

Sunday, September 24th, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Keep Yourselves in the Love of God

Series: Jude, An Ancient Letter Written to Believers of THIS Day ... 13

Text: Text: Jude 1:1 – 25 (vs. 21)

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the Holy Spirit’s instruction to the BELIEVER that enables them to stay in the LOVE of God.

Introduction:

The devotional theme last week was,
‘Praying in the Holy Spirit;’

- 1) Praying in the Holy Spirit is NOT...
- 2) Praying in the Holy Spirit is, In-part, Praying the Word of God,
- 3) Praying in the Holy Spirit is Being Open to the Promptings from the Holy Spirit

~ Jude 1:20 – 23, “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) saving others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.”

~ Notice that the Holy Spirit does not say keep yourself saved; He says, “keep yourselves in the love of God.”

1. Maintain a Hunger for God’s Word:

~ Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

~ John 13:21 – 24, “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (22) Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” (23) Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (24) Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.””

~ 1 John 2:5, “but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him.”

~ John 15:10, “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”

~ Love obedience is yielding to God’s holiness:

~ Psalm 97:10, “O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.”

~ Love obedience produces hope:

~ Titus 2:13, “waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”
compare 2 Peter 3:11 - 13

2. Maintain a Merciful Attitude:

~ Jude 1:21, “And have mercy on those who doubt;”

~ James 2:13, “For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

3. Maintain a Spirit of Discernment:

~ Jude 1:23, “Save others by snatching them out of the fire;”

~ Genesis 19 records the result of Abraham’s intercession to Lot!

~ Amos 4:11, “I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me,” declares the Lord.”

~ Jude 1:23, “to others show mercy with fear”

People caught in error know their arguments well and there is a real danger that we can be trapped ourselves!

Conclusion:

Warren W. Wiersbe quote:

“Not every Christian is equipped to deal with false teachers or with those they have influenced and captured. It takes a good knowledge of the Word, a faithful walk with God, and understanding of Satan’s devices, and certainly the fullness of the Spirit of God. It also demands spiritual discernment. It is much easier to instruct new Christians and keep them away from the false teachers than it is to snatch them out of the fire.”