



# NEWS BULLETIN

**DATE: 10th March 2026 - "The Letter from Jude to Christians of all ages"**

*1 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: 2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.*

*Judgment on False Teachers*

*3 Beloved, 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. 4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*5 Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*

*8 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. 9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." 10 But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. 11 Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. 12 These are hidden reefs[e] at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*

*14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." 16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favouritism to gain advantage.*

Today we are starting a new very short series in the book of Jude. Jude is the 65<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible and as such is the penultimate book of the New Testament sitting between 3 John and Revelation.

It is just a single chapter comprising 25 verses including a Doxology. Jude was the brother of Jesus and James and was written in approximately A.D. 65. Its audience was Jewish Christians, and its purpose was to remind the church of the need for constant vigilance – to keep strong in the faith and to oppose heresy.

Jude warns about false teachers and leaders who reject the lordship of Christ and against apostasy – turning away from Christ.

Considering the situation in the world in the first century compared to today, there is not a lot of difference. The world was largely antagonistic towards the church. The New Testament is littered with accounts of Christians being persecuted. (Acts 8 v1 & 19 v 23-41). Stoned. (Acts v 57-60 & 14 v 19) Imprisoned (Acts 16 v 19-40), Intimidated (Acts 4 v 18) and even murdered (Acts 12 v 1 & 2). So, what's new?

Then this type of opposition came mainly from political, commercial, and religious special interest groups. These groups were intent either upon destroying the Christian movement altogether or severely restricting its growing influence.

The most serious threat to the gospel, however, did not originate in pagan society. It came from within the Christian community itself. For in a world permeated with so many religious and philosophical traditions, Christians were frequently tempted to ignore the exclusiveness of the gospel and to blend their new faith with older, more traditional religious beliefs and practices.

This situation gave rise to many teachers who proclaimed their compromised gospels within the Christian community. The results of such heretical teachings were always the same, regardless of the nature of the heresy - the true gospel was perverted, churches were divided, the Christian mission was imperilled, and the faith of genuine Christians was weakened.

How were the first century Christians to protect themselves and the integrity of their gospel from the dangerous threat of heresy? Jude is one of several New Testament letters as were the Galatians, Colossians, 2 Peter and 1,2,3 John.

This particular letter addressed the problem of pseudo-Christian teachers who were preaching heresy in some unnamed location. This heretical stance resulted in a variety of scandalous behaviours. They gave expression to ungodly lusts (vv 16,18), practiced gluttony (v 12), complained about divine providence (v 16). Both their beliefs and behaviours became a divisive element in the Christian community addressed by Jude (v 19).

The initial readers of this letter were encouraged to struggle for the integrity of their faith (v3). This was their only appropriate response to heresy. But what did this struggle entail? It involved a deeper understanding of God's displeasure with heresy. Towards this end, Jude contains a description of the heretics' ungodly behaviour and warns of God's certain judgement in verse 11.

Many interpreters believe that Jude was quoting from 1 Enoch Chapter 1 verse 9, a writing of the period between the old and new Testaments written under the name of the hero of faith in Genesis 5 verse 24. Jude used the quotation to support his argument that false teachers face eternal judgement. The book of 1 Enoch was not inspired, this truth apparently was, for Jude was led by the Holy Spirit to include it in his epistle.

Notice the closeness of father and son in these verses. When contemplating the Trinity, we understand there is only one God, yet we know Him as three distinct persons. Therefore, anything we say about one of the three, of necessity applies to the other two also, for they are inseparable. God is called saviour, a term usually applied to Jesus. Jesus is called sovereign a term usually applied to God the Father.

Sin and its consequences. Continual sin results in a depraved attitude towards others and will cause those who are caught up in it to even deny the grace of God. False Christian teachers do not directly deny the grace of God, but they do so indirectly by changing definitions of God's actions toward and expectations of His people. They take God's grace to mean all sins will automatically be forgiven. They say sin gives more opportunity for God to reveal His grace. This would mean Jesus is not Lord and Master of our morals. His teachings would have no authority over us. Immorality under any theological disguise is still sin. Refusing to live like Jesus is depravity.

The certainty of God's final judgement of evildoers underlies biblical revelation. Neither unbelievers in the Exodus generation nor sinful angels could escape God's judgement. How much less members of the human family. God's power keeps the wicked beyond death to the final judgement. The "great day" expresses thought similar to that of the future "day of the Lord." The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is an example of the punishment in hell of eternal fire.

Love for others should be most prominent at the Lord's Supper when we celebrate God's love for us. Jude portrayed false teachers as blemishes at the charity feasts that the early Christians connected with the Lord's Supper. The wealthier disciples contributed provisions for the love feasts. Both rich and poor were free to partake, and food was sent to absent and sick members.

Some churches today do a similar thing as we do here at Broadstone Baptist Church with our box in the vestibule where the contents are distributed to those in need.

The godless false teachers were as shepherd's who fed only themselves. They were as fruitless trees and rainless clouds.

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Transcript of the presentation given by Deacon Rodney Burge and discussed at the church-based, morning home group on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026. All scripture is from the ESV Translation.

