

Week of September 17, 2017

This Week's Focus: Introduction to the epistle of Jude.

This Week's Text: Jude 1-2

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

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Of the 5 men named Jude (Judas) in Scripture, who is likely the one who wrote this letter? During his ministry, Jesus' family – including Jude – did not believe he was the Son of God. Reference Mark 3:21. What changed Jude into a follower of Jesus Christ?
- What is the primary purpose of Jude's letter? Reference verses 3-4. What is antinomianism, and how is it a perversion of God's grace? Discuss why a firm understanding of the gospel is the grounds for successfully contending for the faith.
- Jude opens his letter by calling himself a slave of Jesus Christ. What is he emphasizing about his identity? Have you experienced the freedom that comes with surrendering to the lordship of Jesus Christ? What has Jesus set us free from and for? Reference Romans 6:22.
- To whom is Jude writing his epistle? What does Jude mean by the word called? Reference 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 and 2 Timothy 1:8-9. Discuss the difference between the general invitation of the gospel and the regenerative/effectual call of God. How are the two callings related?
- Jude links calling with being loved by God. What is the greatest expression of God's love for us? What is the source of God's love for us? Are you confident and secure in God's neverending love for you? Reference Romans 8:1, 35-39. Why is resting in God's love important as we approach Scripture and seek to live on mission? How does resting in God's love empower us to fight against pride, despair, legalism, etc.?
- What does Jude mean by being "kept for Jesus Christ"? How does this relate to calling? Who is
 ultimately responsible for keeping us from apostasy until the day of Christ? Reference John
 10:27-30 and Jude 24-25.