

## Keep the Faith – Sermon 1

Jude 1-3

Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. 3 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.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Whatever is worth doing is worth doing.

Jude 3 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

### 1. Know your identity.

Jude 1-2 Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.

- Bond-servant comes from the Greek word which means slave.
- James 1:1 – James referred to himself as a slave of Christ. - James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Romans 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God.
- Romans 6:18 “...and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.
  
- John 7:5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

### 2. Realize your community.

Jude 1 Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ.

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation...

#### • Our connection to one another

- 59 one another commands speak of our connection:
  - o <https://www.mmlearn.org/hubfs/docs/OneAnotherPassages.pdf>
- Look at the three ways Jude referred to this community of believers:
- Called, Loved, and Kept
- 1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to *obtain* an inheritance *which is*

imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- **Our connection to God**

Jude 3 ...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

- The word contend in the Greek language is a middle/passive voice.
- As a passive voice, we are receiving the action.
- As a middle voice, we are involved in the action
- Philippians 2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

### 3. Confirm your priorities.

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- **As a bond-servant of Jesus, God is our first priority.**

Matthew 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- **As a follower of Jesus, keeping the faith is our driving passion.**

- Contend - Present middle/passive infinitive
- Present tense – Continuous action -
- It's middle/passive – so God is the one initiating and empowering, but we must put ourselves in the middle of God's activity and respond to all He is doing in us and around us.

2 Timothy 4:5-8 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.