

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 3- The Common Salvation **Jude 3**

11. The Common Salvation- Part 3

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Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse journey through the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue in our new section of study and look again at what Jude taught about, "The Common Salvation" so let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 3** again together:

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Now in the first part of this verse- Jude tells us that he was "**making every effort**" to write to us about what he described as "The Common Salvation."

And over the last two broadcasts- we have looked at what made the Salvation that people had in the Bible to be "common" or "alike". Now the word that was translated as "common" here in **Jude 3** is the Greek word, *koinos*, which means: *belonging to the whole; that which belongs to the general*. So Jude is telling us that Salvation was "common", or it was "alike", or that it was the "same" to all those in the Church in the first century. In other words- all those who were saved- had received Salvation and understood Salvation to mean the very same thing.

You see, the Church in the Bible didn't have 14 different opinions about what it meant to be saved. There were no denominations back then. There were no differences about Doctrine. John preached and taught the same thing in Ephesus that Thomas taught and preached in India. Paul taught and preached the same thing in Corinth that Jude was teaching here. Peter believed the same things about

Salvation that James did. The Apostles were not divided over Doctrine like we are today. No, the Apostles were completely *united* over Doctrine. In fact, it was Doctrine that held them all together. So too, today, Sound Biblical Doctrine is what should *unite us* and hold us together as Christians- not divide us.

No one in the early Church thought they had the authority to believe the parts of Scripture that they liked and agreed with and simply discard the rest. No, they knew that they had the solemn responsibility to preach the Full Gospel- the parts that were sweet and lovely and those parts that were hard and difficult. They loved all of the Gospel and they preached all of the Gospel and they were not ashamed of any of what Christ had said or what Christ had done.

In the days of Jude, there was no such thing as the “The First Church”, or the 13th Street Church, or the Amalgamated Overcoming Super Duper Church of the First Born. There was simply- The Church. And look at what Dr. Luke wrote about The Church in **The Acts 2:47:**

praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The Acts 13:1

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

The Acts 14:27

When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they *began* to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

The Acts 20:17

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.
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1Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God which is at Corinth...

2Corinthians 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:

Galatians 1:13

For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it;

Ephesians 1:22

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Ephesians 3:10

so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

Ephesians 3:21

to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

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Ephesians 5:23-27

For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

Colossians 1:17-18

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Colossians 4:16

When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter *that is coming* from Laodicea.

1Thessalonians 1:1

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

1Timothy 3:15

but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

The Revelation 2:1a

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write...

The Revelation 2:8

And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write...

The Revelation 2:8

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna ...

The Revelation 2:12

And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write...

The Revelation 2:18

And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write...

The Revelation 3:1

To the angel of the church in Sardis write...

The Revelation 3:7

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write...

The Revelation 3:14

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write...

So, Jesus set up His Church in the earth. And the Church that Jesus set up is one and it is single, and it is pure, and it is holy, and it is universal and worldwide and it is Apostolic and it has certain remarkable characteristics that make it to be what Jude called, “common”. The Church that Jesus set up does not belong to me and it does not belong to you- it belongs to Jesus Christ. Jesus paid for His Church; He bought it; He purchased it with His own Blood- and He is to have the preeminence in His Own Church. Everything that is said and everything that is done and everything that is taught and everything that is believed in the Church that Jesus set up must be in accordance with His Word and must be to His Honor and His Praise and His Glory- and Jesus promised that He Himself would build that Church and Jesus said that the gates of Hades will not prevail against that Church.

Jude is telling us here that Christ’s Church taught and believed in what he called a “Common Salvation.” And Paul gave us some characteristics of that Common Salvation in **Ephesians 2:8&9** when he said

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

The Bible says that the Church that Christ set up continued stedfastly in the Apostle’s Teaching and because that was true- every soul in that Church shared in the “Common Salvation”.

Those in the Church that Christ set up were not divided over Doctrine- no, in fact, it was the Doctrine of the Apostles that *defined* and that *established* and that *sealed* exactly and precisely what their Salvation was all about- and that made their Salvation “common;; Doctrine made it the same; Doctrine made it alike.

In the Church that had Christ as Head- Doctrine *established* their Faith- it didn’t tear it down. Correct Scriptural Doctrine was what defended and defined and protected and explained what their Salvation was and what it was not.

Unlike many today- the Church where Christ had preeminence thrived *because* of Doctrine and they were made strong *because* of Doctrine.

And Jude says here that this Salvation was so thoroughly defined and explained and illustrated by the Apostles Teaching that he could term it to be “alike” or “common”.

Now many today say that Doctrine is not important- but they didn't get that from Jesus or the Bible or Jude. Jesus thought that Biblical Doctrine was so important that He commanded that those who saw Him ascend into Heaven teach it to everyone who believes. Over in **Matthew 28:19&20**, Jesus told his disciples:

**19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

Beloved, the very word, “disciple”, means those who have been disciplined. Disciplined by what? Disciplined by Doctrine; Disciplined by Objective Truth; Disciplined by the Word of God; Disciplined by Inspired Truth; Disciplined by the Doctrine of the Apostles; Disciplined by the Common Salvation.

Beloved is your Doctrine found in the Bible or is it Man-made? Can you base everything that you hold dear on the orthodox, literal and grammatical interpretation of the Bible? Do you believe the same thing that Jesus taught? Do you believe the same thing that Paul believed? Do you hold to the same things that John held to? Do you hold dear to you the same things that Peter held to be dear and precious and holy? Is what you have in God also in common with the Apostles? If so, then you share in the very same Salvation that Jude had; and you grip the Common Salvation that all believers had in the Bible and you are in the Faith.

Well, I've got to stop right here- but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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