

## LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Once for All — Jude 1-7  
September 30, 2018

...although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. - **Jude 3**

### I. THE LETTER JUDE DID NOT WRITE

- Jude was most likely the half-brother of Jesus and the full brother of James, leader of the Jerusalem church (vs. 1; Matt. 13:55; John 7:1-9; Acts 1:14).
- He writes to the called, loved by God and kept in Jesus Christ; such will be his letter's theme (vs. 1).
- Jude's original desire was to write a letter rejoicing in their common faith, but that, by necessity, had to change (vs. 3).

### II. THE LETTER JUDE DID WRITE

- Due to new circumstances in the churches, Jude must now change the purpose of his letter and charge his hearers to hold fast to the faith (vs. 3; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-22).
- Jude provides for his hearers their own graphic history as an object lesson (Numbers 13-14; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 3:16-19).
- The Jesus who saved his people out of Egypt is the same Jesus to whom Jude's hearers must turn (vs. 5).
- Angelic rebellions and Sodom and Gomorrah continue to serve as examples to God's people, in Jude's day and in our day (vs. 7).

### III. THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

- Build yourself up in the faith (vs. 20)
- Pray in the Spirit (vs. 20)
- Keep yourself in the love of God (vs. 21)
- Wait for the mercy of Jesus Christ that leads to life (vs. 21)
- Have mercy on doubters (vs. 22)
- Snatch others from the flames while hating sin (vs. 23)

**KNOW:** Our own wandering hearts, combined with outside forces working against us, including false prophets, can lead us astray if we are not careful.

**DO:** Run this race through the finish line!

#### Suggested Reading:

*The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (LifePoint Library # 269.1 Bon)  
*Gospel Assurance and Warnings* by Paul Washer (LifePoint Library 234 WAS)

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Jude 1-7

1. We spoke Sunday about being "beloved" in God. How does that knowledge affect you day to day? Is it hard for you to believe? Why?
2. What part of the "faith" was once for all delivered in vs. 3? What general teaching would have been known by all in Jude's day? (see vs. 17 for help)
3. How are the teachings of vs. 4 also perpetuated in our own day? Where do we see them?
4. Jude recalls history as a warning to his hearers. In what ways has your own history, or the history of some you know, served as a warning to you?
5. Today we lean away from graphic warnings as a way of holding people accountable. Why do you think they are so prevalent in Scripture?
6. Take time to pray for your own faith this week. Ask God to keep you firmly in it.