**The Book of Jude**

*An in-depth study of each verse written in Jude and what does it mean for us today?*

***MC Leader:*** Though Jude is the 5th shortest books in the Bible, there’s a lot of rich content and history that allows for us to make better decisions today in light of the Truth that has been revealed in Christ Jesus. Because of the depth in historic content from the Old Testament and other Jewish literature alluded in this book, this can make for a very deep study as you lead your microchurch to draw back to the Old Testament in discovering where and why Jude is reminding us of what has been written as we contend for the faith. Feel free to go as deep as you’d like, or as quick as you’d like, so long as you discern where your microchurch members are at, and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Because my microchurch had predominantly new believers, we spent a couple of months in this study as the members learned some familiar stories for the first time and its application for us today as believers. So this is a verse by verse breakdown of Jude that allows for growth when it comes to correlating different passages in Scripture and how it all points to one unifying message!

**Jude Overview:**

Though Jude would have been a letter about the salvation among believers, he was instead compelled to write and urge believers to affirm the faith in Christ; to not be deceived, giving examples from the Old Testament, exhorting them to remember, uphold, and grow in the faith of Jesus Christ.

**Watch:** Jude- The Bible Project 7:44 animated overview of the book!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UoCmakZmys

**Related verses from Bible Project video:**

*1 Corinthians 4:5 He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*

*Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3, Acts 1:14 Jesus’ brothers, including James*

*Numbers 14: Israels wilderness rebellion*

*1 Enoch and Genesis 6: Rebellious angels*

*Genesis 19: Men of Sodom and Gomorrah*

*Genesis 4 Story of Cain*

*Numbers 22-25, 31:16 Balaam’s error*

*Numbers 16 Korah’s Rebellion*

*Ezekiel 34:2 Selfish Shepherds*

*Isaiah 57:20 Chaotic Waves*

*Proverbs 25:14 Clouds without rain*

*(1 Enoch: Ancient Jewish Religious writing. Not found in Bible)*

*Old Testament References: Genesis 15, Deuteronomy 33:2, Zechariah 14:5, Isaiah 66:15-16*

*New Testament References: 2 Peter 2:1-3, 1 John 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Matthew 7:15-19*

*John 14:15 If we love Jesus we will obey Him*

**Main Applications:**

Remember! My sheep know my voice. Many will and have been led astray to their own destruction. We must build ourselves up in faith, pray in the Holy Spirit, remain in God’s love, be alert, be discerning, and merciful to those who doubt while correcting, rebuking, (snatch others from the fire and save them- though Jesus Christ alone is Savior) and we are to love others to the truth that is in Christ Jesus.

**Jude Verse Breakdown and Parallel Scriptures**

**Verses 1-4: Opening Charge**

Questions to ask:

1. Who is the author? Was Jude the brother of James, brother of Jesus?
	1. (Yes, Jude was also Jesus’ brother)
2. Is this letter addressing a specific people group or all believers?
	1. (The Bible is for all people, but this letter seems to address people within the Jewish Messianic community or those with a deeper understanding of the Jewish text)
3. What do you think caused the author to change the topic of his letter? He was originally going to talk about the salvation they shared, but was prompted to instead urge them to contend for the faith that was once entrusted to all the saints. Did they forget? If so why? What was happening?
	1. (Good to hear some answers. Recognize that the same thing happens in today’s society… we forget, which makes Jude’s messages applicable for us today!)
4. What is Jude warning us about?
	1. (Inferred from Verse 4: Watch out for the wolf in sheep clothing! Jesus stressed this so much during his ministry! Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy and he secretly slips in among you. He is the father of deception, which is why we must be on guard. Many people misuse the grace of God, thus denying the true gospel/the good news. “They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only sovereign and Lord.”)

**Verse 4- Let’s go deeper into verse 4 and what the Bible says in correlation to this verse. Have your microchurch go through these verses.**

**As you are reading them,**

**Ask:**

1. **What is God saying to us? Is there a warning, if so, what is it?**
2. **How are we to obey?**

*Matthew 7:15*

*“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”*

*Galatians 1:6-9*

*6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!*

*1 Corinthians 1:11-17 Follow Jesus!*

*11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%201:11-17&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-28376a)]”; still another, “I follow Christ.”*

*13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.*

*John 10:1-14 My Sheep know my voice, they will not follow a stranger*

*“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—*

*Matthew 24:4-5 Do not be deceived*

*Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.*

*Matthew 24:24-27 Signs of the End of the Age*

*For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time. “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

*Ezekiel 13 False Prophets condemned*

*The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying. Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: ‘Hear the word of the Lord! 3 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the foolishprophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! 4 Your prophets, Israel, are like jackals among ruins. 5 You have not gone up to the breaches in the wall to repair it for the people of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the Lord. 6 Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. Even though the Lord has not sent them, they say, “The Lord declares,” and expect him to fulfill their words. 7 Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, “The Lord declares,” though I have not spoken? “‘Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Because of your false words and lying visions, I am against you, declares the Sovereign Lord. 9 My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign Lord. “‘Because they lead my people astray, saying, “Peace,” when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, 11 therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall. Rain will come in torrents, and I will send hailstones hurtling down, and violent winds will burst forth. 12 When the wall collapses, will people not ask you, “Where is the whitewash you covered it with?” “‘Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: In my wrath I will unleash a violent wind, and in my anger hailstones and torrents of rain will fall with destructive fury. 14 I will tear down the wall you have covered with whitewash and will level it to the ground so that its foundation will be laid bare. When itfalls, you will be destroyed in it; and you will know that I am the Lord. 15 So I will pour out my wrath against the wall and against those who covered it with whitewash. I will say to you, “The wall is gone and so are those who whitewashed it, 16 those prophets of Israel who prophesied to Jerusalem and saw visions of peace for her when there was no peace, declares the Sovereign Lord.”’*

*17 “Now, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who prophesy out of their own imagination. Prophesy against them 18 and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the women who sew magic charms on all their wrists and make veils of various lengths for their heads in order to ensnare people. Will you ensnare the lives of my people but preserve your own? 19 You have profaned me among my people for a few handfuls of barley and scraps of bread. By lying to my people, who listen to lies, you have killed those who should not have died and have spared those who should not live. 20 “‘Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against your magic charms with which you ensnare people like birds and I will tear them from your arms; I will set free the people that you ensnare like birds. 21 I will tear off your veils and save my people from your hands, and they will no longer fall prey to your power. Then you will know that I am the Lord. 22 Because you disheartened the righteous with your lies, when I had brought them no grief, and because you encouraged the wicked not to turn from their evil ways and so save their lives, 23 therefore you will no longer see false visions or practice divination. I will save my people from your hands. And then you will know that I am the Lord.’”*

*2 Timothy 4:1-5*

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*

*2 Timothy 3:1-7 Godlessness in the Last Days*

*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*

*6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

*1 Timothy 6:11-16*

*11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.*

*2 Timothy 4:7-8 Reward awaiting the promise of Christ for finishing well, keeping the faith.*

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearance.*

*Matthew 23 (seven woes)*

*23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

*13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. 15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.*

*16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’17 You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? 18 And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ 19 You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred?2 0 So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. 21 And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. 22 And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.*

*23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!*

*25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.*

*27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

*29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, 30 saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ 31 Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. 33 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? 34 Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, 35 so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.36 Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*

*Lament over Jerusalem*

*37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 38 See, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”*

*1 John 4:1-5 Test the spirits*

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spiritof truth and the spirit of falsehood.*

*2 Peter 3 Remember the command given by Jesus, for the Day of the Lord is coming.*

*I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20peter%203&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-30535b)] That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. 14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 15 Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 17 Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

*Revelation 13:11-18 The beast out of the earth*

*Revelation 14:9- do not worship the beast!*

**Verses 5-19 Be careful not to follow your own evil desires**

**Read through *1 Corinthians 10:5-13***

*Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

*6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9 We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. 11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

**Verse 5:** Jude is not teaching them anything new, but bringing into remembrance what happened, and how God delivered his people out of Egypt, but also destroyed those who did not believe. He is calling us to remember and believe. He also provides a way out when we are tempted.

Questions to Ask/discuss:

Why and what is Jude reminding us of?

Why does God call us to remember what He has done?

**Verse 6.** This verse can open up doors for further research and discussion, however it can also lead towards a tangent. So remember to keep the main thing the main thing.

Questions to ask/discuss:

Is he referring to the fallen angels? (Satan and his demons.)

What about the verse in Genesis 6:2-  Who are the “sons of God” that married the daughters of men? Possible further research study/discussion

**Verse 7.** (Go back and read through the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18:16- Genesis 19:1-29)

Questions to ask/discuss:

What do we learn about God through this story?

How is the Holy Spirit calling us to obey?

Jude expresses how just like the angels in the previous verse who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home- in the same way Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns were destroyed due to sexual immorality and perversion. Not only do they serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire, but we can also remember Lot’s wife (though not explicitly mentioned) who was looking back to her “earthly home” rather than trusting God completely. The Bible states that many times that everything of this world will one day perish (Matthew 24:35), and that if we love the world then the love of the Father is not in us (1 John 2:15-17). We continue to lose sight of the very first commandment, that also goes hand in hand with the second, to love the Lord your God with everything.

**Verse 8-9**. Again, these verses can open up doors for further research and discussion, however it can also lead towards a tangent. So remember to keep the main thing the main thing. A similar idea is found in Zechariah 3, when the Lord says to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you.” Also another reference is in 1 Enoch- Ancient Jewish writing not found in the Bible.

**Verse 10.** *Read: Romans 11:34, Isaiah 40:13, Isaiah 41:28, Proverbs 3:5, Proverbs 2, Job 38-41* We need wisdom! Who can understand the mind of God? No one gives Him counsel. His ways are far beyond our ways.

Questions to ask/discuss:

What are some ways in which we have heard others speak abusively against things they do not understand? Have we ever spoken against things we may not fully understand?

How is the Holy Spirit calling us to obey?

Ask God to give you understanding in everything. For there is even a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death (Proverbs)

How do we obtain understanding that leads to life?

**Verse 11.** Woe to them. This verse alludes to Cain’s sin, Balaam error, and Korah’s Rebellion.

Read:

*Genesis 4 Story of Cain*

*Numbers 22-25, 31:16 Balaam’s error*

*Numbers 16 Korah’s Rebellion*

Questions to ask/discuss:

What can we learn from these stories?

What was Cain’s mistake?

What was Balaam’s error?

What about Korah’s rebellion does God want us to learn?

What is submission?

How do we submit to God and resist the devil?

Why is submitting to authority important for believers?

Cain did not put God first, and in thinking of himself he rushed into sin and let jealously get the worst of him. We must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. He must be first and foremost. In Numbers 22, when Balaam inquired of the Lord the first time and was told not go, Balaam went to God again with the same inquiry after the princes of Moab returned with more money and honor. Balaam was set on going that God let him go. God will let us have our way when we choose to follow the stubbornness of our own hearts. Again, regarding Korah’s rebellion, Jude is calling us to remember how men who seek their own gain ultimately seek out their own destruction. Do not rebel on God’s anointing/know your place and seek God/God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble- seek humility and submission. We are called to submit to God and those He has placed in authority (unless they are leading us to sin) and resist the enemy.

Read: *Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority.*

**Verses 12-19.**

After reading these verses, Ask:

Again from what and why is Jude warning us?

Read *Proverbs 23:1-8* When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony. Do not crave his delicacies, for that food is deceptive…. Beware of the Pharisees who seek the glamorous things- (see other verses related to verse 4)

These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. Remember Jesus words, “It would have been better for him to not have been born than cause one of these to sin” (Mark 9:42, Luke 17:2, Matthew 18:6) Again remember Korah’s rebellion, the Lord’s wrath is coming, so lets do all things without grumbling (Phil 2:14) submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21), humble yourselves, submit to God and resist the devil, and don’t boast about tomorrow (James 4)

Remember what Jesus said, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. (See scriptures from verse 4)

Our response: Psalm 139: 23-24 Search my heart O Lord, and test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Take time within tiny groups to confess any rebellion or ways in which we’ve gone astray or believed false teachings, or even have led others astray, and find healing.

**Verses 20-25: Closing Charge**

As you read through these verse, be encouraged to find these underlying themes throughout the entire Bible. What other verses can you find as a microchurch that support these closing verses?

**Verse 20**. “But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.”

*Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpen iron*

*1 Thess 5:11 Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in face you are doing.*

*Galatians 6:2 carry one another’s burdens*

*Hebrews 24:10 let us spur one another towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up on meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, all the more as we see the day of the Lord approaching.*

*Phil 6:18, and 1 Timothy 2:1 The Bible calls us to pray in all occasions with thanksgiving.*

*1 John 5:21 To keep ourselves from idols.*

**Verse 21.** “Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”

Be steadfast in God’s love/perfect love casts out all fears.

*John 15 Remain in me and I will remain in you/Abide in my love*

*1 John 3: Love One Another*

*Ephesians 5:1-21 Be imitators of God, live a life of love as Christ loved us*

*1 John 4:7-21 God’s love and ours- “We love because He first loved us.”*

*Psalm 27:13-14 I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

**Verse 22.** “Be merciful to those who doubt.”

Jesus calls us to have faith and do not doubt, yet He extends mercy to those who doubt.

*Other examples:*

*John 20:24-29* When Thomas doubted. Jesus was merciful to him, *“Peace be with you! Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe… blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”*

*Mark 9:24  the father who said, “I believe, but help my unbelief”*

*Matthew 14:27-33 Peter walking on water to Jesus then began to doubt- when Peter cried out for help, Jesus immediately reached out his hand to save him*

*Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.*

**Verse 23.** “Snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear- hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.”

Rebuke/correct believers who have gone astray in grace and truth (through lots of prayer and after you have removed the plank in your own eye), and let your light shine before me so that they may praise your Father in heaven. Share the Gospel, live the gospel. Love others with words and actions to Christ.

*Ezekiel 33:1-7 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.”*

*Zechariah 3:1-10 “Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?...”*

*Matthew 7:1-5 Remove plank out of your own eye first*

*James 5:19-20 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

*Proverbs 18:5 It is not good to be partial to the wicket or to deprive the innocent of justice*

*Proverbs 27:5 Open rebuke is better than hidden love*

*Matthew 18:15-20 If a brother sins against you*

**Verse 24:** “To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.”

*Phil 1:6 He is faithful to keep us/He who began a good work in us is faithful to carry it out to completion.*

*Romans 8:37-39 Nothing can separate us from the love in Christ Jesus.*

*Ephesians 1:13-14 We are sealed by the Holy Spirit.*

*Luke 10:20 Our names are written in the book of Life.*

*Ephesians 5:22-32 Husbands love your wives as Christ loves the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

**Verse 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!”

*Matthew 28:18 All authority has been given to Christ.*

*Colossians 1:15-20 The Supremacy of Christ*

*Phil 2:9-11 Jesus Christ is Lord*

*Revelation 5:5 See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals. “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” JESUS!!!!!!*