

## FAREWELL WORDS TO THE BELOVED (Jude 17-23)

### I. Remember the words of the apostles (vs 17-19).

- A. The fact that there were going to be false teachers should have come as no surprise to them.
  - 1. Certain apostles had told them this would be the case.
  - 2. That they had been told this, thus being acquainted with some apostles, is evident by the wording of verse 18.
  - 3. He wrote, "they told you."
- B. Not only had they been told, but it had been written has well.
  - 1. Paul, Peter and John all wrote that there would be false teachers that would come.
  - 2. Thus, the fact that there were false teachers among them should have been no surprise.
- C. The word "told" is an interesting word.
  - 1. It means, "to speak by linking and knitting together in connected discourse the inward thoughts and feelings of the mind."
  - 2. This is what is done in sermons and what God intends to be done in sermons.
  - 3. Preachers shouldn't, and I believe don't, just stand up to hear themselves speak.
  - 4. Jude is reminding his readership to remember what had been preached to them.
  - 5. This is why preachers preach and the audience should listen to what is being said.
  - 6. You as a listener can hear what is being said and when needed, bring it to remembrance to help in troublesome situations.
- D. What they were told is that there would be those who were mockers.
  - 1. Peter used this word in 2 Peter 3:3.
  - 2. There it was used of those who mocked the second coming.
- E. They mocked the second coming and lived in a way that fulfilled their fleshly appetites.
- F. By the way they lived their lives they separated themselves from true Christians and were guided by sensuality and not spirituality.
  - 1. Of the word "separate," Woods wrote that it means to cause divisions, factions or parties in the church.
  - 2. Anyone who divides the Lord's church over non-doctrinal matters falls into the category of a false teacher.
- G. These were people who only wanted to please themselves and were not concerned with pleasing God.

### II. Follow directions (vs 20-21).

- A. Those that would avoid false teachers were to show a distinction between themselves and the false teachers.
- B. They would do this by following the directions given by Jude.
- C. First, they were told to build themselves up in the faith.

1. The faith as we mentioned about Jude 3, is the gospel system of faith.
  2. We need to see the definite article “the” in front of faith, which distinguishes it from belief.
  3. It is the system of faith in which they were to strengthen themselves.
  4. This is only done through study and a remembrance of the words of the apostles as Jude just told them.
- D. They were to pray in the Holy Spirit.
1. Paul used this expression in Ephesians 6:18.
  2. Paul also used the expression, “walk in the Holy Spirit” in Galatians 5:25.
  3. This is probably telling us to pray in a manner that is in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Spirit which are found in the Bible.
  4. We do know that the Holy Spirit is involved in our prayer life (Romans 8:26).
- E. They were to keep themselves in the love of God.
1. The way this is worded shows that one can leave the love of God.
  2. The way to do this is live according to the faith that they had been given by God.
  3. God gave the gospel to them and they were to live by, which allowed them to stay in God’s love.
- F. They were to look for the mercy of Jesus that leads to eternal life.
1. Everything that is provided for in redemption is summed up by the phrase the mercy of Jesus.
  2. The word look carries the idea of expectation.
  3. We can expect eternal life if we remain in the mercy of Jesus.

### III. **Convert people to Christ (21-22).**

- A. While we are living for God, we need to be actively seeking out opportunities to convert people to Christ by teaching them about the faith Jude has mentioned.
- B. There are some that simply don’t know anything about the gospel.
1. While ignorance is no excuse, we do need to treat them carefully.
  2. We can’t be harsh to those who don’t know.
  3. We need to be able to distinguish between the person who does not know and the person who does but is engaged in doing wrong.
- C. Those that are engaged in doing wrong knowingly, are to be dealt with more sharply.
1. Pulling carries the idea of seizing by force.
  2. This is true of one who has been obedient to the faith but is in the process of leaving it.
  3. We need to be very direct with that person because we are saving them from fire, the fires of hell.
- D. When we are doing this, we need to be careful to remain unspotted ourselves.
1. We can’t get caught up in their sins.

2. They have soiled their spiritual garments and we are trying to save them from fire.
3. We don't want to get caught up in their sins and have our garments soiled.