

## Sermon 9- 10-17 Jude 20-25 Snatch Others from the Fire

Dear Fellow Missionaries:

What are you living for? What are you building your life upon? What...

- Is the foundation of your life?
- Keeps you going?
- Keeps you interested?
- Motivates you?

Charles Swindoll wrote about the famed cartoonist Ralph Barton. Mr. Barton wrote cartoons to make people laugh. He had lived a full life from the world's point of view. Yet, this is what Ralph Barton said about his life: "I have had few difficulties, many friends, great success...I have gone from house to house and have visited great countries of the world. But I am fed up with devices to fill up twenty-four hours of the day." P. 53 *Living on the Ragged Edge*

Mr. Barton seemed to have everything this life could offer, yet he was full of despair.

King Solomon of Israel said he, too, had everything life could offer as he wrote in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes.

- He was very wealthy and powerful as king
- He had time on his hands to really pursue this earthly life
  - He had comedy teams come to his palace to make him laugh
  - He pursued building parks and pools
  - He collected precious jewels and art
  - He turned to wine, women and song

He had everything this life had to offer and he found out that this life alone doesn't deliver real joy or satisfaction.

Solomon only found joy and satisfaction in this life when he returned to the Lord and began to live for God's kingdom not his.

To live for the Lord and contend for the faith is the message of Jude.

**Jude**

Jude is a short book in the New Testament.

- It contains 25 verses
- Jude was the half-brother of Jesus
- He lived at a time when believers in Jesus were under severe attack by Rome
- The church was being infiltrated by false teachers

Christianity was thought to be extremely vulnerable in Jude's day. So Jude wrote to...

- Call the church to fight for the truth
- Condemn false teachers
- Contend for the faith

As we do so Jude calls us to Snatch others from the fire

I. By building upon the Sure Foundation

What is our spiritual foundation? What are we to build upon?

- "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ" I Cor 11:3
- "Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone." Eph 2:20
- "The word of His grace which can build you up." Acts 20:32

Only Jesus Christ is the Sure Foundation.

- Only Jesus offers eternal security
- Only Jesus offers us heaven

"Judaism sees salvation as a Judgment Day decision based on morality. Hindus anticipate multiple reincarnations in the soul's journey through the cosmos. Buddhism grades your life according to the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path. Muslims earn their way to Allah by performing the duties of the Five Pillars of Faith. Many philosophers deem life after the grave as hidden and unknown. One called death a step into the "great Perhaps"; another, "a great leap in the dark." No one but Jesus buckles you in." Max Lucado pp. 86f 3:16

Jesus says: "I am the source of life. My death on the cross saves you."

Before we can help others we need to be standing on solid ground - Jesus Christ.

### **“Pray in the Holy Spirit.” V20**

This means to “pray in the will and power of the Spirit.”

- “Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints” Ephesians 6:18
- “The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit; himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”  
Ro 8:26

### **“Keep yourselves in God’s love” v21**

KEEP - Remain in the place where God’s love is poured out on His children.

- “But he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” Mt 24:13
- “Who through faith are shielded by God’s power...” I Pt 1:5
- “Being confident of this that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Phil. 1:6

As we remain in His love we will be eagerly looking for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

- “We wait for...the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”  
Tit 2:13
- “Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.” I Jn 3:3

Snatch others from the fire

II. By having a passion for the lost vv22-23

### **“Be merciful to those who doubt.” V22**

Whom is Jude talking about? Whom are we to have compassion for?

- Sincere doubters who are struggling with spiritual issues
- Those who are deep in unbelief and urgently need to be pulled from the fire
- Those false teachers who still deserve our mercy as they go astray II Pt 2:1

It is not a very positive thought but people are headed for hell all around us.

- When we have the opportunity may we speak to them

- We have a message that will change their eternal destiny
- Listen and Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ!

In the book *Unchristian* people between the ages of 16 and 29 were interviewed about their faith...or lack of...

- Fewer than one out of ten mention faith as their top priority
- Even though they attend church in high school, they leave church in early adulthood
- Nearly two out of every five claim to have a “bad impression of present-day Christianity”
- Only a small percentage of them believe that the labels “respect, love, hope and trust” describe the Christian faith
- Like a corrupted computer file or a bad photocopy, they say Christianity has changed for the worse and has gotten off track and is not what Christ intended
- They often wonder if we (those inside the church) really care about them or simply look upon them as targets to get them “converted”
- They view us as old-fashioned, boring and out of touch with reality
- They view us as too quick to judge and doubt that we really love people

The author of this book says that those whom he interviewed have been to churches before and nearly nine out of every ten say they know Christians personally.

Whatever we think of these findings, whether they are justified or not, they are out there. These are the things we have to cut through with the love of the Gospel in order to reach people with the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Show mercy and pray that the hearts of unbelievers will be changed.

The Bible says this about those who have turned from God: “Hardhearted people are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.” Eph 4:17ff

The hard heart is...

- “hopelessly confused”
- “full of darkness”

- “far from the life God gives”

But the Gospel has the power to cut through a hard heart. The Gospel has the power to bring hope to the confused, to bring to the dark and to bring people near to God.

How do we get the Gospel out to people? How does God connect with the lost?

“God at this very moment issues invitations by the millions. He whispers through the kindness of a grandparent, shouts through the tempest of a tsunami. Through the funeral he cautions, ‘Life is fragile’ Through a sickness he reminds, ‘Days are numbered.’ God may speak through nature, majesty or mishap. But through all and to all he invites: ‘Come enjoy me forever.’”

“Yet many people have no desire to do so. They don’t want anything to do with God. He speaks; they cover their ears. He commands; they scoff. They don’t want him telling them how to live...they spend their lives telling God to leave them alone. And at the moment of their final breath he honors their request.

**“Get away from Me, you who do evil. I never knew you.” Matthew 7:23** pp. 93-94  
3:16

This Matthew 7 verse speaks of hell.

Who wants to think of eternal punishment?

- No Spirit of God
- No voice of God
- No voice of God’s people

**“Snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear...”**  
**vv22-23**

We are to Snatch Others from the Fire

III. By relying on God’s grace and power vv24-25 “To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy --- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord....”

Christ will protect us. In Him we have a living hope = joyful confidence in the Lord’s care

- I Peter 1:5 Living hope is a confident optimism secured by the resurrection and confirmed by the Holy Spirit who defends us
- Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- We possess Christ’s righteousness....a righteousness described like that of a chaste virgin
- II Corinthians 11:2 “a pure virgin before God”

We have joy in Christ. Peter reminds us: “Though you have not seen him, you love him and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

- I Peter 1:8-9

### **Why should we be allowed into heaven?**

**“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should have everlasting life.”** John 3:16

God’s love....Jesus’ death and resurrection...that’s why!