.

And third, I am being kept by the power of Jesus Christ....~~Perservation~~ Perservation....And I have no fear because.....of his ~~perservation~~ perservation....~~How long does Jesus keep us? ...preservation keeps us that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. ...keeping. until Jesus comes in glory or he takes us home.....~~

Oh, ~~friend, where is your security?.....is it in the things of the world? Or, is it in the power of Jesus Christ?....I trust it is in Jesus Christ.....~~

..... Shall we pray

(3B)

Now, let's look for a moment at the message with which Jude greets the believers... Vs 2..."May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you."

Some like to take these three words and liken them to the three fold discription in Vs 1.....For example: Some believe that the wordk "mercy" would reflect the word "called".....And some would take the word "peace" and reflect the word "kept"....And some take the word "love" and reflect the word "beloved" in Christ"....

There are two things about this verse that I want you to know...
First, this verse reveals the nature of our relationship to God.

Mercy....What is mercy?....Mercy keeps back from me that which I really deserve. We are receipients of God's mercy. We are keep so much by the power of Christ, we are so secure in Him that God's mercy is abundant and everlasting. Even where sin abounds God's mercy is wholding back from us that which we really deserve....Ephesians 2:4 says that"God is rich in mercy." He is rich in mercy. And he loved us because of that mercy. Thus, he is wholding back from us that which we really deserv. We deserve to be judged for our sins. But God is a meriful God...

Mercy and peace....Now, the reason why a lot of people connect that with the word "kept" is because jof verse like Philippians 4:6. It says "Be~~an~~ anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God shall "kept" your hearts and minds in Christ."

The security we have, in other words, is the peace of God keepig gur minds.....

And of course God's love...He has loved us with an everlasting love.

The second thing that really hit me about this is that it reveals the need for these qualities in my life. Because he said in vs 2 that these things will be multiplied to you.....Multiplied....

And I think that is especially true when people are trying to under mind your donfidence and trust in the Lord....You see, Jude is warning us

people who are trying to under mind our confidence and trust in the Lord. And therefore, these qualities should be part of our lives. There is a great need for them to be part of us. They need to be multiplied. We need to be constantly reminded of our Postion...of the fact that God chose us baefore the foundations of the world....and of the fact that Christ is going to keep us and perserve us...

So, don't be misled by those who try to under mined us and try to take away our confience and our trust and our security in the Lord.....

How long does Jesus Keep us?....How long does our security last? Ephesisans says in 4:30 until the ~~say~~ day of redemption...Meaning ...until the Lord comes again...

Oh, my friend, where is your security?.....I trust and pray that your security is in the Lord Jesus Christ....For He will keep you until the day of redemption..

Shall we pray...