

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST APOSTASY



What You Need to Know



Jude

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.



Jude

¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God,



Jude

looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

**“But you, beloved,
REMEMBER...”**

Why?

- (1) To prepare for the future.
- (2) To maintain confidence and courage in troubled times knowing that God’s omniscience and omnipotence mean all things are known by Him and He will work all things out according to His promises and plans.



3 Final Things to Remember About Apostasy

1. “Words Spoken...by the Apostles” (17)

Who were the APOSTLES?



“words spoken . . . by the apostles”

Ephesians 2:19-20

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,

3 Final Things to Remember About Apostasy

1. “Words Spoken...by the Apostles” (17)
2. “In the Last Time...” (18a)

When is the **LAST TIME**?



“in the last time . . .”

II Timothy 3:1

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,² has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;



“in the last time . . .”

I Peter 1:20

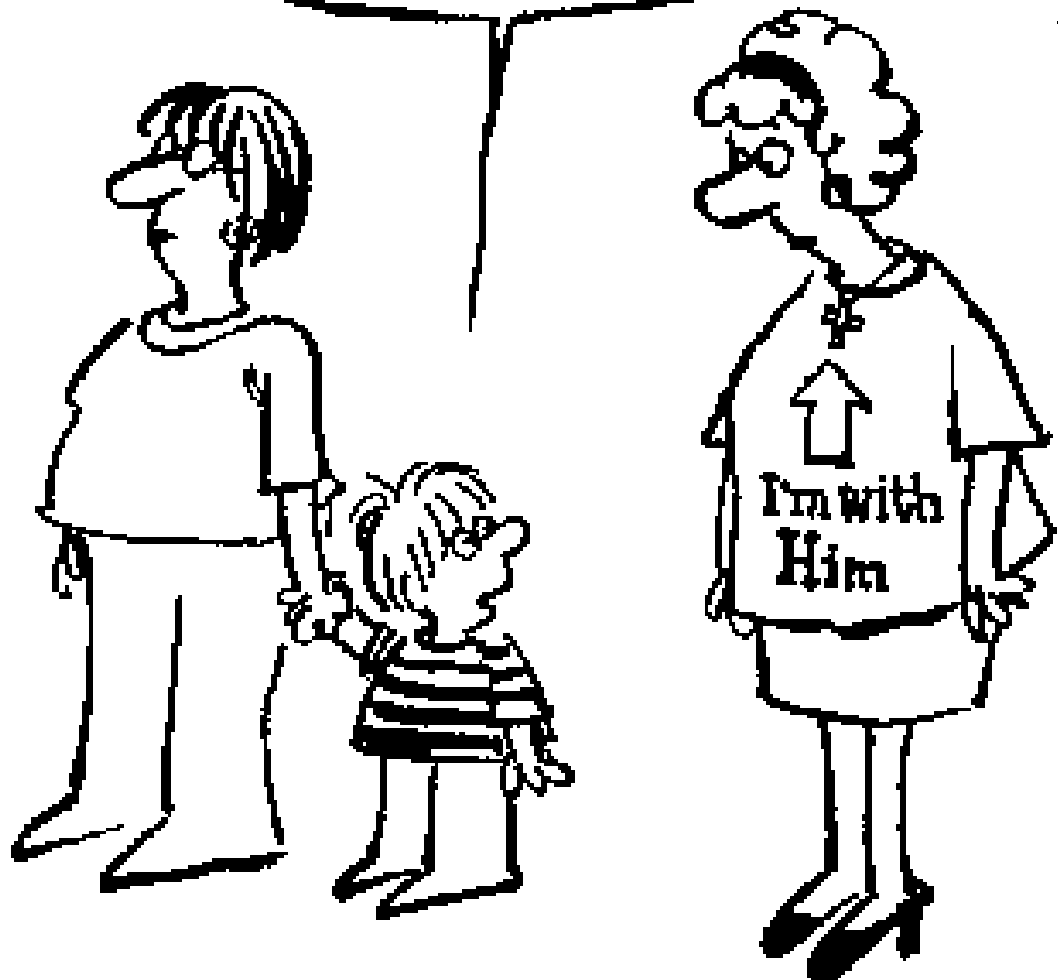
He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

3 Final Things to Remember About Apostasy

1. “Words Spoken...by the Apostles” (17)
2. “In the Last Time...” (18a)
3. “There will be mockers...” (18b)

What or Who will be MOCKED?

AREN'T YOU A LITTLE
OLD TO HAVE AN
IMAGINARY FRIEND?



II Timothy 3:1-13

But know this, that in the last days
perilous times will come: ² For men will
be lovers of themselves, lovers of
money, boasters, proud, blasphemers,
disobedient to parents, unthankful,
unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving,
slanderers, without self-control, brutal,
despisers of good,.

II Timothy 3:1-13

⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth:..

II Timothy 3:1-13

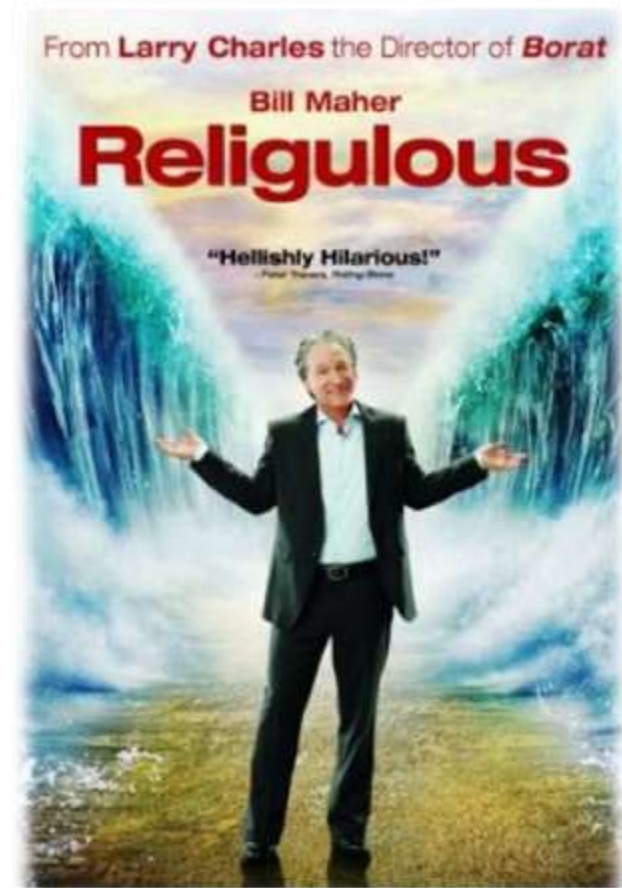
men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith...

¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

“there will be mockers. . .”

“We are a nation that is unenlightened because of religion. I do believe that. I think that religion stops people from thinking. I think it justifies crazies. I think flying planes into a building was a faith-based initiative. I think religion is a neurological disorder. If you look at it logically, it’s something that was drilled into your head when you were a small child. It certainly was drilled into mine at that age. And you really can’t be responsible when you are a kid for what adults put into your head.”



II Peter 3:3–9

Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”⁵ For this they willfully forget:

II Peter 3:3–9

that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

II Peter 3:3–9

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

“If ever there was a case of a lame excuse we have it here. Ignorance is ignorance; no right to believe anything can be derived from it. In other matters no sensible person will behave so irresponsibly or rest content with such feeble grounds for his opinions and for the line he takes. . . . Where questions of religion are concerned, people are guilty of every possible sort of dishonesty and intellectual misdemeanor.”



Sigmund Freud

THE APOSTATES' PROFILE

1. Ungodly (4)
2. Morally Perverted (4)
3. Deny Christ (4)
4. Defile the Flesh (8)
5. Rebellious (8)
6. Revile Angels (8)
7. Ignorant of God (10)
8. Proclaim False Visions (10)
9. Self-Destructive (10)
10. Grumblers (16)
11. Fault finders (16)
12. Self-Satisfying (16)
13. Use of Arrogant Words (16)
14. Use False Flattery (16)

4 More Characteristics of Apostates

1. They are Sensual (18c)

“lusts” - ἐπιθυμία (epithumia) = “a passionate craving,” good or bad.

“ungodly lusts”

Galatians 5:24

And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

got lust?

All of us is born with needs and natural desires or lusts.

When we “fulfill” our desires unlawfully we sin.

Satan “entices” us to satisfy our desires contrary to God's Law.

Cycle of Lust continued = licentiousness. Sin = death.

The Steps to Death - James 1:13-16

4 More Characteristics of Apostates

1. They are Sensual (18c)
2. They are Worldly (19a):

“**worldly**” (psychikos) = to life of the natural world; unspiritual; one who functions bodily

I John 2:16

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Colossians 3:2

**Set your mind on things above,
not on things on the earth.**



4 More Characteristics of Apostates

1. They are Sensual (18c)
2. They are Worldly (19a):
3. They cause Divisions (19b)

“division” = “to draw a boundary through”

A group of white sheep are gathered in a field, some looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

John 17:11

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*.

Philippians 2:1-2

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

4 More Characteristics of Apostates

1. They are Sensual (18c)
2. They are Worldly (19a):
3. They cause Divisions (19b)
4. They are Devoid of the Spirit (19c)

Fake Christians

I Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

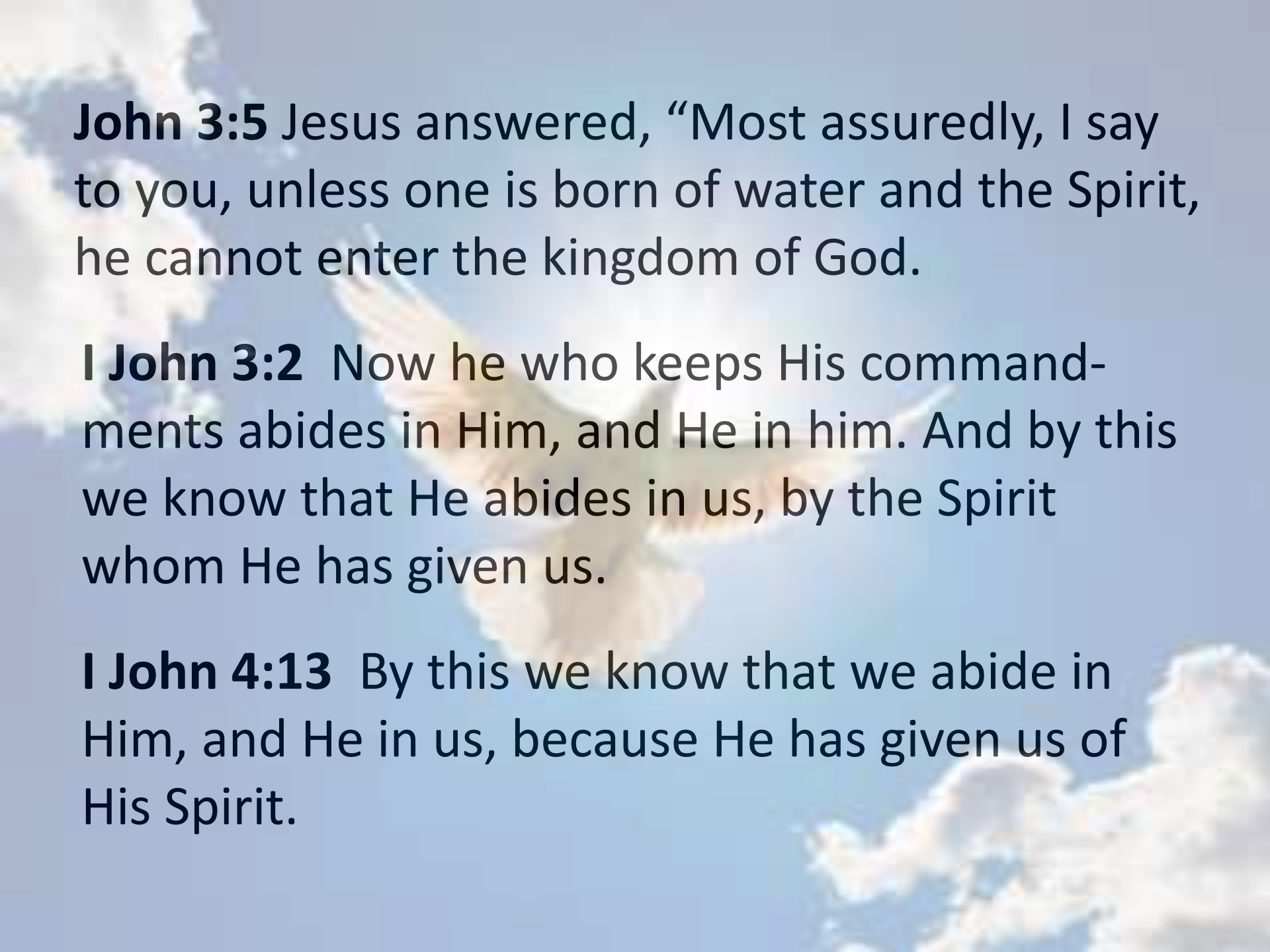


THE HOLY SPIRIT



Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.



John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:2 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.



4 Final Instructions to the Church

1. Building yourself up in your most holy faith

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith...

³ ...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

BODY BUILDING

Colossians 2:6-7 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Ephesians 4:11–12 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

How does a Christian primarily build themselves up in the “most holy faith”?

Acts 20:32 “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1 Peter 2:1-2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,



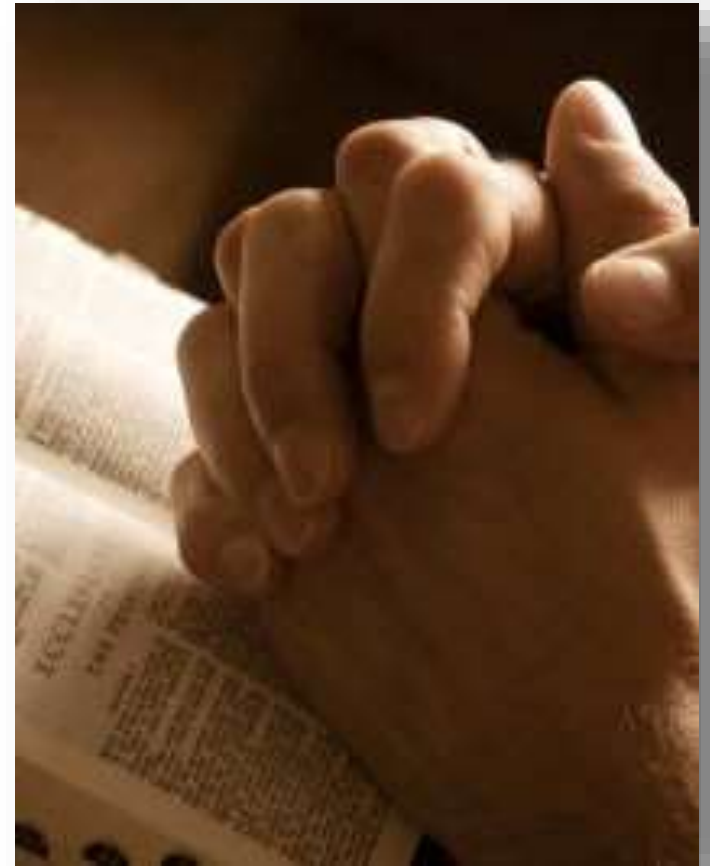
4 Final Instructions to the Church

1. Building yourself up in the most holy faith
2. Praying in the Holy Spirit

What is “praying in the Spirit”?

I Corinthians 12:30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

Ephesians 6:18 ...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.





4 Final Instructions to the Church

1. Building yourself up in the most holy faith
2. Praying in the Holy Spirit
3. Keeping yourself in the Love of God

¹ ...To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

Keep Yourself in God's Love

John 15:9-10 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



4 Final Instructions to the Church

1. Building yourself up in the most holy faith
2. Praying in the Holy Spirit
3. Keeping yourself in the Love of God
4. Anticipating the mercy of our
Lord Jesus Christ

“waiting anxiously for the mercy...”

Apostates have no hope –
only judgment awaits them

True Believers have hope –
goodness and mercy awaits
them



Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.



4 Final Instructions to the Church

1. Building yourself up in the most holy faith
2. Praying in the Holy Spirit
3. Keeping yourself in the Love of God
4. Anticipating the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ

On some: Compassion

On others: Save with Fear

II Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds (lit. prisons),⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,⁶ and being ready to punish all dis-obedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

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This message is part of a series of studies on Contending for the Faith in the book of Jude and, like all of my messages, has a study guide available to you at our website below. A video file is also available on YouTube at FAITHBIBLEBRADENTON. If you have found this study helpful give God the glory. If you find an error it's my fault.

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