

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints An Expository Study of the Epistle of Jude Part 19- **Jude 24&25** 214- Standing in God's Presence Blameless- Part 6

First Aired on WAQY Thursday, March 15, 2007

Welcome again my beloved in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about "God Empowering us to be able to Stand in God's Presence Blameless and with Great Joy". So, let's read Jude verses 24 and 25 again together:

**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.**

Now over the last several broadcasts, we have been examining verse 24 and I have been going over just how God is able to make us stand in the Presence of His Glory blameless with great joy.

And it is so fitting that this Epistle of Jude- that was written exclusively to those in the Church who were already saved, and which deals exclusively with heresy and false teaching- that this Epistle would end with the issue of us being presented blameless before the Presence of God.

Now this broadcast today is a continuation of several earlier broadcasts- so if you have not heard the previous sermons on this topic in Jude- then you may not fully understand what I am saying today. So, if you haven't heard those earlier broadcasts- you might want to write or call and get a copy.

As I have mentioned to you if verse 24 of Jude is true- which it is- and if it true that God is going to present every saved person as being blameless before God's Presence- if that is true- then just how we are made to stand blameless is extremely important for us to understand.

Is Jude saying here that we are going to be *sinless* after we are saved? Is that how we are going to be presented blameless before God? No, it isn't. Isn't it abundantly clear to you that even though you have been saved- that you still sin? Well just how does this all work out?

How is God going to present us blameless before His Own Glory if it is true that we still sin?

If it is true that we have to perfect and develop our own personal righteousness in order to go to Heaven- as some teach- if that is true- then isn't it also true that we cannot go to Heaven until we become sinless?

It was thinking about this issue that caused men to invent things like Re-Incarnation and Purgatory which deal with Man's imperfections even after death.

So, if it is true that in order for verse 24 of Jude to be true- that we have to become sinless- then *some* type of provision similar to either Purgatory or Re-Incarnation must be provided or else no one could ever go to Heaven. But the Holy Bible doesn't teach either one of these things. So how does this work?

Well, the answer goes to the very heart of what Salvation is all about and what it means to be saved and what it means to be a Christian and so if we are to comprehend all of this- we must turn to the only reliable source of divinely inspired Truth that exists on earth- and that is the Holy Bible.

Again, I need to remind you that the subject here is not who is sincere and who is not sincere. The issue that we are dealing with in this study is not what I think versus what you may think. The issue here is what does the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of the living God teach about how a sinful man is made righteous in God's sight.

If you doubt the validity of Scripture or if you are not sure if the Bible is trustworthy- then you need some information that I can give to you. But I am speaking here on the assumption that the Holy Bible is true- that it is reliable; that it is trustworthy; that the Scriptures are the revealed Word of God; that the Bible does not contain any errors and that it cannot contain any errors- and that the Bible has been supernaturally protected against corruption by the Omnipotent Power of God.

I am also operating under the assumption that the Bible is authoritative- that means that what the Bible teaches about an issue

supersedes what any man; any group; any Church; any organization; and preacher; any pastor; any prophet; any angel; any pope or anyone else says. That if anyone teaches anything that is contrary to the Scriptures- that person is wrong, and the Bible is true.

I am also operating under the assumption that the Bible is relevant to the 21st Century. That even though we have advanced in many areas of life like science and technology and government and finances and sophistication- that the Bible still has everything that we need for both life and godliness.

And I am also operating under the assumption that all Church Doctrine; all godly teaching; all instruction in Righteousness and all correction of behavior must come from the Bible and from the Bible alone and that means that if history or Church tradition or papal bulls; writs; or edicts; or Church councils differ from Scripture that those human institutions are wrong, and they all must humbly and graciously submit to the authority of Scripture.

So therefore- the preacher and the teacher cannot and must not wing it; he cannot preach or teach what is popular; or what sounds pleasing to the ears; or what makes sense to his natural mind. He cannot place his own private interpretation upon what the Scriptures mean, and he cannot usurp the authority of Scripture by his own personality or his charisma or his cleverness or his cute phrases.

But the faithful minister is commanded by Scripture to study to show himself approved unto God- a workman that needeth not to be ashamed- rightly dividing the Word of Truth. He has to study the scriptures and beg the Holy Spirit to grant him illumination so that he can comprehend what God the Holy Ghost put into the Bible and not what he wants to make the Bible say.

Our job as ministers is not to be popular or to become wealthy and famous- our job as called and chosen bond slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ is to faithfully and accurately and fully teach what the Bible declares to be true regardless of the consequences.

If everyone loves what the Bible says- then Praise be to God for touching their hearts; and if no one wants to hear what the Bible says- may God be pleased to keep us faithful to preach it anyway.

And there couldn't be an issue that illustrates the importance of Sound Doctrine than the issue of how a sinful man is made righteous before God.

That is why Jude mentions this righteousness or blamelessness here in verse 24. He has just spent 23 inspired verses pleading with all those who are saved to earnestly contend for the Faith and doing everything that he can to wake up those who are asleep and to open the eyes of those whose eyes are dim and to unstop the ears of those who are deaf and to otherwise get us all to wake up and smell the coffee and to realize that the devil is waging a very intense and powerful war against the Truth.

So, Jude tells us that what Peter prophesied about in **2Peter** is now upon the Church and the danger of heresy and false teaching was so real and so immanent in Jude's day that within just a few years after Jude wrote this- as John wrote His Revelation- 5 of the seven Churches in Asia had already been overrun with heresy and were called upon by the Lord Himself to repent.

So, Jude begins to close his Epistle here in verse 24, by reminding us of the Great Doctrine of Justification and that because of Jesus Christ- we are going to be able to be presented faultless before His Presence with great joy.

So, if Jude is reminding us of the Doctrine of Justification in this verse- then it is incumbent upon us to know and understand just what Jude was talking about so that we may rejoice with him.

Again, the issue here is very simple- yet it is profound. God is holy and we are sinful. So how are sinful people going to be made righteous enough to be able to go to Heaven?

Every religion and philosophy in the world except Biblical Christianity teaches that Man has to somehow perfect or improve his own personal righteousness over a long extended period of time until their own personal righteousness becomes good enough to qualify for Heaven and Biblical Christianity alone- all by itself- teaches that the sinless, spotless Righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to sinful man by Faith alone at the very second of Justification by a Sovereign miracle of Mercy and Grace.

And here's why this matters. If we are made righteous by developing our own personal righteousness- then that righteousness will be faulty- it will be good on some days and bad on other days. But if we are declared to be righteous by the imputation of Christ's Righteousness- then we are faultless, and our Salvation will be the most stable thing in the Universe because it will not be based upon the

frailties of human flesh- but our Salvation will then be based upon the solid Rock of Jesus Christ's very Own sinless perfection.

If it is our righteousness- then we can't be sure about Salvation. We won't ever be sure. But if it is Christ's Righteousness- we can be absolutely certain of our Salvation.

If the righteousness that qualifies us for Heaven is our own- then we have to in fact cease from all sin- and unless we cease from all sin- we can't go to Heaven- unless of course we blow ourselves up in an airplane. But if the Righteousness that qualifies us for Heaven is not ours- but is Christ's – then we can be righteous and sinful at the same time. And even though we still live in weak, frail flesh- we can have an abundant entrance made for us in Heaven through Jesus Christ. I hope you can begin to see how important all this really is.

How about this? If a lifelong process of works and rituals and keeping Sacraments becoming moral is able to perfect our own personal righteousness to the point that we can qualify for Heaven- then why did Jesus die on the Cross?

Or what about this? If all that we have to do to earn Heaven is to obey the Law of Moses- then why don't we all just obey the Law? But if that is true- then why did Jesus come and die?

Or- if the perfect, sinless, spotless Righteousness that Jesus developed while living His life here on the earth without one single sin is not needed for us to go to Heaven on- then why didn't Jesus just come down from Heaven as a full grown man on Friday and die and then go back to Heaven early Sunday morning? I mean why was Jesus born of a virgin and why did He live a sinless life for 33-1/2 years before He was Crucified if we don't need His Righteousness to be imputed to us?

If the Bible clearly teaches that we are saved by Grace through Faith alone- why do some religions teach that we have to keep Sacraments and then go to Purgatory at the end of our lives?

If the Bible teaches that being Justified is an event- that it occurs in a moment- why do some teach that being Justified is a lifelong process?

If Jesus said in **John 14:6** that no man could go to the Father but through Him alone- why do some teach that Mary is a co-Redemptrix with Christ for Salvation?

Now I am not impugning anybody's sincerity by what I am saying my brothers and sisters. I know that there are many people who are

very sincere in their beliefs. But sincerity alone is not the same thing as being Scripturally correct. And unless your faith and unless my faith is firmly proved by Scripture- your faith and my faith is a sham, and it is not okay, and it will not count for anything with God. God is not obligated beloved to allow me into Heaven simply because I am sincere. Being sincere has its advantages and its disadvantages. But I am held to the same standard as everybody else- God has spoken His Word and if we plan to go to Heaven- we will go God's Way or we will not go at all- so rather than argue about who is sincere or who is not sincere- what we need to do is find out what God had said and then believe and love and preach and obey that.

Believing that God exists is nice- but it isn't enough. I mean you would have to be a moron to look into a child's eyes or to look at a mountain or to gaze at a sunset and then not know that someone bigger and wiser and more powerful than you made all this. So don't pat yourself on the back because you believe in God- because the devil believes in God too- and he isn't saved either.

So, all this really does matter. And so, I urge you to open your Bibles and find out if you are being taught right about Justification and if you are being taught right about Salvation and if you are being taught right about Righteousness so that you can be presented faultless before the Presence of His Glory with exceeding joy and so that we all can earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

Well, I have 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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse- by- verse Journey through the Epistle of Jude. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.