

**“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 - <sup>55</sup> 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? <sup>56</sup> 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- <sup>27</sup> “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> “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 - <sup>39</sup> “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. <sup>40</sup> “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** - <sup>23</sup> *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. <sup>24</sup> 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** - <sup>12</sup> *...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> 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.