



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermon-archive
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Jude 17-23

[17] But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. [18] They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." [19] It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. [20] But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, [21] keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. [22] And have mercy on those who doubt; [23] save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Sermon Outline:

1. The Prophecy of the Apostles (17-19)
2. The Encouragement to Believers (20-21)
3. The Encouragement about Believers (22-23)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- The first point in the text once again considers false teaching in the church. Pastor Scott mentioned that 22 of 27 New Testament books warn about false teaching. What conclusions can you draw from this? What would happen to a church that slowly embraced ideas that are contrary to the gospel? Pastor Scott mentioned the “progressive church” to be a major threat to the church right now. Are you familiar with this? How can we protect ourselves and the people we love from these ideas?
- The false teachers were *worldly minded*. This was evident in their work: they caused divisions and encouraged sin. They promoted jealousy and bitterness. This is very similar to James’ warning in James 3, and Paul’s in 1 Corinthians 2-3. Is your life marked by jealousy and divisiveness? How is that a symptom of a worldly mindset?
- In verse 20, Jude brings some fresh air back into the discussion and reminds the church that they are God’s beloved. He gave them one command with three participles. *Keep yourselves in the love of God*, by building, praying, and waiting. In the benediction (next week), Jude will remind them that God is the one who keeps them. Pastor Scott said that they work together. We keep ourselves in the love of God and are kept by God. How does this give you confidence for the future? How does this motivate you to keep striving toward holiness?
- How can you build yourself up in the most holy faith? Do you consider the faith to be “most holy” or do you just go through the motions? What are a few steps you can take to build yourselves up this week? This year? Are you stronger in the faith than you were a year ago? What did you do, or what happened to you, to build you up?
- Jude asks the church to keep praying in the Holy Spirit. What is the condition of your prayer life? What kind of things do you find yourself praying about? How would you like to grow in this area? Reflect on this quote from John Piper: “*We focus on prayer because prayer is the breath of the Christian life and because almost nothing decays so fast in the fallen human heart as the desire to pray. In other words, nothing is more vital than prayer in Christian existence, and few things are more vulnerable to neglect.*” (FYI, the first half of the Spiritual Disciplines Conference will focus on how to encourage your prayer life by praying the Bible).
- The third participle is to *keep waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ*. Are you more focused on retirement (or the next phase of life) or on the return of Jesus? As you get older, do you find yourself longing for the return of Christ more? Why might our world, which values consumerism, *not* want us to fix our eyes on the return of Christ? How can we rise above some of these challenges and train our hearts to wait on the mercy of Jesus?

