

God's Grace – License to Sin? Part 2

Recap of the Letter of Jude

- Brother of James, brother of Jesus
- Written approx. 65 A.D.
- Unknown recipients

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Recap of the Letter of Jude

- Reasons for writing the letter...
 - Concern for believers in contact with false teaching that perverted God's grace into a license for sinful and immoral living
 - Warning of the dire consequences for those who bought into this lie – don't be deceived!!!
 - This particular heresy centered around an abuse of God's grace (specifically, salvation by grace) due to a rejection of Jesus as Lord and Sovereign

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Recap of the Letter of Jude

- ***Jesus is our Sovereign Lord***
 1. Israel's Deliverance from Egypt
 2. Angels Rebel Against God's Authority
 3. Sodom & Gomorrah

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Recap of the Letter of Jude

- ***Jesus our Sovereign Judge***

- 3 Wrong Ways***

1. The Way of Cain (Genesis 4)
2. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22)
3. The Way of Korah (Numbers 16)

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An Understanding of God's Grace

- Our entrance into eternal life cannot be earned and is completely underserved
- The punishment and payment for our sin has been made and our sins have graciously been forgiven
- This grace results in a transformed heart which leads us to live differently and to see Jesus as both our Lord and Saviour
- Our actions from this transformed heart are evidence of this transformation, and are not what saves us

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Jude 17-19

¹⁷But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." ¹⁹These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

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Hang in there...

- Remember the teachings of the Apostles
 - Scoffers promised
 - They follow their own ungodly desires
 - Their intention is to deceive and divide
 - They are slaves to their natural instincts (slaves to their own sinful nature)
 - They do not have the Spirit

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Jude 20-21

²⁰But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. ²¹Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

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Hang in there...

- But you... (contrast to the way of false teachers)
 - Build yourselves up
 - In contrast to false teachers who divide or tear down
 - Not selfishness but rather a way to combat false teaching
 - Keep meeting together – we are the body
 - Read your Bible (know the truth)
 - Be humble! Submit yourself to the Sovereignty of Jesus
 - Submit yourselves to other authority (the Bible – Apostle's teachings, preaching, church leadership, government, etc)
 - Live pure lives and run from immorality

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Hang in there...

- But you... (contrast to the way of false teachers)
 - Build yourselves up
 - Pray in the Spirit
 - Unlike the false teachers who do not have the Spirit, the Christian is to seek God's will and pray for his will to be done
 - When we pray in the Spirit we are humbling ourselves and recognizing that Jesus is Lord
 - Ask God to pray through you

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Hang in there...

- But you... (contrast to the way of false teachers)
 - Build yourselves up
 - Pray in the Spirit
 - Keep yourselves in God's love
 - In contrast to false teachers who are under judgment
 - Interesting parallel to Jude's opening "keep yourselves..."
 - Emphasizing our part is to persevere in the truth
 - God is not in the tow truck business

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Hang in there...

- But you... (contrast to the way of false teachers)
 - Build yourselves up
 - Pray in the Spirit
 - Keep yourselves in God's love
 - Be patient
 - In contrast to false teachers scoffing at God's future plan
 - We cannot persevere unless we are patient
 - Patient for what? Eternal Life!!!
 - God is patient – 2 Peter 3:3-13

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2 Peter 3:3-13

³First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

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2 Peter 3:3-13

⁷By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar;

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2 Peter 3:3-13

the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

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Jude 22-23

²²Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

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Hang in there...

- But you... (contrast to the way of false teachers)
 - Be merciful
 - Unlike the false teachers who were grumblers and fault-finders (v.16)
 - “to those who doubt...” Contrast drawn between the sin of Israel in v.5 who were punished for their unbelief
 - Show mercy by sharing your faith with others
 - Show mercy but see sin for what it is so you do not pollute yourself (unlike Sodom in v.7 and the false teachers)

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Jude 24-25

²⁴To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

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Good News!

- Jesus is able to keep us from falling!
- Jesus will present us into his presence without fault!
- Our emotional state at this occasion will be one of great joy!
- Praise Jesus, he is our Lord and Saviour!!!