

Our Faithful Response

Series: Hey Jude!

Rod Myers

October 31, 2021

Thus far we have considered the responsibility of contending earnestly for the faith. The false teachers and their false teaching have been identified and characterized and exposed. However, Jude does not leave it at that. **As he ends his short book he has some very specific admonitions for us to follow.** These constitute our faithful response to God's goodness in saving us, that common salvation we enjoy. These are the normal activities of the faith. These are for all the saints. If practiced these actions will keep a church from going off the path.

- **Don't forget we were warned (vss.17-19)** Why are we surprised when false teachers arise? God is so good about telling us what to expect as Christians so that we do not have any misconceptions about what the Christian life will be like.
 - The apostles foretold these things (Ex: 2 Tim.3:1-9)
 - Specifically the scoffers will come, 2 Pet.3:3; Psa.1:1
 - These men are divisive and follow their desires, Rom.16:17-19
- **Build yourselves up in your most holy faith (vs.20)** Regular exercise is essential to maintaining a healthy spiritual life.
- **Pray in the Holy Spirit (vs.20)** Consciousness of the Spirit's role in our lives gives our prayer life a heightened dimension.
- **Keep yourself in God's love as you wait for Jesus' mercy to bring you to eternal life (vs.21)** Don't you love the way Jude puts this? He is not only a fighter but a lover.
- **Be merciful to those who doubt (vs.22)** Jude shows there is a difference between these false teachers and those who merely struggle with doubt.
- **Snatch others from the fire and save them (vs.23)** We need to be more aggressive with those who are in spiritual danger. Perhaps those who have been deceived by the false teachers.
- **Show mercy mixed with fear-hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh (vs.23)** Finding this balance in our lives is important.
- **Worship (Doxology) (vs.24-25)**

Jude came a long way from this skeptical little half-brother of Jesus to a place of such maturity in loving the faith, the teachings and life of Jesus. He knew it was worth defending and protecting lest it be high-jacked by some really bad actors. Do we love God's teachings that much?