



and in love! Constant growth will be one of the greatest ways to defend against ungodly teaching. Finally, **“have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire”** (Jude 22-23). Never give up the ungodly for lost, but strive to teach all men the truth. Saving souls is equated with **“snatching them out of the fire”** (cf. James 5:20). The more souls we influence to follow the Master, the fewer ungodly souls there will be to influence Christians.

were spoken beforehand by the apostles” (Jude 17). Never underestimate the value of a firm grasp on the inspired Word of God. Specifically, Jude tells them to remember the warning that, **“in the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts”** (Jude 18). Don’t let the presence of the ungodly take you off guard, but know the word of God! Second, **“building yourselves up... keep yourselves in the love of God”** (Jude 20-21). Never be content with your spiritual circumstances, but continue growing in the word

### Conclusion (Jude 24-25)

Jude ends his epistle with a wonderful proclamation: **“to the only God our Savior... be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen”** (Jude 25). The fact of the matter is, God is the one who holds all **“dominion and authority.”** The ungodly person is the one who rejects God’s **“dominion and authority.”** We must never forget who is truly in control of all things, and to whom we must ultimately answer.

The short book of Jude should remind us that all the ungodly share a common fate and that we have a responsibility, not only to guard against becoming ungodly, but to work to save the ungodly.



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Faithful Sayings Issue 16.25 June 22, 2014

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We are so glad that you joined us today.  
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● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

16.25

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

June 22,  
2014

## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Eddie Cook  
Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow



## The Epistle of Jude “Contend Earnestly for the Faith”

By Andrew Dow

**J**ude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James” (Jude 1:1a, NASB) is the author of the penultimate (i.e. next to the last) book of the Bible. It is a small epistle addressed to **“those who are called, beloved in God, and kept for Jesus Christ”** (Jude 1:1b). It has been my experience that small books and epistles like Jude are often overshadowed by their larger counterparts. This is especially unfortunate when one considers that **“all Scripture is inspired by God”** (2 Timothy 3:16). As followers of Christ and students of His revealed Word, we should strive to familiarize ourselves with all of His inspired revelation. For this reason, in this article we will take some time to overview the book of Jude. It is my hope that we will see that, for such a small work, Jude’s epistle is invaluable for encouraging Christians to live the life for which they have been called.

### The Purpose of the Epistle (Jude 3-4)

Immediately following his greeting (Jude 1-2), Jude makes a few statements that are vital to understanding the content of his epistle. Notice what the text says: **“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”** (Jude 3). Jude had initially desired to write an epistle concerning the **“common salvation”** of those in Christ. I can’t help but wonder what wonderful words such an epistle would have held.

However, Jude felt it essential to alter his original plans and instead write an appeal to them, to **“contend earnestly for the faith.”** I am convinced that Jude mentions this change of mind for a reason. Such a dramatic shift in thought demonstrates the importance of what is about to follow!

Jude continues by explaining the reason for this sudden change: **“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”** (Jude 4). The topic needed to be changed because of the current, troubling situation that was happening



among these Christians. Jude must have felt that these **“ungodly persons”** were capable of influencing Christians to follow their teachings.

So, in response to this situation Jude takes the opportunity to write an epistle with this message: **“contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints”** (Jude 3). As Christians, we must always be ready to defend the Word of God (that which we have believed), because it is only those words which can guide us. The remainder of Jude’s epistle will explain two things: (1) what will become of ungodly men and (2) what a Christian is to do in response to such a situation.

### The Ungodly (Jude 5-16)

The bulk of this small book is written about the **“ungodly persons”** whom Jude warned had **“crept in unnoticed”** (Jude 4). This portion of the book can further be divided into three sections: (1) Jude provides *examples* of ungodly individuals in the past, (2) Jude *identifies* the ungodly men in the current situation, and (3) Jude writes of the *judgment* that will befall these ungodly people.

First, Jude offers three examples of ungodly men in the past and specifically highlights their punishment (Jude 5-11). He writes, **“Now I desire to remind you... that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. And angels who did not keep their own domain... He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire”** (Jude 5-7). Without studying these situations in detail, notice that Jude uses these three examples (Israel, angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah) to provide a pattern for what will ultimately happen to all the ungodly. What do they all have in common? They all were punished by the hand of God! Jude emphasizes God’s hand in the punishment of the ungodly by recording Michael the archangel’s words to the devil, **“The Lord rebuke you!”**

(Jude 8-19). We can be assured that the ungodly face the punishment of God based on historical examples!

Second, Jude identifies the ungodly men that are under consideration (Jude 12-13). Of these men Jude writes, **“Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah”** (Jude 12). Cain, Balaam, and Korah are not admirable Old Testament characters. Jude calls these examples to mind in order to help identify the ungodly persons. Jude continues, **“These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves...”** (Jude 12a). How does Jude identify the ungodly here? These men will, without shame, participate in your **“love feasts”** while only **“caring for themselves.”** True Christianity is characterized by love (for an interesting exercise, notice how frequently the word “love,” or related terms, are used in the book of Jude). Therefore, the selfish, unashamed attitude of these ungodly men would provide a staggering contrast to the life of a true Christian. Finally, Jude explains the vanity of the ungodly: they are **“clouds without water, carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever”** (Jude 12b-13). Jude identifies the ungodly as empty and without substance.

Third, Jude writes of the ultimate judgment that will come upon the ungodly (Jude 14-16). The text says, **“It was also about these men that Enoch... prophesied, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him”** (Jude 14-15). These verses provide a climax for everything in the epistle thus far. Notice how frequently Jude uses the term **“ungodly.”** The point is being driven home that the ungodly will be punished once and for all at Jesus’ second coming and there is no question about why

they will be punished. Through their **“ungodly deeds”** they have brought this upon themselves. Like Jeremiah, many Christians today (myself included) often ask, **“Why has the way of the wicked prospered? Why are all those who deal in treachery at ease?”** (Jeremiah 12:1). The message of Jude reminds us what their end will be.

### What’s a Christian to Do? (Jude 17-23)

Up to this point Jude has focused his attention on the ungodly and their ultimate punishment. However, at this point Jude writes, **“But you”** (Jude 17), indicating that he is about to offer some very practical words to his hearers. The text reads, **“But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles.... But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God.... And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire....”** (Jude 17-23).

What is a Christian to do with the potential danger of ungodly influence? First, **“remember the words that**