

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 6, 2015

The Remedy for Apostasy
Jude 20-21

How can we protect ourselves from the threat of apostasy?

There are 4 actions we can take to protect ourselves from the threat of apostasy

I. Advance

But you, beloved

-Shifts the focus to give the remedy to apostasy in the church

Building yourselves up

-We need to build up as opposed to apostates...

grumbling (Jude 16)

finding fault (Jude 16)

following their own lusts (Jude 16)

speaking arrogantly (Jude 16)

dividing apostates (Jude 19)

-Even the apostate's appearance of building up is fake

flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage (Jude 16)

-Notice, command is not to avoid tearing down and remain stagnant

-Contrarily, we must seek to edify, encourage and build up

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Ephesians 4:15-16 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

-We cannot advance and grow without one another!

Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

on your most holy faith

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

-The foundation of our "building" must be the Word of God handed down from the Apostles

II. Ask

Praying

-In contrast to Jude's previous command to "build," the command to "pray" is an exercise in dependence.

-Dependence in prayer is similar to dependence exercised at salvation

in the Holy Spirit

-Spirit indwells believers (Romans 8:9, 15)

Ephesians 6:18 With all prayer and petition *pray at all times in the Spirit*, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

-All prayer should be in the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

III. Abide

Keep yourselves in the love of God

1 John 4:16-18 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, *so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment*; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

John 15:9-10 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love*; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

IV. Anticipate

Waiting anxiously

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

2 Timothy 4:8 in the future there is laid up 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 loved His appearing.

Luke 12:36 Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life

-We have experienced mercy in the past through salvation

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, *but according to His mercy*, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *who according to His great mercy* has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, *being rich in mercy*, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

-We experience mercy in our everyday needs in the present

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, *so that we may receive mercy* and find grace to help in time of need.

-We will experience mercy in our future through the realization of eternal life

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, *for they shall receive mercy*.

Jude 21 ... waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

-In contrast to eternal life, the apostates will receive a different outcome

Long ago marked out for condemnation (Jude 4)

Perish like those in the rebellion of Korah (Jude 11)

Black darkness has been reserved for them (Jude 13)

Judged by Jesus at His return (Jude 15)

May God give us the grace to keep His commands and abide in His love.

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