



STUDY GUIDE

Oct 1

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Oct 22



LOOK AT THE BOOK

A LOOK AT THE BOOK

A STUDY

through the Books of Philemon, Obadiah, Haggai, and Jude

October 1 - October 22

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Written by TJ Johnson

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STUDY GUIDE

Oct 1



LOOK AT THE BOOK

PHILEMON

**Peacemaking Among
Friends in Conflict**

Peacemaking Among Friends in Conflict

Philemon

Greeting

1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker 2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, 6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. 7 For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, 9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— 10 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. 11 (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) 12 I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. 13 I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. 15 For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, 16 no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Peacemaking Among Friends in Conflict

Philemon

17 So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. 18 If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. 19 I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. 20 Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. 22 At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Final Greetings

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, 24 and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Peacemaking Among Friends in Conflict

Join us this week for the start of a four-week series aimed at helping us learn practical Bible study skills. In each sermon, we'll use a simple three-step method: Observation, Interpretation, Application (OIA). This Sunday, we will study the book of Philemon and discover how Christ can assist us in repairing strained relationships. Whether it is a spouse, roommate, small group member, sibling, parent, coworker, or stranger on the street, God has called us to LOVE one another. And yet, so often we struggle to do that very thing. This short book, that is often overlooked gives us practical wisdom to fulfill the law of Christ.

Peacemaking with you,

Pastor TJ



Discussion Questions

OBSERVATION

1. Who wrote Philemon? (Name, relationship to recipients, specific descriptors in the book that are significant, etc)
2. To whom was it written? (what else do you know about these people... do a word search if necessary)
3. What is the setting or context of the passage? (key cities, geography, time period, main conflict)
4. Are there any repeated words, phrases, or ideas?
5. Are there any contrasts or comparisons in the passage? (aka: useless, useful, Onesimus; slave, brother)
6. What questions do you have after reading the text?

INTERPRETATION

7. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?
8. What is the cultural and historical background of this passage? (be sure to discuss first century Roman slavery)



Discussion Questions

INTERPRETATION CONTINUED

9. Are there any symbolic or metaphorical elements to consider?
10. What theological or doctrinal principles are present?
12. How does this book relate to other passages in the Bible?
13. What is the intended message for the original audience?
14. What are the key words or phrases that carry theological importance?
15. Are there any literary devices or figures of speech in use?

APPLICATION

16. What does Philemon teach us about the inevitability of conflict? See also Col. 3:13, Eph. 4:2, 1 Cor. 13, 1 Peter 4:8.
17. Using Ken Sande's *The Slippery Slope* graphic, discuss which reaction you are most prone to and why. (see page 11)
18. What would it have looked like for Onesimus to Fight or Flight and what methods of peacemaking are displayed in the book of Philemon that we can model in our own relationships?



Discussion Questions

APPLICATION CONTINUED

19. Read Philemon 1:21. Why is Paul confident that Philemon will choose peacemaking rather than fight or flight? Do you think it's true that conflict can ALWAYS be resolved among two Christians? Explain.

20. Share with the group a conflict you had and how the gospel helped you reconcile.

21. Read Philemon 1:5, 8. Why does Paul use love and not the law (because I said so) to compel Philemon to reconcile? What might the motivation of love and not law look like in our relationships today (parenting, marriage, friendships, etc)

22. Read Matthew 18:15-20; Phil. 4:2-3. What is the role of the church in reconciliation? When should others get involved? Give practical examples from life today.

23. In what ways was reconciliation costly for Philemon, Paul, and Onesimus? In what ways is reconciliation costly for us today?

24. What other things might we need to consider as we talk about reconciliation? (what about in cases of abuse, illegal activity, danger, gross offenses, etc)

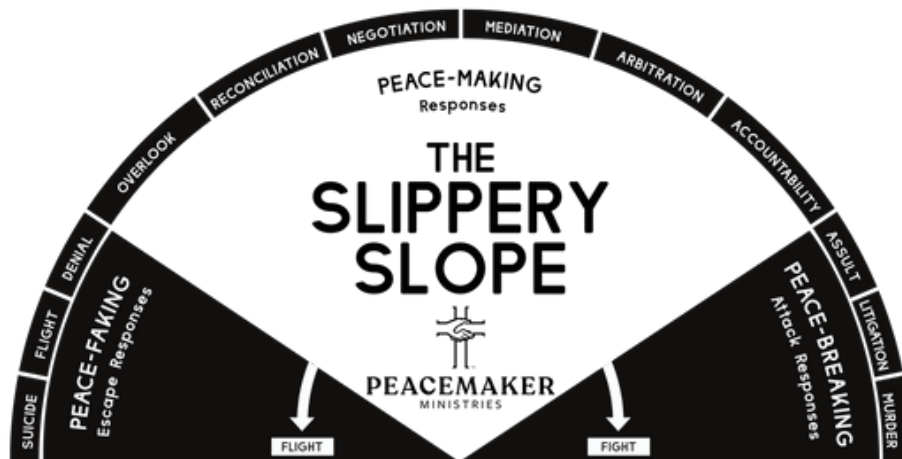
25. Is there someone you need to reconcile with today?



Discussion Questions

APPLICATION CONTINUED

26. Is there someone in your community that you needs your mediation?
27. How does this passage point to Jesus Christ or His redemptive work?





Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE



LOOK AT THE BOOK

OBADIAH

Will God Bring Justice?

Oct 8

Will God Bring Justice?

Obadiah

1 The vision of Obadiah.

Edom Will Be Humbled

Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom:

We have heard a report from the Lord,
and a messenger has been sent among the nations:

“Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!”

2 Behold, I will make you small among the nations;
you shall be utterly despised.

3 The pride of your heart has deceived you,
you who live in the clefts of the rock,
in your lofty dwelling,
who say in your heart,

“Who will bring me down to the ground?”

4 Though you soar aloft like the eagle,
though your nest is set among the stars,
from there I will bring you down,
declares the Lord.

5 If thieves came to you,
if plunderers came by night—
how you have been destroyed!—
would they not steal only enough for themselves?

If grape gatherers came to you,
would they not leave gleanings?

6 How Esau has been pillaged,
his treasures sought out!

7 All your allies have driven you to your border;
those at peace with you have deceived you;
they have prevailed against you;
those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you—
you have no understanding.

Will God Bring Justice?

Obadiah

8 Will I not on that day, declares the Lord,
destroy the wise men out of Edom,
and understanding out of Mount Esau?

9 And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman,
so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.

Edom's Violence Against Jacob

10 Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob,
shame shall cover you,
and you shall be cut off forever.

11 On the day that you stood aloof,
on the day that strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were like one of them.

12 But do not gloat over the day of your brother
in the day of his misfortune;
do not rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their ruin;
do not boast
in the day of distress.

13 Do not enter the gate of my people
in the day of their calamity;
do not gloat over his disaster
in the day of his calamity;
do not loot his wealth
in the day of his calamity.

14 Do not stand at the crossroads
to cut off his fugitives;
do not hand over his survivors
in the day of distress.

Will God Bring Justice?

Obadiah

The Day of the Lord Is Near

15 For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations.

As you have done, it shall be done to you;
your deeds shall return on your own head.

16 For as you have drunk on my holy mountain,
so all the nations shall drink continually;
they shall drink and swallow,
and shall be as though they had never been.

17 But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape,
and it shall be holy,
and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions.

18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire,
and the house of Joseph a flame,
and the house of Esau stubble;
they shall burn them and consume them,
and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau,
for the Lord has spoken.

The Kingdom of the Lord

19 Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau,
and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines;
they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria,
and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

20 The exiles of this host of the people of Israel
shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath,
and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
shall possess the cities of the Negeb.

21 Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion
to rule Mount Esau,
and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

Will God Bring Justice?

Judgment Day is probably not a topic you spend much time thinking about, much less discussing with others. And yet, both Old and New Testament speak frequently of this future, "Day of the Lord," where God comes to set right what is wrong in our world. It is a day of delight for God's saints (for we will be freed from sin once and for all) and doom for God's enemies (for their sin will be judged). Even reading that sentence might make you a bit uncomfortable. God has enemies? God will judge sinners and not just sin?

If you find this idea hard to grasp, I encourage you to read the book of Obadiah. It is a book written about Judgment to give His people HOPE! This Sunday, we'll talk about the hope of Judgment and try to make sense of a world gone wrong.

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus,

Pastor TJ



Discussion Questions

Read the book of Obadiah out loud. If possible, use two different translations, one more word for word and another more thought for thought.

OBSERVATION

1. Who are the recipients of Obadiah, and what is the purpose of writing to these two groups?
2. Are there any repeated words, phrases, or ideas?
3. Are there any contrasts or comparisons in the passage? (aka: ???)
4. What questions do you have after reading the text?

INTERPRETATION

5. What is the cultural and historical background of this passage? (Discuss the relationship between Edom and Israel)
6. Are there any symbolic or metaphorical elements to consider?
7. What theological or doctrinal principles are present?
8. How does this book relate to other passages in the Bible?
9. What is the intended message for the original audience?



Discussion Questions

INTERPRETATION

10. What are the key words or phrases that carry theological importance? (Day of the Lord)
11. Are there any literary devices or figures of speech in use?

APPLICATION

12. Read v. 3-9 (see also Proverbs 16:18, James 4:6, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 29:23, 1 Peter 5:5). Why is God so opposed to pride (Edom's and ours)?
13. What false hopes did Edom place their trust in for safety? What false hopes might we place our trust in today?
14. Read v. 5-6 (see also 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 3:3). In what ways will the judgment of God against sinners be similar to yet worse than a thief in the night?
15. Read v. 10-14. Discuss the specific sins of Edom and ways people might commit these sins today.
16. Note the phrase, "cut off forever." Why is the judgment of God against sinners an eternal and not temporary judgment? In what ways should this inform how we live now?



Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

17. Read v. 15 (see also Isaiah 13:6, Joel 2:31, Amos 5:18, Zephaniah 1:14-15, Malachi 4:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10). Discuss the theological importance of “Day of the Lord” and how it impacts our life today. SEE: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/day-of-the-lord/>

18. What for you are the most difficult things to accept about the “day of the Lord” or Judgment Day? (in what ways might v. 15 help us to understand the justice of God’s judgment)

19. Why should this day be both one we dread and desire?

20. Read v. 17. Who escapes this judgment and how? Can you have assurance of this?

21. Read v. 18 (see also Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:28-30, 1 Corinthians 6:2, Revelation 2:26-27, Revelation 3:21, Daniel 7:22). Both Old and New Testament speak of the saints participating in the judgment of sinners. What role will saints play and how does that make you feel?

22. Read v. 19-21. What is the theological significance of these verses and how do they relate to us today?

23. How does this passage point to Jesus Christ and His redemptive work? (Go back to Gen. 3:15 and trace the two seed conflict that finds its fulfilment in Jesus’ work on the cross)

20 24. How can you pray based on what you’ve learned from this passage?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE



LOOK AT THE BOOK

HAGGAI

Get Back to Work

Oct 15

Get Back to Work

Haggai

The Command to Rebuild the Temple

1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: 2 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.” 3 Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, 4 “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? 5 Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. 6 You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

7 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. 8 Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord. 9 You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. 10 Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. 11 And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.”

The People Obey the Lord

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord. 13 Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke to the people with the Lord's message, “I am with you, declares the Lord.” 14 And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

Get Back to Work

Haggai

The Coming Glory of the Temple

2 In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet: 2 “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, 3 ‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? 4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, 5 according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. 6 For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. 7 And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. 9 The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.’”

Blessings for a Defiled People

10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, 11 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Ask the priests about the law: 12 ‘If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?’” The priests answered and said, “No.” 13 Then Haggai said, “If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?” The priests answered and said, “It does become unclean.” 14 Then Haggai answered and said, “So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, declares the Lord, and so with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is unclean. 15 Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the Lord, 16 how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty.

Get Back to Work

Haggai

17 I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to me, declares the Lord. 18 Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid, consider: 19 Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you."

Zerubbabel Chosen as a Signet

20 The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, 21 "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, 22 and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother. 23 On that day, declares the Lord of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the Lord, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the Lord of hosts."

Get Back to Work

"Haggai, a concise yet profoundly impactful book, echoes God's longing to dwell among His people. It serves as a powerful reminder of our divine partnership in constructing God's Kingdom on Earth. Just as the returnees from Babylon were summoned to build the Temple, we too are entrusted with the sacred task of building the Church. This goes far beyond Bible Studies and Sunday Services; this mandate encompasses our entire existence. We are a Kingdom and Priest and Holy Temple; every facet of our lives embodies Kingdom work. This means that your Monday to Friday, 9-5 job, and your parenting, your spousing, your friending, your schooling, your EVERYTHING is holy, sacred, Temple building. Join us Sunday as we hear the call to, "Get Back to Work."

Building with You,

Pastor TJ



Discussion Questions

Read the book of Haggai out loud. If possible, use two different translations, one more word for word and another more thought for thought.

OBSERVATION

1. What dates are mentioned in this book, and why do you think Haggai structures the book around these dates?
2. Who are the people mentioned in this book, what do we know about them?
3. What are the repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this book?
4. What questions do you have after reading the text?

INTERPRETATION

5. Take some time to discuss the historical setting of Haggai (in relation to Jeremiah, Lamentations, Daniel, Esther, Ezra, and Zechariah).
6. Are there any symbolic or metaphorical elements to consider? (Temple)
7. What theological or doctrinal principles are present?
(note the prophet, priest, and king roles represented; what is the function of “signet ring” and how does Jeremiah help further explain this text; what does it mean to “once again” shake the earth and what NT book quotes this passage)



Discussion Questions

INTERPRETATION

8. How does this book relate to other passages in the Bible?
9. What is the intended message for the original audience?
10. What are the key words or phrases that carry theological importance? (Dwell, Glory, Be Strong, I am with you, Feared the Lord, Lord of Hosts, etc)
11. Are there any literary devices or figures of speech in use?

APPLICATION

12. “Consider your ways,” is used throughout this book. Share of a time when God used the negative results of your past to motivate you toward obedience?
13. Read. 1:4-7 (see also Matthew 6:25-34). What does it look like to live a life that seeks first God’s kingdom vs your own kingdom? (work, family, friendships, finances, etc)
14. In what ways can God “take pleasure in and be glorified” through your work this week?
15. Read 1:13 (see also Matt. 28:18-20). Has “God with you” in your work made a difference in how you work? Explain.



Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

16. Read 1:14. Have you ever felt God “stir up” your spirit to accomplish a task? If so, share.
17. Read 2:1-3. Share a time when you felt discouraged in your work or as if your work didn’t matter or was “as nothing”? Then, discuss the right perspective of work that God gives us in Haggai.
18. Read 2:4-5 (see also Deut 11:8, 31:6-7, 23; Josh 1:6-7, 9, 18, 10:25, 1 Chr. 28:20; Ps. 31:24; Isa. 35:4; Dan. 10:19; 1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10, Matt. 28:18-20). Share a personal story that illustrates the difference between working in our own strength vs working in God’s strength?
19. Discuss Hebrew 12:25-29 interpretation of Haggai 2:6.
20. Read Haggai 2:6-9. If this is a reference to Jesus being glorified among the nations, in what ways can we be a part of this great mission to “bring in” the nations?
21. Read Haggai 2:10-19. Haggai reminds the people that their work does not make them holy. In what ways might we be tempted to find our identity through our work?
22. Does sin affect our work? Explain.
23. What is the purpose of God blessing His people (see Zechariah 8:13... noting these are parallel events, see also Gen. 12:1-3).



Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

- 24. In what way has God blessed you and how can you be a blessing to the nations this week? A similar question can be related to how we can bring peace (Shalom) to the nations through our work (see Hab. 2:9)**

- 25. Read 2:20-23. How does Zerubbabel fit into God's BIG story? (see the genealogy in Matthew and Luke). How is this meant to be a message of hope for God's people?**

- 26. How does this book point to Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?**

- 27. How can you pray based on what you've learned from this passage?**



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE



LOOK AT THE BOOK

JUDE

Does Truth Really Matter

Oct 22

Does Truth Really Matter?

Jude

Greeting

1 Jude, a servant[a] of Jesus Christ and brother of James,

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for[b] Jesus Christ:

2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Judgment on False Teachers

3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

5 Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved[c] a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire,[d] serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

8 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. 9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” 10 But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

Does Truth Really Matter?

11 Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. 12 These are hidden reefs[e] at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." 16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

A Call to Persevere

17 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 They[f] said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." 19 It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment[g] stained by the flesh.

Doxology

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time[h] and now and forever. Amen.

Does Truth Really Matter?

Faith is more than a feeling. Christianity is more than a community. The gathering of the saints is meant to be more than a mere singing. Jesus commanded the disciples to go and teach people to obey ALL the commands of Christ, therefore the church in Acts dedicated themselves to the Apostle's teaching. If we gather together weekly ONLY for a bit of fun and fellowship, we have failed as a church. We must take doctrine (orthodoxy and orthopraxy) so seriously that we study to KNOW it and DEFEND it. This week as we look at the book of Jude, we are compelled to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

Contending with you,

Pastor TJ



Discussion Questions

Read the book of Jude out loud. If possible, use two different translations, one more word for word and another more thought for thought.

OBSERVATION

1. Who wrote this book and what do we know about this individual?
2. What is the purpose of writing the book? NOTE: there is a key verses that gives us a thesis statement for Jude.
3. What are the repeated words, phrases, or ideas in this book?
4. How many different threes do you note in this book? (aka: called, beloved, kept; mercy, peace, love; etc)
5. Do you know all the Old Testament references?
6. What questions do you have after reading the text?

INTERPRETATION

7. What does it mean to be called and kept?
8. What is the purpose of the three examples found in v.5-7? What specific sins, if any, is Jude pointing out?
9. Jude uses an illustration from extrabiblical literature, aka. V9, 14; why do you think he does so?



Discussion Questions

INTERPRETATION

10. What is the purpose of the three examples found in v. 11?
11. What is Jude teaching about the false teachers from the six examples found in v.12-13?
12. What three ways are we to keep ourselves in the love of God according to v. 20-21?
13. What does it mean to pray in the Spirit? Give Biblical proofs for your answer.
14. How do you deal with the tension of God keeping us (v. 1, 24) and us keeping ourselves (v. 21)?
15. Who do you think are the three types of people mentioned in v. 22-23?
16. How would you define the keywords in v. 24-25?
17. How does this book relate to the rest of the Bible?

APPLICATION

18. How do YOU differentiate between primary and secondary doctrine (both orthodoxy and orthopraxy)?



Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

19. In what ways have you seen churches emphasize orthodoxy over orthopraxy (or vice-versa)?
20. How would you explain to someone the doctrine of a closed canon (once for all) and its importance?
21. In what ways have you seen people add to scripture and which current trends are most dangerous for the church today?
22. Are you equipped to adequately contend for the faith? If not, which areas need most training and in what ways can you get better equipped?
23. How do you balance speaking the truth with love (have mercy)? Which of the two do you naturally lean toward?
24. What mediums today do you think are the most dangerous to be deceived by false doctrine? How do discern against it and caution others to be wise in what they listen to or read?
25. What groups, cults or teachings have you found most dangerous for the church today?
26. How do you practice the normal means of Bible Study?
27. How do you practice the normal means of praying in the Spirit?



Discussion Questions

APPLICATION

28. How do you practice the normal means of anticipating the return of Christ?
29. Read v. 24-25. In what ways have you experienced these descriptions of God OR what do these descriptions mean to you?
30. How can you pray based on what you've learned from this passage?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports