

God Is ... I Know It's True

Text : **Jude 3-23** (esp. 20-21)

S#1.

S#2.

A. When we first started having services again we reminded ourselves that God is ever present ... “*Omnipresent*.”

1. Wherever we are; whatever our circumstances; God is there with us.

Psa. 46: 1 – God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change
and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea.

2. We need to feel His presence.

- a. When tempted
- b. When facing adversity

B. Knowing that God is present to protect and assist us, we should:

1. Observe three truths in our lives.

- a. God is in absolute control ... He is the only sovereign ruler.
- b. Every day is a gift from God ... there is no promise of tomorrow.
- c. Relationships are the most important things ... with God and fellowman.

Matt 22: 37 – Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? **37** And **S#3.**
He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

Matt 22: 39 – "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

2. We observed 5 actions we should take in response these truths.

- a. We must be prudent.
- b. We must respect to government.
- c. We must replace worry with prayer.
- d. We must take advantage of circumstances to share the gospel.

Col. 4: 5 – **Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders,**
making the most of the opportunity.

S#4.

- e. We must fill our minds with scripture. (*Not CNN or Fox News*)

C. Last time we observed that God is always aware of our circumstances.

S#5.

1. God takes a long view because time is irrelevant to Him.

- a. Before He created the world He knew man would sin.
- b. Before the first sin God had a plan to reunite man to himself.

2. It was thousands of years before God implemented His plan to save man.

3. There are far-reaching implications for God not saving man immediately.
 - a. God is always aware of all time ... past, present, and future. (*All now*)
 - b. God knew about all the mass casualty events, **but** did not prevent them.
 - c. The sovereign God did not reveal the reasons for His decisions. **Deut. 28: 28**
 - 1) We know the character of God ... **Love.**
 - 2) God can use even evil people and evil events to bring about good. **Rom. 8:28**
4. The scriptures teach that all physical suffering is a result of sin.
 - a. We know that all men sin and earn of the wages of sin ... **death.** **Rom 6: 3**
 - b. We know that for the Christian physical death is but a transition into glory.

D. In these times we need stronger faith, but faith is under stress.

S#6.

1. That about which the Lord's Apostle forewarned us is a current reality.
II Tim. 3: 13 – But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
2. These evil people seek to redefine that we know to be evil as being good.
Isa. 5: 20 – Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! **21** Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!
3. Evil seems to be winning. What is a Christian to do?

S#7.

S#8.

I. The book of Jude was written at a time when the church was under threat.

A. Often people don't want to leave the old man in the grave so the old man is constantly fight against the new man.

S#9.

1. This is what Jude warned about.
Jude 17 –But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, **18** that they were saying to you, " In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." **19** These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.
2. This is the reason for the instructions of Jesus :
Matt. 28: 19 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
3. Even in the first century, half taught and half converted "members" were a problem.
4. This creates a significant problem for elders.

S#10.

S#11.

B. Some people had come into the church, but were denying the deity of Jesus.

1. **Jude 4** – For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. S#12.
 - 1) *This probably refers to gnosticism – Greek heresy*
 - 2) People tend to want to bring their culture into the church. (*Jews brought law*)
 - 3) There is a tendency to want to make one's religion comfortable.
2. What was supposed to be their response ? **Stand up for the teachings Jesus.**
 - a. **Jude 3** – Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. S#13.
 - b. No one likes conflict, but some things must be defended. *The gospel is one.*
3. The Apostle Paul said those who changed the gospel should be accursed.
Gal. 1: 8 – But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel (*re: faith*) contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! S#14.
4. Jude affirms that the gospel message is unchangeable.
Jude 3 – ... I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints

C. What do we use to “contend earnestly for the faith?”

1. The Apostle Paul told us we fight spiritual battles with spiritual weapons.
Eph. 6: 17 “and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ”
2. In his arguments against the false teachers Jude used many O.T. examples.
 - a. Cain, Balaam, Korah, Adam, Enoch
 - b. Jude is proof we need to be familiar with the O.T.
3. “The faith” refers to the body of teaching about the Christ and His church.

S#15.

II. Jude places upon each Christian the personal responsibility for his own faith.

A. Notice, Jude's directive is unambiguous :

1. **Jude 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, ... S#16.
2. “you, beloved” Notice that this command is addressed to the recipients of the book.
 - a. “**Jude 1** – To those who are called, beloved in God the Father,”
 - b. Thus, both the book and its commands apply to Christians, not the lost.

B. Each individual Christian is charged with securing his own faith.

1. There are many places where the scriptures command us to reinforce each other.
 - a. If we see a brother headed for spiritual jeopardy, we must rescue him.
Gal. 6: 1 – Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. S#17.
 - b. **Heb. 10: 24** – And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together
 - c. NOTICE : Both examples warn us to be aware lest we are drawn away.
2. Jude issues clear instructions :
Jude 20 – But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, S#18. praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.
 - a. Build = *epoikodomeō* = “to make more able”
 - b. Making one’s faith “more able” is every Christian’s personal responsibility.
3. First one lays a foundation of faith and then he builds on that foundation.
 - a. **Col. 2: 6** – Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, S#19. so walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, ...
 - b. First one must establish a foundation of faith, **but** then he must build on it.
4. Our brethren help us, **but** the ultimate responsibility to build our faith is ours.
“building yourselves up on your most holy faith,”

C. What is the process of building up our faith.

1. The same thing that established our faith will build it. S#20.
 - a. **Rom. 10: 17** – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
 - b. **Acts 20: 32** – And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (cf – **I Tim. 4: 12**)
2. “Praying” builds up one’s faith.
 - a. Prayer is an act of submission.
 - b. It is an expression of trust and dependence.
 - c. The more we express these the more comfortable we become with them.
3. One’s attitude toward prayer demonstrates his level of faith.
 - a. **Phil. 4: 6** – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. S#21.

- b. When one's faith is built up, once he prays the problem rests with God.

D. The whole objective is to keep ourselves in the love of God.

S#22.

1. Vs. **21** – keep yourselves in the love of God,
 - a. God does not stop loving us every time we make a mistake.
 - b. **I John 1: 6-2:2** ... If we confess our sins (*our mistakes*) God forgives us
2. One way we stay in God's love is to obey him.
John 15: 14 – You are My friends if you do what I command you.
3. Loving God keeps us in God's love.
Prov. 8: 17 – I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.

CONCLUSION :

A. We are living in a trying and tumultuous time.

1. Like Thomas Paine wrote in the Pennsylvania Journal under the title The American Crisis ... “These are the times that try men's souls; ...” **S#23.**
2. Disease and civil unrest are creating much concern and even fear in the weak.

B. This is an appropriate time for us to revisit the admonition of Bro. Jude.

1. **Jude 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, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. **S#24.**
2. The battle sometime becomes heated, **but the victory is ours.**
I John 5: 4 – For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; **S#25.**
 and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.
3. Thomas Paine also closed the same paragraph with an applicable statement. **S#26.**
 “... yet we have this consolation with us,
 that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

INVITATION :

The victory is in Jesus. Are you in Him.

Are you “waiting anxiously”