

“Preservation by Persevering”
Short and Sweet, Pt. 4 - Jude 1-3, 20-24
July 21, 2019

I. Introduction to the Epistle of Jude

- A. Jude was Christ’s half-brother.

Matthew 13:55–56 - ⁵⁵ *Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?* ⁵⁶ *And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”*

- B. Jude wrote about 65 AD, to a largely Jewish-Christian audience.

II. The Structural Messages of Jude

Promise of God’s preservation (vs. 1-2)

Warning to persevere (v. 3)

Reason for the warning (vs. 4-19)

Warning to persevere (vs. 20-23)

Promise of God’s preservation (vs. 24-25)

- A. Jude opens and closes with promises of God’s keeping believers in a state of salvation.

John 10:27–29 - ²⁷ *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;”* ²⁸ *and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.* ²⁹ *“My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.*

John 6:39–40 - ³⁹ *“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.”* ⁴⁰ *“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”*

- B. Just after and just before those promises of preservation, Jude exhorts his readers to persevere in the faith.

1 Timothy 6:12 - *Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

- C. Why did Jude’s readers need to persevere? A dangerous false teaching was present.

III. Are we preserved by God or must we persevere on our own?

- A. Our salvation is ultimately and finally dependent upon God, not us.

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 - ²³ *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.*

- B. Yet God preserves us through the Holy Spirit's moving us to heed the warnings and exhortations of Scripture.

Philippians 2:12b–13 - ¹² *...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

- C. What does “keeping ourselves in God’s love” look like (Jude 20-21)?
1. Not constant fear.
 2. Not smug self-confidence and laziness.
 3. Rather, it’s consistent Bible study, prayer, and developing an eternal, heavenly perspective on the here and now.
 4. A person who’s consistent in those areas is someone that God is clearly preserving.