

Jude Lesson 2

The Saints & the Aints

*1. Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been **called**, who are **loved** by God the Father and **kept** by Jesus Christ: ^{2.} Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.*

*3. Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to **the saints**.*

*24. To him who is able to **keep you from falling** and **to present you faultless** before his glorious presence and with great joy, ^{25.} to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.*

Though Jude is passionately presenting an argument against false prophets and teachers in the church he wants to assure the true saints of their secure standing before the throne of God. The writer of Hebrews who also addresses false converts goes to great lengths to assure the saints of their standing before God the Father.

It is supremely important for true believers who have repented of their sins and invited Christ to enter their lives to know that they are safe in the arms of Jesus. It is never God's intent to make believers unsure of their position in Christ. It is never God's intent to make us feel insecure and worried about losing our salvation through some failure or slip in our daily walk. If the Gospel were based on our performance then it is no Good News (Gospel) at all. It would just be a new set of laws set up by Christ Jesus as a ladder to heaven.

The intent of this address to the saints and the benediction is to assure believers of their right standing with God as an unshakable foundation based not on our works, but on the finished work of Christ.

It is the devil's business to accuse us before the throne day and night. (Revelation 12:10) Jesus does not accuse us before the Father. When you feel accused or unsure of your salvation, it is NOT God condemning you, but the enemy accusing you. These are the fiery darts of the wicked one that need to be extinguished by the Word of

God. In every temptation Jesus faced he countered with the Word of God.

Thus, we will use the Word of God in this lesson to expand on Jude's address to "the saints." The Apostle John hints at the same thing when he said, *"If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things."* (1 John 3:19)

There are several words here in the introduction that need explanation and expansion by other Scriptures. These words are "CALLED, LOVED, and KEPT."

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I want to begin this exposition with an Old Testament illustration found in Zechariah 3:1-5. Open your Bibles to this important passage that pulls back the curtain of heaven to explain to us what happens before the throne of God when Satan accuses us.

1. Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2. The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" 3. Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you." 5. Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

I love the quote by Richard Sanchez,

***"Satan knows your name but calls you by your sin.
But God knows your sin but calls you by your name."***

Jesus warned us that there would be many sheep in wolves clothing, or many so-called believers who are really not. They just go through the motions, say the right things, and initially do the right things, but they do not really know Christ or belong to him. They do not have the witness of the Spirit within them. They are still in love with sin. Their hearts have never been converted. Jesus gave us the illustration of the wheat and the weeds (tares) that grow together and initially look

alike, but in the time of the harvest God can tell the difference.
(Matthews 13:25-40)

Paul, in condemning those who would pervert the Gospel says,

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." (2 Timothy 2:19)

If you have received Christ as your Savior, and confessed him as your Lord, you are saved and will be saved *"to the uttermost because it is God who is at work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure."* (Hebrews 7:25 & Philippians 2:13)

As a born again believer *you are a child of God* (Romans 8:16) His Spirit is in you that *cries out 'Abba, Father'* to God (Romans 8:15) to deliver you from sin. *He does not condemn you* (John 5:24 & Romans 8:1) but *CONVICTS you of your sin* (John 16:8) so that *you are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works.*" (Ephesians 2:10)

For this reason Jude can conclude this passionate Epistle with the amazing words,

"HE IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING AND PRESENT YOU FAULTLESS BEFORE THE THRONE WITH GREAT JOY."

Let us consider each of these three descriptive words of saints:

Called – Loved – Kept

“CALLED”

Before you were born He chose you and called you. If you are born again you have been called of God from the foundation of the world, even before you were born you were CHOSEN of God to become His child. This is what theologians refer to as God’s “effective call,” that is, God called you and proceeds to effectively bring about the completion of that call on your life. Many are called but few are chosen. There is the general call of the Gospel to all men but all men will not respond to that call. Only those who are effectively chosen will respond to His call. All others are deaf to God until God opens their ears to the Gospel call. The day that you received Christ, you did so because God opened your ears to hear His call, and He opened your eyes to see your need. It happened this way so that no flesh could glory in His presence.

This is not a truth that we can understand before salvation. It is only in hindsight that the believer can see and understand the great grace of God in calling him to salvation.

There are several important Biblical passages that help us to understand this truth. Ephesians 1 and 2 are the most important explanations of this process that can be found in the Word of God.

Ephesians 1:1-14 – He Predestined and Chose You

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

“LOVED”

The Lord has loved you with an everlasting love. The foundation of the Gospel is in the love of God the Father for us through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.” (John 3:16-18)

God's immeasurable love for us is the foundation of our faith. Our faith is not contingent on our love for God, but His love for us.

“Not that we loved God, but that He loved us and gave His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

Paul prays for us that we might begin to comprehend the love of God (it is beyond our comprehension) in Ephesians 3:18-20

*¹⁷...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is **the love of Christ**,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

There is no greater expression of God's immense love for us than in Paul's letter to the Romans in chapter 8:28-39

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. (past tense a done deal!!!)

³¹. *What, then, shall we say in response to this? **If God is for us, who can be against us?*** ³². *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?* ³³. *Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.* ³⁴. **Who is he that condemns?** *Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

³⁵. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...* ³⁷. *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ³⁸. *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,* ³⁹. *neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

“KEPT”

You are in the hands of God in Christ. He will never let you go. If our salvation were dependant on our faithfulness then none of us would be saved. We are not faithful. God alone is faithful. That is why Jesus assured his disciples at the Last Supper,

²⁷. *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* ²⁸. *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.* ²⁹. *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

(John 10:27-29)

And that is why Paul could write,

²⁰. *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, **according to his power that is at work within us,*** ²¹. *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)*

And again, in Ephesians 2 Paul emphasized the finished work of Christ for us and our helplessness to save ourselves. It is God's work to save, not ours.

Ephesians 2:1-13

¹. As for you, you were **dead in your transgressions and sins**, ² in which you used to live when you **followed the ways of this world** and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are **disobedient**. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature **objects of wrath**. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were **dead in transgressions**--it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God **raised us up** with Christ and **seated us** with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable **riches of his grace**, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God**-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are **God's workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. ¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men) -- ¹²remember that at that time you were **separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship** in Israel and **foreigners** to the covenants of the promise, **without hope** and **without God** in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been **brought near** through the blood of Christ.

And Jude could write,

*²⁴. To him who is **able to keep you from falling** and **to present you faultless** before his glorious presence and with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!*

And Paul could say to Timothy,

*For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that **he is able to keep** that which I have committed unto him against that day. (2 Timothy 1:12)*

And again Paul could say to the Philippian church,

*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. (Philippians 1:6)*

You see, we do not alone keep ourselves but Jesus keeps us in the palm on His hand, he keeps us from falling, he keeps what we have committed unto him against the day of His appearing, and He works in us to will and to do His good pleasure. He stands before the Father on our behalf pleading our cause.

And this is why in the end of all things when we finally stand in heaven before the presence of the Lamb of God we will all take off our crowns and throw them at His feet confessing,

*⁴ And round about the throne were twenty four seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads **crowns** of gold. ¹⁰ The twenty four elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that lives for ever and ever, and cast their **crowns** before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "**You are worthy**, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4:4- 11)*

*"And they sang a new song: "**You are worthy** to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation." (Rev. 5:9)*

Let us then rejoice and sing for joy for it is not by might nor by power of ourselves that we are saved but by the grace and mercy of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone is worthy.

Hymns and Songs of Praise:

- *I Know Whom I Have Believed*
- *Boundless Salvation*
- *In Christ Alone*
- *Worthy Is the Lamb That Was Slain*
- *He Knows My Name*
- *It is Well (verse 3, "My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought)*