

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church (Date: **April 26, 2023**)

Study: “You Don’t Have to Fall/Stumble!”

Fall Study: Standing Fast in the Last Days: A Study of 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, and Jude

REASON FOR WRITING (Verses 3, 4)

EXAMPLES OF _____ APOSTATES (Verses 5-7)

MEET THE APOSTATES! DENUNCIATION OF Present APOSTATES (Verses 8-16)

All that Jude wrote about the apostates in these verses may be summarized in three statements.

1. They _____ Divine Authority (vss. 8-11)
2. They Resort to Deliberate _____ (vss. 12-13, 16)
3. They Receive their Due _____ (vss. 14-15).

DUTY OF BELIEVERS AMIDST APOSTASY (Verses 17-23)

Having identified the apostates in expressive language, Jude gave the believers guidelines on how to avoid the apostates’ errors. It’s not enough to recognize false teachers; it’s also necessary to avoid falling into their errors.

1. Remember the warnings of Christ’s apostles (vss. 17-19).
“Remember what the **apostles** (plural) ... foretold.” See **Paul** in Acts 20:29-30; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3-4; see also Peter in 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 3:3-4; and **John** in 1 John 4:1-3.
2. Keep yourselves in the love of God (vss. 20-21).
In addition to remembering what the apostles had said about apostates, Jude’s readers were to give attention to themselves. The NIV seems to suggest three exhortations, but the Greek text has four parallel participles:
 - A. _____ yourself up in your most holy faith.
Progress in your understanding of the Bible & “sound doctrine” (apostolic doctrine). Grow in your faith.
 - B. _____ in the Holy Spirit
This is not talking about speaking in tongues, but is praying “out of hearts and souls that are indwelt, illuminated, and filled with the Holy Spirit.” It is praying in the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:18).
 - C. Keep _____ in God’s _____.
This doesn’t indicate that salvation depends on one’s own efforts. That would contradict other Scriptures (cp. verse 24). Stay very close to the Lord who loves you! Utilize all the “means of grace” available.
 - D. Wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to _____ life.
A fourth means of personal nurture: Look for the blessed hope, the return of Christ for His church. His return will “bring you to eternal life” - that is, to enjoying never-ending life in God’s own presence (see 1 Peter 1:5, 9, 13).
3. Exercise spiritual discernment (vss. 22-24)
What should be the attitude of the growing Christian toward those who are being influenced by the apostates? He describes three different kinds of people who need spiritual help.
 - A. The _____ (22). The wavering, the “unstable” Peter wrote about (2 Pet. 2:14).
 - B. The _____ (23a). These people are those who have left the fellowship and are now part of the/an apostate group. They need to be snatched out of the fire (cp. Gen. 19:16).
 - C. The _____ (23b). In trying to help those who’ve erred, we must be careful not to be trapped ourselves. Many a would-be rescuer has been drowned himself.

In his short epistle, Jude gave **7** commands to believers! (Verses 3, 17, 20 (2x), 21 (2x), 22-23).

4. Victory over apostasy (vss. 25-26).

Jude answers the unexpressed question: “Who will deliver us from the apostates and the apostasy into which they lead the unsuspecting?” Victory over apostasy is found in Jesus Christ. He’s the one who will keep believers. **NIV Study Bible Note on vss. 24-25:** “After all the attention necessarily given in this letter to the ungodly & their works of darkness, Jude concludes his letter by focusing attention on God, who is fully able to keep those who put their trust in him.”

WRAPPING IT UP

1. Seven false teachers in the Church _____.

From January 31, 2017 (<https://www.challies.com/articles/7-false-teachers-in-the-church-today/>)

A. The _____ (2 Peter 2:1).

This person teaches what blatantly contradicts an essential teaching of the Christian faith.

B. The _____ (1 Timothy 6:3-5; Acts 8:9-24).

This person uses Christianity as a means of personal _____.

C. The _____ (1 John 4:1; Rev. 22:18-19).

This person claims to be gifted by God to speak _____ revelation outside of Scripture—new, authoritative words of prediction, teaching, rebuke, or encouragement.

D. The _____ (2 Peter 2:2; Jude 4).

This person uses his position of leadership to take advantage of other people. Usually he takes advantage of them to feed his _____ lust, though he may also desire _____.

E. The _____ (2 Peter 3:3; Jude 18-21).

This person uses false doctrine to disrupt or destroy a church. He brings _____, not love. He generates _____, not unity. He desires _____, not harmony.

F. The _____ (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

This person is the false teacher who cares nothing for what God wants & everything for what men want. He is the “_____ - pleaser” rather than the “_____ - pleaser”.

G. The _____ (Heb. 13:9; 1 Tim. 1:3; 6:20-21).

This person is obsessed with novelty, originality, or speculation. This teacher tosses aside the bulk of the Bible’s content and the weight of the Bible’s emphasis in order to obsess about matters that are trivial or novel. He grows weary of the old truths & pursues respectability through originality.

2. What can we do _____ to oppose the enemy & maintain the purity & unity of the church?

The sin of Israel was rebellious unbelief (Heb. 3:12). The sin of the angels was rebellion against the throne of God. The sin of Sodom & Gomorrah was indulging in unnatural lust. Unbelief, rebellion against authority, and sensual indulgence were sins characteristic of the false teachers. The conclusion is obvious: the apostates will be judged. But, meanwhile, God’s soldiers must stay on duty and see to it that these false teachers do not creep into the ranks and start to lead people astray.

A. We must know the Word of God and have the _____ to defend it. Every local church should be **a Bible institute**, and every Christian ought to be **a Bible student**.

B. We must “_____ and _____.” The enemy is already _____ and we must not go to sleep.

C. Congregations and members must be careful where they _____ their _____. “Should you help the wicked and love (make alliances with) those who hate the Lord?” (2 Chron. 19:2).

D. We must have the courage to maintain a position of biblical _____ from those who deny Christ and the fundamental doctrines of the Word (Rom. 16:17-20; 2 Tim. 2:15ff.; 2 John 6-11).