

## 02. The Book of Jude—1:1-2

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier  
(2/19/20)

Find the Study Audio & Video [Here](#)

We have begun a study in the Epistle of Jude, who along with James (who wrote the Epistle of James) were the half-brothers of Jesus. As we said last time, from the very beginning of the Church's existence, it has always been understood that Christians were soldiers fighting in a battle.

Paul the apostle reminded Timothy, a young pastor, that we *"must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."* (2 Timothy 2:3)

Of course, that followed his earlier exhortation to all followers (soldiers) of Jesus to—*"fight the good fight of faith"*—every single day of our Christian life (the Greek is commanding us to—*"keep on continually, constantly fighting the good fight of faith"*—1 Timothy 6:12).

This is the theme of Jude's Epistle—that Christians, **"earnestly contend for the faith" (verse 3)**

### **Ephesians 6:12 (NLT2)**

<sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

So, it's clear that the war we are fighting as Christians is a spiritual war against the devil and his demons—a battle for truth against Satan's lies! (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; John 8)

And so, as we come to Jude's Epistle—understand that he is admonishing us, as the people of God, to fight against Satan's lies—as faithful soldiers of Christ.

### **Opening Salutation—verses 1-2**

#### **Jude 1:1-2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

As I said last time, since most of what follows is about fighting against apostates, I'd like to spend our time this evening looking at Jude's opening salutation—about believers!

#### **"Those Who Are Called"**

Paul talks about this in Romans 8—

#### **Romans 8:29-30 (NKJV)**

<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called...

This is where eternity (God's foreknowledge and predestination—'see 1Peter1:1 study') intersects with time (where we responded to our Shepherd's call and received Jesus as our Savior) and the result was our **'justification'**—

### Romans 8:30 (NKJV)

<sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also **justified**...

The biblical doctrine of justification is one of the most basic, fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith—and yet sadly, many if not most Christians would have a hard time defining it, if they were asked to do so.

My pastor used to say that *justification* meant—“**just as if I never sinned.**” While that isn’t a bad definition—it doesn’t really get at the real meaning of biblical justification.

- The root of the word *justification* is the word **just**—
- the word we also get the word **justice** from.

That then begins to shed light on what *justification* is—it is a legal term where a defendant is declared not guilty of a crime (or crimes) by a judge in a court of law.

When we apply the term to *biblical* justification, we realize that the justification the Bible talks about is not where man has been tried in God’s court and found innocent of any wrongdoing (crimes) against God’s laws—and therefore declared ‘not guilty’ (justified) by Him Who is called “*the Judge of all the earth*” in Genesis 18.

We know the Bible says that mankind is guilty of sin/crimes against a holy God (Romans 3:10-12, 23) and therefore justice demands punishment for said crimes—eternal punishment in hell.

However, due to the mercy of God in allowing a Substitute (the sinless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ) to die on Calvary’s Cross in our place—God applies Christ’s blood as payment for our sins (crimes) and based on what Jesus did (and only on what Jesus did), God declares those who receive Jesus as their Savior—**justified**!

As one theologian put it—

*“It is...a legal declaration in which God pardons the sinner of all his sins and accepts and accounts the sinner as righteous in His sight. God declares the sinner righteous at the very moment that the sinner puts his trust in Jesus Christ. We are not justified by our own works; we are justified solely on the basis of Christ’s work on our behalf. This righteousness is imputed to the sinner. In other words, in justification, God puts the righteousness of His Son onto the sinner’s account.”*

### 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### Romans 5:18-19 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man’s offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. <sup>19</sup> For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.

So, at the moment we believed in Jesus and received Him as our Savior, God declared us *justified*—which meant that we, at that moment, were **saved**! In other words, at the moment we received Jesus as our Savior—we were saved from any future punishment in hell (lake of fire) and passed from death to life—from condemned (guilty) sinner to justified (pardoned) child of God.

But whereas Paul in Romans 8 said we were ‘called and *justified*’—Jude said we were ‘called and *sanctified*’ (KJV and NKJV).

Now, theologically *justification* and *sanctification* are not the same thing—but both terms do describe something that happened to us the moment we received Jesus as our Savior. You see, the moment we were saved (justified), we were taken by the Holy Spirit away from the world (we were still in it, but no longer a part of it) and placed into the Body of Christ—which means we were, at that moment, sanctified.

The word ‘sanctified’ means to be ‘*set apart*’—and that describes what happened to us the moment we were saved.

We were *set apart* from the world unto God as His Church, living in the world (as a light) but no longer of the world (which is darkness)—that’s what is called ‘*positional sanctification*’.

➔ (Explain—and define ‘*practical sanctification*’.

#### **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

#### **Romans 8:30-31 (NKJV)**

<sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

In between the believer’s *justification* and ultimate *glorification*—there is the ‘**preservation**’ of the believer.

**“To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ” (Jude 1)**

Notice that Jude didn’t say that the believer is preserved by Jesus Christ, but that the believer is preserved in Jesus Christ (just like Noah and his family were preserved/saved from judgement in the Ark—which is a ‘type of Christ’—God shut the door and sealed Noah and his family in the Ark).

Paul put it this way—

#### **Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed [in Christ] with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

**“...you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise”.**

God made us a promise—that when we received Jesus as our Savior, someday—we would (for sure, absolutely) inherit a glorious future with Jesus in heaven—

#### **1 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

So, God made us this promise that—what He started on earth (salvation) He would complete in heaven (glorification)—

#### **Philippians 1:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ [rapture].

**Romans 8:30 (NKJV)**

<sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (*The Gold Chain of Salvation*)

**Titus 1:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

So, God's promise is sure, but to assure our hearts—He sealed us with the Holy Spirit who became the guarantee of our inheritance. In other words, the presence of the Holy Spirit living inside us became the guarantee (the Greek means 'down payment' ('earnest money')).

By giving us the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts—it was God's way giving us a pledge, a guarantee, that someday Jesus would return (the rapture) to take full possession of what He has bought and paid for on Calvary (John 14:2-3).

Remember, as He hung on the cross, before He bowed His head and dismissed His Spirit, He said "*It is finished*"—but in the Greek He said 'tetelistai' which means "paid in full".

In Colossians 2:14 Paul expresses this when he said that Jesus, by His death, paid for the crimes that were written in God's ledger against us, the crimes we had committed against His law, and the Father nailed all of them to Jesus' cross—removing them as a basis for our guilt. (Dungeon door)

In other words, **our ledger is now stamped "paid in full"** by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross—the work of redemption is done!

Now, coming back to what Paul is telling us that—as soon as a person believes the gospel and receives Christ as Savior—at that very instant they are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

By saying this, Paul is drawing this analogy from a practice that was very common in his day. In those days not too many people could read or write—so a man would have a signet ring made which contained an image that could be used to represent his signature.

The ring would then be pressed into wax or some other soft substance that would eventually harden and act as his seal.

These seals would be used for a number of purposes—I'll mention a couple of the more common uses.

**1. Ownership**

A seal spoke of ownership and would have been very familiar to Paul's readers.

A merchant from Ephesus would often sail across the Aegean Sea to Greece or some other place, to buy merchandise and when he did, he put his seal on it signifying that he had bought and paid for it and it now belonged to him.

It would then be loaded on a ship and sailed to the port of Ephesus where he would go down to the dock and claim his property by showing the shipper his signet ring.

The seal made from the buyer's signet ring spoke of ownership.

When you received Jesus Christ, you became the property of God—in other words God bought and paid for you with the blood of His Son and sealed you with the Holy Spirit declaring His ownership of you.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**Romans 8:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup>... Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

*“When the Holy Spirit seals believers, He marks them as God’s divine possessions, who from that moment on entirely and eternally belong to Him, The Spirit’s seal declares the transaction of salvation as divinely official and final.”*

It is a finished transaction—a done deal!

**2. Security**

The second thing a seal spoke of was *security*.

**Daniel 6:16-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast *him* into the den of lions. *But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you. Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring...that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

The idea here was that once the king had sealed the lion’s den no one could break the seal— except someone greater than the king.

So, the second thing a seal represented was ***security***.

Since God has sealed you in Christ with the Holy Spirit the moment you put your trust in Jesus—**you are absolutely secure**.

You’re secure because to break that seal it would take someone greater than God and since no one is greater than God you have nothing to worry about.

➤ *“Yes, but I can still blow it and lose my salvation.”*

➤ *“Are you greater than God?”*

**Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)**

<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Jude 1:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

\*\*\*\*\*

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

Reach out to us [here](#).