

BBC Home Bible Study Outline – 7/28/24 – “Keeping Ourselves” or “Being Kept”?

Jude 20-21, 24-25 “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.”

Context of the Letter

Read Jude 1-3.

Who Jude Is (v. 1):

- Bondservant of Jesus Christ
What was a bondservant?
- The brother of James (James was the leader of the Jerusalem church and the half-brother of Jesus)
- The earthly (half) brother of Jesus

Who Jude’s Writing To (v. 1):

- Called, sanctified, preserved believers of Jesus Christ

What Jude’s Writing About (v. 3):

- He was going to write about the salvation they had in common...
- But a certain problem (false brethren/teachers) caused him to change his mind and write exhorting them to contend for the faith!

“Keeping Ourselves” or “Being Kept”?

When it comes to living the Christian life in a way that glorifies God and ultimately results in final salvation, do we keep ourselves or does God keep us?

1. We are to be keeping ourselves! (v. 20-21)

Read John 15:9

Read Romans 8:38-39

How do we reconcile this keeping ourselves in His love with the fact that nothing separates us from His love?

- “Keep” in v. 21 – to carefully attend to something and persevere in it

Read John 15:9-10

How do we “keep” ourselves in the love of God?

1) We are to be “building ourselves up on our most holy faith” (v. 20a) – the Foundation of our Christian life

- Rom. 10:17

This is a personal matter... I am responsible for my spiritual growth!

2) We are to be “praying in the Holy Spirit” (v. 20b) – the Power of our Christian life

- Rom. 8:26; Eph. 6:18

3) We are to be “looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” – the Hope of our Christian life

- Phil. 3:20; Titus 2:13; 1 John 3:2-3

2. We are to be keeping ourselves as we are being kept by God! (v. 24-25)

- “Keep” in v. 24 – to guard in order to keep safe and preserve

Not one of us has earned God’s love in the first place and not one of us could live righteously enough to be presentable to God even now.

But... God is able to keep us from stumbling into sin if we are willing.

- Phil. 2:12-13; Jude 24b; 1 Peter 1:3-5

The glory goes to God! Jude 25 “To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.”