



Sunday, March 20, 2022

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Intro to Jude

Jude is perhaps one of the most neglected letters in the New Testament. It is relatively short and placed near the end, just ahead of the most fascinating book in the Bible (Revelation).

Nevertheless, it has great importance for understanding the world of the early church, and great importance for understanding the church today.

Jude speaks about the importance of contending for the faith. As David said in his message, this demonstrates a great deal about Jude's outlook on the church and the world. First, it shows the importance of the word of God. God's word is not to be trifled with, ignored, or contradicted by false teaching. We must be attentive and receptive to it if we are to live faithfully.

Second, it shows the wonder of God's love, that He contends for us! God loves in a way that perseveres despite opposition and hostility from His own people. He loves us despite our wandering. Thus, through this letter, God contends for us against the threats of false teaching.

Third, it demonstrates the worthiness of the church. The church is the body and bride of Christ. The church is of utmost importance to God—so much so that He shed His own blood to purchase it (Acts 20:28). So, the fact that Jude is writing to contend for the faith is a means by which God is protecting His church from threats.

Fourth, it demonstrates the importance of Christian witness. Jude speaks boldly and directly so that God's people will respond appropriately. Sometimes, we are too quick to dance around a subject or obfuscate. Jude does neither.

Fifth, Jude's aim is to equip us to worship God—to reflect on His acts and attributes in a way that brings glory to Him and good to us

Discuss

- 1) Why is it dangerous to not pay attention to God's word?
- 2) Why is God's love so remarkable given how people tend to respond to it?
- 3) How closely does the value you place on the church resemble the value Jude places on it?
- 4) Why is a "direct approach to evangelism" so difficult for us? Why are we tempted to shy away from it?
- 5) Why should we devote time to prayer that is focused solely on God's acts and attributes rather than our requests?