

“How To Grow Spiritually In A Day Of False Teaching”

Jude 17-23

Sermon Series: “The Faith That Stands And The Fake That Falls”

Introduction: We live in a day where false teaching is very prevalent just as it apparently was in Jude’s day. Jude tells his readers how to keep growing spiritually and minister to others in the midst of all of this false teaching, and we are to apply these truths today to keep growing spiritually in the midst of false teaching.

How can we grow spiritually in the midst of all this false teaching?

1. Reject false teachers by embracing the apostles’ teaching (v. 17-19). The apostles warned against false teachers (Acts 20:28-30), and we are told to know their words and heed their warning (2 Timothy 3:13-17). Why are we do embrace the apostles’ teaching (2 Peter 1:12-21)?

A. The apostles’ teaching is the truth of God for all generations recorded in the New Testament (v. 12-15).

B. The apostles’ teaching is the eyewitness testimony of Jesus Christ (v. 16-18).

C. The apostles’ teaching recorded in the New Testament is inspired by the Holy Spirit (v. 19-21).

-Characteristics of false teachers Jude shares here:

A. They demean the truth.

B. They delight in sin.

C. They divide the body.

D. They are devoid of the Holy Spirit.

2. Remain in the love of God (v. 20-21). Explain that “keeping yourselves in the love of God” is the verbal imperative while the other 3 phrases are participles modifying it (or telling us how to do it, as in the Great Commission). Why do we have to keep ourselves in the love of God? Isn’t God’s love unconditional and unending? It refers to the experience of the love of God. God does love us, but we can miss out on the personal experience of that love (John 15:9-10, 1 John 4:7-12).

What does this mean and how do we do it?

A. Build ourselves up on our most holy faith (v. 20). It says “your” faith. So, begin by making sure you have a personal faith in Christ. Jesus is the only true foundation that we can build on (1 Corinthians 3:10-15). However, this also refers to “the faith,” the body of revealed Christian doctrine centered in the person and work of

Jesus. The gospel is the means to our sanctification as well as our salvation. We grow in grace by continually looking to Jesus and preaching the gospel to ourselves daily.

B. Pray in the Holy Spirit (v. 20). This means in Greek to pray “in the sphere of the Holy Spirit, “ which means with the direction and empowerment of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18, Romans 8:26-27).

C. Look for the return of Jesus (v. 21). 1 John 3:1-3

3. Restore those led astray by false teachers (v. 22-23).

A. Restore those who are doubting with mercy.

B. Restore those who have been defiled with fear.

-Galatians 6:1, Luke 15:4