

READINGS: The Epistle of Jude - Apostle's Creed – Canons V, 12 & rej. 6

Singing: 420:2, 3 – 383:1-5 – 326:1-4 – 347:1-4

A. Opening Observations on Jude

- Nothing is more precious than the *Gospel truths* (Jude 1-3)
- Old heresies keep re-appearing in new coats (Jude 4-19)
- The only way to fight these enemies of truth (Jude 20-23)
- Victory is guaranteed for all God's saints (Jude 24-25)

Jude's Loving Exhortation to Keep yourselves in the love of God

I. What does that mean? II. How is that done? III. What does that work?

I. WHAT DOES IT MEANT 'TO KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD.'

A. To 'keep' is key word in Jude (vs. 1, 21, 24)

1. Three words show beautiful balance in God's teaching

B. God's call to His saints: *keep yourselves in the love of God*

1. How define 'love of God'?

a. our love to God as fruit of His saving grace?

- God's gracious revealing of Himself to sinners results in love to Him

- this love is like a 'tender plant'

b. God's love to us (His saints)?

- How is that shown in the Gospel? (Romans 5:6-8)

2. We are exhorted to *keep ourselves in this love* (John 15:9-10)

a. define to 'keep'

b. strength of this 'keeping' is secret to a *healthy, joyful* and *obedient* spiritual life

II. HOW IS THIS KEEPING YOURSELF IN THE LOVE OF GOD DONE?

A. By building up yourselves on your most holy faith

1. What is *most holy faith*?

a. Is it our personal faith worked within heart by Holy Spirit?

- such personal is essential and is fruit of God's gift

- but our personal faith is *never the foundation of salvation*

- b. Is it the objective doctrines of God's truth in the Gospel (vs. 3)?
- these truths are indeed a *solid foundation and most holy*

2. Who is to build?

a. God Himself is the *builder – founder of salvation' (see vs. 1)*

b. yet God's children are to *build themselves on foundation of truth*

- we are responsible for the spiritual growth: *1 Peter 3:18*
- building yourselves is to *be in spiritual exercise of soul with Christ and all His benefits – treasures – blessings*
- don't wait for *growth to just happen* but reach for it

B. This building up yourselves is to done in connection with *prayer life*

1. What is to pray in Holy Ghost?

a. points to vital importance of a Biblical prayer life (Ps. 63)

b. Prayer in the Holy Ghost is prayer *guided – inspired – led – fed by Him Who lives and works within the saints' hearts*

- He is to be obeyed in His promptings and guidance
- yet how easily this can be neglected and poverty in faith, love and hope will be the result in the saints' life

c. Are there 'sacred times' set aside *each day for wrestling with your opened Bible before God's throne?*

III. WHAT DOES SUCH A LIFE OF KEEPING IN THE LOVE OF GOD DO TO US?

A. Makes you look with expectation to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Tasting communion with God always *makes you hungry for more!*

2. Our 'longing to be with Christ' is the most accurate reading on *how well we keep ourselves in the awareness of God's love to us!*

a. gladly we look for *Christ's mercies at His coming*

b. gladly we know that His saints are already in perfect hands (Jude 24-25)

Close: Many still embrace fatal errors while on the way to hell! (vs. 22-23)