

Jude 1:1-3 – Preparing to Fight

GreekLexicon, Gill, Gaebelein, Poole, Henry, Calvin, TSK, Geneva, Robertson, Expositor, Trapp, Eclectic, Vincent?
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Boxers are known to be some of the most disciplined people in the world. Their preparation is meticulous 精细 They have the right diet, the perfect amount of rest, and a rigid training schedule. Their body is usually very low in fat. They know that to take a good punch 一击即中 you need tough muscle, not fat.

You can learn some things about spiritual fights from a boxer or a wrestler, but there is a limit to this comparison. In a boxing match there is a “mercy” call if someone is losing too badly. You can throw in the towel. There is a bell at the end of the round.

Your fights—spiritual fights- are MUCH more dangerous. Your **enemies are numerous and more dangerous**...some of whom you can't even see- demons. **But even your preparation to fight is more intense.** You cannot be filled with fluff in your heart. You need real spiritual muscle – spiritual strength. So you have to read the Word of God, digest it with the help of God's Holy Spirit, and practice using your spiritual strength in your different battles. You will hear from God about your preparation for spiritual battle.

Our headings are: An **Introduction to the Messenger, Equipping the Soldiers to Fight,** and **Urging the Soldiers to Fight.**

Our goals are: **That you understand your equipment to be able to fight against the flesh, the world, and the Devil, and learn how God urges you to fight.**

An Introduction to the Messenger

1 Jude, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, and **brother of James**, To those who are called, **sanctified by God** the Father, and **preserved in Jesus Christ**:

1. **Jude is considered the most neglected book 最被忽视 of the New Testament.** It shouldn't be. It is the fully inspired Word of God. It may be that people think it is short so there is no substance there, but they are wrong.

2. Who was Jude? **Jude was a common name in Judah.** Jude is a form of Judah. Jude means “He shall be praised.” There are at least 8 different Jude's or Judah's in the New Testament. This writer was not the brother of James, son of Zebedee, but most likely he was the **brother of James of Jerusalem...a blood brother of Jesus Christ.**

Mark 6:3 "Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of **James, Joses, Judas,** and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" And they were offended at Him.

While there is some dispute among scholars about his exact family, there is no dispute about Jude's Christocentric 以基督为中心 doctrines. But historical accounts of Jude's grandsons prove that he was indeed the brother of Jesus Christ. They both appeared before the horrible Roman Emperor Domitian, who ruled from 81-96AD, and confessed that their grandfather was the brother of Jesus Christ as part of their answer to other charges.

3. **Jude calls himself a “bondservant of Jesus Christ.”** Why didn't he say he was physical blood brother of Jesus Christ rather than a spiritual blood brother? After all, most people like to boast of having famous people in their family line! Probable answer: Jude did not believe in the Messiahship of Jesus Christ until after his resurrection.

John 7:5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

His brothers and his mother even tried to stop Jesus from doing his work.

Mark 3:31 Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. 32 And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You." 33 But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" 34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 35 "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

So Jude's **delay in recognizing the Messiahship of Jesus Christ might be the reason he did not see it fit to be called a brother. He was not worthy! He chose to call himself a bondservant of Jesus Christ.** Jesus taught humility, not boasting.

4. **When was Jude written? Jude was written before Peter died. It is quite similar in teaching.** Like all New Testament books, Jude was written before the fall of Jerusalem. Either Apostle Peter was quoting Jude or Jude was quoting Apostle Peter. The Apostle Peter quoted Apostle Paul. So there is a sense of unity of doctrine of all the Apostles.)

5. **To whom was Jude writing?** Jude was writing to **a church or group of churches in a particular area.** You can know

this by Jude's reference to local church issues. But he does address his message to the "**church of Jesus Christ**," a people chosen – called, sanctified, and **preserved!** V1

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, **these He also called**; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Christians were even taught to sing about their preservation for thousands of years.

Psalms 138:8 The **LORD will perfect that which concerns me**; Your mercy, O LORD, *endures* forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Also, **notice how accurate Jude's doctrines: Christians were the receivers of salvation. Notice the passive tense.** Christians are called from sin, set apart for good works, and the preserved from hell. There is no "human works" that is exalted here. But there is an implied praising of Jehovah!

6. **Why was Jude writing?** Jude was writing **to guard the church against creeping in 侵入 errors - errors** that were mixed with truth. These were the most dangerous errors. **Jude wanted to expose those insidious errors, and to motivate his readers to fight (contend) against these errors.**

Equipping the Soldiers to fight

2 **Mercy, peace, and love** be **multiplied** to you.

1. **Jude explained the ground of the Christian's ability to contend 争辩 - fight for the faith. Christians, he asserted, were well equipped for the fight.** This was no just a light greeting. "What's up, bro?" Jude was acknowledging what his readers already had. You see, **God never gave a job without giving his people the tools to do it.**

2. What specifically did God give to his people that enabled them to fight?

a. Christians are the recipients of mercy. Jesus is the means of your mercy. God has a spring and fountain of mercy. His mercy on you caused him to give you grace. **Grace is the product of mercy. Grace is the work of Jesus Christ.** So you are spiritually rich 灵里的富足

Jude 1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

b. Christians are the recipients of peace. Peace is not just the absence of war. "Peace" in our text refers to the peace between God and man, a peace earned for you on the cross. So you are spiritually rich! Most men would give a fortune for peace in the heart! Christ gives it for free!

c. Christians are the recipients of love. Love for God and your neighbor is the most **precious gift God gave to you through Jesus Christ.** You experienced the highest degree of love... a love that makes a perfect person sacrifice his life for his enemies. So you can love him back. How? You show your love for Christ and love for your neighbor when you fight for what is right – when you contend for the faith. So you are spiritually incredibly 令人难以置信 rich!

3. **These 3 gifts, received without any kind of personal payment, equipped and prepared Christians to fight against insidious errors.** So when you hear of these gifts at the greeting of a worship service, grab hold on them. God's blessings will equip 装备 you to fight.

Jude 1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

4. **And these 3 things God gives to his children in abundance; they are multiplied to you.** God does not give you **equipment** that are borderline or so-so or iffy for your fight. He handily equips you with the best weapons, in abundance, for the fight.

The Urging the Soldiers to Fight

3 **Beloved**, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning **our common salvation**, I found it **necessary to write** to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints 要竭力维护从第一次就全交给了圣徒的信仰

1. **Notice how Jude called the readers "Beloved."** What an endearing term! What a family term! Jude was not some stranger with some new theories about life...or philosophy...this was Brother Jude. And the ground of this unity between brothers is that they are loved by God through Jesus Christ.

2. **Jude urged his readers to fight for their common salvation – their common faith – their common religion.** This was not referring to fighting for the right to become Christians, but to fight for purification and advancement of Christianity. Trapp: Die with the Gospel or die for the Gospel. And they were to fight for their Savior's honor and rebuff the diabolical deceptions that were creeping into the church – and they had one Savior (Eph 4). When they see their Savior being dishonored they had speak up...rebuke...excommunicate...

3. Brothers and sisters, you are to fight for the faith.

a. **Fight to protect souls** – the souls of your children that are pressured to compromise – to talk, dress, and desire the things of the world...or for adults you are pressured to adopt the world's value system and live for worldly recognition. Fight against efforts to water down the Gospel and the church to make it more palatable and less offensive to non-believers.

1Timothy 6:20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge 避免世俗的空谈和冒称是知识的那种反调--

b. **Fight for the honor of your Savior!** Know doctrines...Can you defend infant baptism? Can you prove that God predestines? Can you show why sacrifices are not necessary today?

c. **Fight so that truth is not stifled.** Notice Jude's confirmation that the Gospel was properly delivered...but suggested that it could be lost. Support those who preach the full Gospel.

d. **Fight, it is a normal part of a Christian's life.**

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel 就是你们有同一的心志, 站立得稳, 为了福音的信仰齐心协力

e. **Fight by holding on to truth with both hands. It is not easy to fight.**

4. Why was this issue so critical to Jude that Christians fight these insidious doctrines? He knew the severity of the judgment coming for those who knew the truth and turned away from it. Consider the strong language the Apostle Peter used:

2Peter 2:21 For it would have been better for them **not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment** delivered to them.

IOW, hypocrites will be judged more severely than those who never pretended to be good.

Fighting these insidious doctrines was critical to Jude because he knew that the honor of the Lord should be first in the mind of every Christian.

Conclusion:

Jude was eminently qualified 绝对有资格 to speak on the subject of contending for the faith. He had been ashamed of it...even ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ. But later, when he came to truly trust in the Lord, he urged believers to contend for the faith...fight for each other...and fight for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Having been equipped with all the blessing you need in the Christian life, **are you fighting for him?** When people **introduce false doctrines**, do you say: "Get behind me, Satan?" Young people, when you are **pressured in school to compromise** 妥协 and sin in the class room or with school mates, do you look at them in the eye and say like Joseph: "I cannot sin against my Lord?" Parents, when your children fight for the right to sin... **maybe dress inappropriately to talk disrespectfully**, do you give in or do you say: "Is that way of dressing or talking glorifying to God?" When people say that the best way to punish your children is to **lock them in their room** with the I-Pad, PlayStation, and cell phone, do you say: "That's what everyone does." Or do you say: "If I spank my child he will not die but I will save his soul from hell?" When a Baha'i tells you that **all the religions of the world are one**, do you say: Jesus is the only way, the truth, and the life, and that no one gets to heaven but only through him?" You are in the Lord's army because of the cross. Fight for him!

Finally: The Devil is a deceiver and a destroyer. He may have fooled you into thinking that he cares about your soul, but he doesn't. He will lead you to your destruction if you follow him. But if you want to turn around your life, you must ask God to do it. He will do it because the price has been paid on the cross. Jehovah God has your true welfare 福祉 in his hand. And what a welfare it is. He saves you then he showers you with blessings.