

CONTENDING FOR OUR FAITH

Lesson 1: The Challenge to Contend Jude 1-4

- I. **The author:** Jude identified himself in terms of his ministry and his relationships (1:1a).
 - A. As a servant of Christ, Jude had made the decision to spend his life laboring for Savior.
 - B. As a brother of James, Jude indirectly identifies himself as a half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55; Acts 15:13; James 1:1).
- II. **The recipients:** Jude writes to these believers reassuring them of the protected relationship they have with Christ (1:1b)
 - A. Being called focuses on their being chosen by God.
 - B. Being sanctified looks at their being set apart for God's purposes.
 - C. Being preserved stresses the safety of their relationship with the Lord.
- III. **The longing:** Jude longs for these believers to be sustained in the abundant mercy, peace and love of God as they face the challenges before them (1:2).
- IV. **The challenge:** Jude challenges believers to get into the ring and contend for the faith, which ungodly men try to subvert (1:3).
 - A. Originally he wanted to write about the shared salvation they had in Christ.
 - B. Now he strongly urges them to contend for the faith "once delivered" to believers.
- V. **The promoters of apostasy:** The truth of the gospel of grace had come under attack from ungodly, sensual promoters of license (1:4).
 - A. These men have secretly infiltrated churches in order to promote their heresies.
 - B. These ungodly men pervert grace into a license for sensuality.
 - C. Their blasphemy included denying core truths about the person and work of Christ.