

Beloved in God the Father
United in the defense of truth
Jude 1-7, pt. 1

The Book of Jude is in the Bible to teach us that we must be careful to remain faithful to the faith delivered once and for all to the saints.. While that is a positive statement, most of the book uses very negative examples, which we'll see. The main call of the brief exhortation is to contend with every effort against apostasy from the truth. But Jude begins with the most positive statements/descriptions! In the first 2 ½ verses it makes nine brilliantly positive statements about how God views His redeemed children! In short, Jude grounds his entire argument for intense struggle against untruth in (of all places) the love of God, and not as a general statement about all people, but the particular intimate, personal love the Father has for each of His beloved children.

V1a, Jude, brother of James, and the half-brother of Jesus (see Mark 6:3), written 70-80AD.

V1b, Here Jude firmly plants the feet of the believer squarely in the center of God's personal and intimate love with three short statements that cover all eternity!

1) Called in eternity ***past***, The personal focus of God's love before we came to be! God's call is irrevocable and it is boundaried on all sides by love.

2) Beloved in God the Father, ***presently*** living in the sphere of God's love. There is nothing that comes to us that is not through the hand of love. (Romans 8:31-29)

3) Kept for Jesus Christ. Into the ***future***, through the end of the ages, we're kept/guarded by God for the consummation of the marriage supper of the Lamb! (Rev 19:6-9)

v2, There are three tremendous blessings that are multiplied to us in God the Father.

V3a, Beloved: Jude begins with the reminder that he joins hand in hand with his readers in being the focus of God's loving, fond gaze. In other words, God rests his hand of love, protection and goodness on His children and his sweet gaze of affection never wanders from them.

V3b, He had intended to write about the wonder of their common or shared blessing of salvation by God's grace (because of calling in eternity past), God's Spirit sovereignly re-directed Judes prophetic vision, his attention and gaze onto something else: the problem of apostasy!

V3c, Contend Earnestly! *Epagonizomai* Now *agonizomai* is to struggle or wrestle, but by adding the "Ep" indicates Jude's call for struggle/wrestle/fight with ***maximum sustained energy and priority***. To go all-out in the match! Pour it on!

V3d, The Faith: Jude is not concerned here with their personal faith, their personal walk with God. No, He is calling for all our apologetic and polemic war to defend the body of Christian truth comprised of the Old Testament and the New, and the apostolic tradition handed down like a precious baton in a race for life! Eternal Life!