

## **Jude – “Contend earnestly for the faith...”** [“most neglected book in the New Testament”?]

### **1. Author – “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James...” [v.1; cf. Mk 6:3]**

- Likely this is Jude the half-brother of Jesus Christ Himself.

### **2. Date and place – probably 60-90 A.D. from unknown location.**

- Even a very young brother of Jesus would have died by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century.
- Similarities with II Peter suggest the probability of the same era.

### **3. Destination – “To those called, sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus...” [v.1]**

- Jude’s readers are described theologically, not geographically!
- We don’t know “where” they are, but we know “who” they are!

### **4. Purpose – “...exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith...” [vv.3-4]**

- Jude calls believers to the intense struggle of protecting the faith.
- Because it is a “...faith once for all delivered to the saints...”
  - “One of a kind faith” – NOTHING rivals or replaces it.
  - “Unchangeable faith” – NOTHING can change it.
- The main enemy of the faith is “false teachers who have slithered in unnoticed...”
  - They abuse grace.
  - They deny the Lord Jesus.
- Jude calls out the false teachers [vv. 5-16] and predicts harsh punishment! [vv. 6, 7, 13]
- Side note: Jude uses two extra-biblical references as authoritative.
  - “The Assumption of Moses” [v.9]
  - “I Enoch” [vv. 14-15]

### **5. Text of the morning – v. 20-23 “But you, beloved...”**

- Build yourselves up on the foundation of “the faith”.
- Pray under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- Keep yourselves under the influence of God’s love.
- Look for Jesus’ merciful return.
- Compassionately reach out to save others.

*“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,  
To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power,  
Both now and forever. Amen. [Jude 24-25]*