



NO LEFT TURNS

A Call to Discernment in Jude's New Testament Letter

"REMEMBER THE WORDS" *Jude 17-23*

"The subject of the true attitude of believers in the face of all these perils is dealt with. First, there is to be recognition of the danger. It has two distinguishing marks. The first is that their influence is that they make separations,, and the second is that their temper is sensual, not spiritual. In the presence of these perils it is important that believers should 'keep themselves in the love of God.' this is to be done by building on faith, praying in the Spirit, and looking for mercy."—G. Campbell Morgan

I. APOSTATES DEFINED (Jude 17-19)

(Note the parallel in Jude 4)

- A. Authority of true Apostolic teaching (v. 17)
 - 1. "Apostles...foretold"; finished statements with on-going results.
- B. Apostolic announcement on coming apostasy (v. 18)
 - 1. Latter-day sinners, mockers, scoffers at truth.
 - 2. Individuals driven and motivated by their own inner lusts.
- C. Apostates' final indictment (v 19)
 - 1. Divisive in nature.
 - 2. Soulless in personality.
 - 3. Minus the Holy Spirit, therefore, unsaved.



"Without the presence of the Spirit there is no conviction, no regeneration, no sanctification, no cleansing, no acceptable works. We can perform duties without Him, but our service is dull and mechanical. Life is in the quickening (life-giving) Spirit."—W. A. Criswell

II. BELIEVERS DEFINED (Jude 20-23)

- A. Active personal participation in the growth process (v. 20)
 - 1. "Building up", continuous spiritual action.
- B. Trust in Divine love and mercy (v. 21)
 - 1. "Wait for the mercy" means to be "looking expectantly for the return of Christ."
- C. Spiritual involvement in the lives of others (vs. 22, 23)
 - 1. Patience with the doubters (v. 22)
 - 2. Crisis intervention for the endangered unsaved (v. 22)
 - 3. Discretionary concern (v. 23)

"The Rapture will be the consummating evidence of His mercy."—The Bible Knowledge Commentary

FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION, and APPLICATION...

1. Why do you think the Bible places such a strong indictment against those who are *divisive* within the Church, The Body of Christ? Might these simply be wise, intuitive people who see the church's problems more clearly than others? Surely they can't all be apostates? *Reference Romans 16:17, 18 and I Corinthians 1:10, 11:18, and 12:25.*
2. Review the seven specific commands given to believers in the text of Jude (Vs. 3, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23). These are not necessarily natural responses; what is necessary to fulfill them?
3. What are some ways in which our *world-view* and our *Bible-view* influence our *person-view* as far as unsaved people are concerned? Who do we write off as hopeless cases?
4. The Christian church has done a radical shift from "rescue the perishing", and "snatch them in pity from sin and the grave" as the old song goes. *Friendly seekers* may be easy to reach with a friendly Gospel; how may we best minister in behalf of the unchurched, doubting, possibly corrupted society?
5. Jude seems to be as passionate in his challenge to believers as he is in his indictment of apostasy. Comment on what he's really saying about what it will cost for believers to reach the lost. All theological jargon aside, how deeply, sincerely concerned are we in behalf of an often apathetic world?