



NO LEFT TURNS

A Call to Discernment in Jude's New Testament Letter

BLESSED ASSURANCE *Jude 24, 25*

*"As the epistle began, so it ends, with words of assurance for God's people living in dark days. Will they be able to keep themselves in the love of God? Can they avoid contamination in their contacts with the ungodly? Is it possible for them always to walk uprightly in the land of the living? The answer was made crystal clear. They can so live, because the One who loved them and gave Himself for them is able also to keep them from falling." —Dr. S. Maxwell Coder, *The Acts of the Apostates**

OUR PROTECTION (Jude 24a)

- A. Divine power to protect us from stumbling spiritually (note Proverbs 2:12-15, 3:21-23)
- B. *To keep* means to guard, defend, preserve.

II. OUR PRESENTATION (24b)

- A. By grace we will stand before God's throne, justified and blameless (note Ephesians 5:25, 27)
- B. We will be *blameless and faultless* because our guilt and blame have been paid for by Christ.
- C. We will be *made acceptable*, and are therefore able to stand before God's throne.

III. OUR PROSPERITY (24c)

- A. For the Christian believer, a time of praise, celebration, and joy (note I John 3:2)
- B. The prospect of Heaven and fullness of joy.

"The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for." —Thomas Chalmers

IV. OUR PRAISE (25a)

- A. Glory and praise is due to the true source of salvation:
 - 1. Glory, the radiance of God's being.
 - 2. Majesty, Divine *omniscience*—all knowledge.
 - 3. Dominion, Divine *omnipresence*—all present.
 - 4. Power, *omnipotence*—all power.



V. OUR PERMANENCE (25b)

- A. The blessed assurance of the Christian, past, present, and future security in God's promises.
Amen!

"The epistle closes with a glorious doxology which ascribes to God the Saviour all honor for that He is able to accomplish the salvation of His trusting ones in two ways, which are all-inclusive; as to continuity 'able to guard you from stumbling', and as to consummation, 'to set you before the presence of His glory'." —G. Campbell Morgan

FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION and APPLICATION...

1. We Christians are sometimes accused of being too blessedly smug in our assurance. Any possibility of some truth in this? What is an ideal state of mind in manifesting grace to the unsaved? To the saved? To apostasy victims?
2. When we read the characteristics of the apostates, some of them may raise their ugly heads in the lives born-again people. How can this happen, and what can we do about it?
3. Jude talks a lot about our future eternal state in Heaven. Sometimes, when things are comfortable here in the present, it's hard to focus on eternity. What are some suggestions for being both earthly and Heavenly minded?
4. Verse 24 in the New Living Translation states, "And now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling". Do you think that "spiritual stumbling" is always an accident? Are there cases where it can be a *choice*? Isn't this the very essence of rationalizing sin? In the light of God's resources, what is a common-sense view?
5. The people of the first century lived in the atmosphere of growing apostasy. They were admittedly vulnerable to false teaching. How did their situation parallel ours? Why should we be in a stronger strength status? Are we?
6. Run a mental checklist of the first two verses and the last two verses of Jude. Count off the character qualities of God, praise Him for His love, and put the "Amen" on the benediction.