

Last Sunday of the Church Year – 2024

Saturday, 11/23 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/24 at 9:00

Aware of the End, *We Live By God's Word*

Text: Jude 1:20-25 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: As we live in this moment in time, *we are also aware that the world* – as we know it – *is eventually going to end*. Therefore, this is our focus today:

AWARE OF THE END, WE LIVE BY GOD'S WORD

Some Basics:

- Jude is a half-brother of Jesus, who was moved by the Holy Spirit to write his letter.
- The book of Jude:
 - It's **1** of the **5 one-chapter books in the Bible** (the others are Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, and 3 John).
 - It's the second-to-last book in the Bible.
 - It warns us to beware of false teachers.
 - It reminds us about 😊God's desire to save **and** ☹️God's coming punishment upon the ungodly.
 - It describes the **ungodly** as ♦grumblers, ♦faultfinders, ♦lustful, ♦arrogant, ♦mockers, ♦dividers, ♦worldly-minded, and ♦devoid of the Spirit.

Now, *coming to **Jude, verse 20***, he is calling us **believers** to be *the opposite of the ungodly*.

1. **What to Do as We Wait for Jesus:** ²⁰ **But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for [anticipating, longing to receive] the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.** // What do those things mean?
 - a. **Build Up Our Faith: How?** By **learning** and **doing** the word of God – *like eating and exercising, we take the word in, then we do what it says!*
 - b. **Pray in the Spirit: How?**
 - i. By praying **in agreement with the word of God**, in other words, by praying **back the word of God!**
 - ii. Jesus described His followers as **salt and light**, so we could pray like this: “Lord, as salt and light make a positive difference, so use me to make a positive difference in the lives of others!”
 - c. **Remain in God’s Love: How?** By remaining *in harmony with the word of God while – at the same time – we are longing to receive Jesus’ eternal compassion and kindness, that is, the FULNESS of eternal life!*
2. **How to Care about Others:** ²² **And have mercy on some, who are doubting; ²³ save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.** // What do those things mean?

- a. Build Up Doubting Ones: **How?** By ♦caring about them, ♦sharing God’s truth with them, and ♦being patient with them.
- b. Save Burning Ones: **How?** By ♦loving them unconditionally, ♦warning them about the coming judgment, and ♦calling them to repent and believe. WE can love, warn, and call, **but ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT can save them!**
- c. Show Mercy with Fear: **How?** Be aware of the spiritual tug-of-war between good and evil. As we try to pull others out of their sins, *we must THOROUGHLY HATE THEIR SINS so that we are NOT pulled into their sins!*

3. **Focus on God:** ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

- a. God has Saved Us: He worked in conjunction with the Holy Spirit to †clothe us in the righteousness of Christ, †wash us clean, and †bring us into His kingdom!
- b. God Keeps Us in the Faith:
 - i. “[God] who began a good work in you will perfect it [or **bring it to completion**] until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6).
 - ii. However, it is essential for us to *cooperate with the Holy Spirit!* Jesus said, **Luke 13:24**

“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

- c. God Deserves All Our Praise: Try to identify EVERY GOOD THING IN YOUR LIFE. Where did each thing come from? The Bible says: **“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...”** (James 1:17).

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, thank You for blessing us in countless ways! Now, *as we await Jesus’ return*, help us to ➡ hold loosely the things of this temporary life and ➡ increase our grip on eternal things, namely, Your Son, Your word, our holy living, and our spiritual concern for others!

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