

JUDE

By Dr. S.W. Marais

Jude 1:2-25

Jude refers to himself as the brother of James who was also the brother of Jesus, and he is a Gr. doulos (slave) of Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord to him that means he saw Jesus as the Jehovah of the Old Testament, Jesus to him was more than just divine he was of the same essence as God. He writes to those who are being teteremenois Gr. preserved in Christ. He makes an urgent appeal for them to root out all those who are unholy and resist the truth. The unholy are those who say that God cannot change a sinner into a holy person, so they side with the devil. The truth is that God imparts the same divine nature of Jesus into those who trust him to do so, thereby making them holy. It is the Holy Spirit who expels the darkness of the sinful nature from believers' lives by grace through faith. This is the faith that has been delivered to them by God's prevenient grace. (The grace that goes before a person is saved) 2.

The test of all truth is simply this, "can God change a sinner into a holy person, does He have the power to expel the sin nature now and deliver the believer from all sin in one divine moment?" that is what salvation is all about. If you say it only happens when a person dies or only at the second coming of Jesus, then you are saying that either death is our saviour or the event of the second is, but no, the scripture teaches that Jesus saves from all sin in the moment of faith. When a person rejects the way of faith it becomes sin to him and brings him under the control of the sinful nature that is not subject to God and cannot be, more than that they choose the principle of death instead of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. 3-4

Old Testament history shows that those who would enter Canaan by faith wandered in the desert for 40 years and died not entering the promised land because they had sinned by their unbelief. The judgments on Sodom and Gomorrah show that God will not excuse sin. Sinners like these are living in their dreams (enupniazomenoi Gr.) and they remained unholy.6-8

Jude quotes from sources that these people knew showing that even those outside of Christ know about unbelief and arguing and he was not going to waste his time doing that. People like this think that their interpretations are the only right ones for they see themselves superior to other people, as if they have a special enlightenment from heaven. Korah was one of these. They are like waves that wash up muck and worthless debris, and it is a waste of time arguing with them. They are like lost stars in the heavens heading for black holes. 12-

The road they are walking is by their own choice and no one can give himself spiritual life and holiness only Christ can do that. 14-16

They have been warned and have heard the Truth that Jesus offers and they have chosen to go their own way so must suffer the consequences of their choices, they can never blame God. They are like Christians who rely on the once saved always saved doctrine, so they thought they did not have to interpret everything the way that these Christians were interpreting the teachings of Jesus. They were following a dead theology of their own works while Jesus had revealed the way of eternal life through His word. 18-19

The Christian breathes the Truth in and out all the time and it brings spiritual life, the Holy Spirit pumps Gods energy into his spiritual lungs and he is able to live the way God has always intended for His people to live, Holy. 20-21

Every believer is responsible to live a holy life and to be growing in Holiness and Christlikeness for through this others will see Gods power at work in their lives. Everybody knows that no one can live this way without Gods power in them, so God gets the Glory.22-23

Although we cannot live faultless because we still operate through a brain that is not yet glorified and still carries the scars of sin we can live blameless and pleasing to God and that is all that He expects from us. 24-25