

## **Who Are We?**

### **Jude 1:1-2**

1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: 2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. (NKJV)

Jude is such a short letter that I thought that we could get through it before Christmas.

But that is not the reason that I chose it. It is a letter for our time. Jude could have just have well written this letter for God's people today. It is short so it would match their attention span. And it addresses most of the problems facing the church today.

But before we get into all that, we need to take care of opening things this week. Who is the author and to whom was he writing. And since he is writing to Christians, the same words he uses to describe them will describe God's people today.

#### I. The author.

##### A. Jude

1. Mt 13:55 "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?"

##### B. A bondservant of Jesus Christ

1. 22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave. 1 Corinthians 7:22 (NKJV)
2. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. Galatians 1:10 (NKJV)
3. Everyone of us has a master: And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. Ephesians 6:9 (NKJV)

##### C. The brother of James

1. Notice neither he nor James refers to their relationship with Jesus.
2. But James was better known than Jude, for he became the first pastor of the church at Jerusalem and is mentioned in the book of Acts several times.

#### II. Who are we?

##### A. To those who are called

1. It quickly became a basic adjectives for Christians:
  - a. 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; Romans 1:6
  - b. 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 (NKJV) 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
  - c. 2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: 1 Corinthians 1:2 (NKJV)
    - (1) It is because they had all experienced that very striking call.
    - (2) The work of God's spirit in the life that changes it for ever.
2. It is a heavenly calling: 1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, Hebrews 3:1 (NKJV)
3. Ro 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

B. To those sanctified by God the Father

1. The concept of sanctification is found first in Genesis:
  - a. Ge 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified <06942> it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
  - b. What did the Lord do? He set the seventh day apart and made it special. It was no longer common.
2. Next we find it used in reference to the children of Israel.
  - a. Ex 13:2 "Consecrate <06942> to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine."
  - b. Ex 19:10 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate <06942> them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.
  - c. Ex 19:14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified <06942> the people, and they washed their clothes.
  - d. Ex 19:22 "Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate <06942> themselves, lest the LORD break out against

them."

- e. Ex 19:23 But Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate <06942> it.'"
- f. Ex 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy <06942>. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed <06942> it.
- g. The word is found 153 times in the Old Testament.

3. The word is used many times in the New Testament

- a. Joh 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
- b. Joh 17:19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.
- c. Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,
- d. 1Th 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- e. Heb 13:12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

C. To those preserved in Jesus Christ

- 1. Jesus will keep His own.
  - a. Joh 6:39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.
  - b. Joh 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 "I and My Father are one."
  - c. Joh 17:11 ¶ "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but

that You should keep them from the evil one.

2. 2Ti 4:18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!
  3. 1Pe 1:5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- D. It is important that he tells these saints who they are, for the letter will seem harsh and a little scary.
1. But we too live a scary age, with immorality that this nation has never experienced has become not only accepted but expected.
  2. Today people live out the final condemnation described in Romans 1
  3. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.
  4. Our problem did not begin with the gay pride parades, but when the mainline churches in America denied the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, the inspiration of the Scriptures and the creation.
    - a. When we refused to have God in our society, is when the trouble began and now look at the wonderful fruits of that type of thinking.

### III. The greeting.

- A. Mercy be multiplied to you
- B. Peace be multiplied to you
- C. Love be multiplied to you

God has great promises for His people. But only for His people. And the majority in this nation are no longer God's people and they are proud of it. Otherwise how could we elect the most pro-abortion president ever.

There are a lot of churches talking about the great revival in America. Well I don't see the taverns closing or divorce becoming a thing of the past. There is little out cry against sin. True revival produces holiness.