

### Scripture Text

Jude 17-25

### Context

Jude has written this letter to help the church guard against false teachers in their midst. This section right at the end is where he takes his eyes off of the false teachers and urges the believers themselves to persevere by keeping themselves in the love of God. Whilst this passage speaks about keeping ourselves, this keeping is rooted in how we are 'beloved in God and kept for Jesus Christ' (v1).

### Observation and Meaning

- How does Jude's encouragement to his readers in vs20-21 urge us not to be complacent about having vibrant faith in God?
- Whose responsibility is it to ensure that we remain in the love of God? What role does God play in this (vs1, 24) and what role do others in the church play in this (see 'yourselves' in vs21)
- What do you think it means to 'keep yourself in the love of God'? What other scriptures can you think of that point to this? (Consider John 15.9-11, Eph 3.14-19, 1 Thess 5.19)
- In the original language it is clear that there are three dependent clauses (building yourself up in the faith, praying in the Spirit, waiting for Christ) to the main imperative (which is keeping ourselves in the love of God). What do you think is meant by each of these three things?
- How does the fact that God is able to keep us (v24) help us to be confident in God as we remain in His love?

### Big Idea

The faith we value is not just theoretical but experienced in everyday life, leading to a living relationship with God. We actively seek the present-day work of the Spirit, expecting him to move in and through us.

### Connecting to the Bible's storyline

God has redeemed us to bring us into living fellowship with the Father through the work on the Spirit in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Sermon Outline

1. The necessity of keeping yourself in the love of God
2. How to keep yourself in the love of God
  - a. Building yourself up in the faith
  - b. Praying in the Spirit
  - c. Waiting for God

### Application

- Do you live your daily life with a sense of the 'nearness' of God that could be described as a close, living relationship with Him and dependence upon His Spirit? Do you love God deeply?
- What do you think it would practically look like for your life to be fully devoted to God? How would you expect the Spirit to empower you daily if you were living in the love of God?
- What are some of the negative side effects in your life that you notice when you fail to remain in God's love?
- How active are you in striving to keep yourself in the love of God?
- How is God practically calling you through this sermon / text to draw near to Him? What will this practically look like for you? How does God's call to you (v1) and love for you (v20) preservation of you (v24) lead you to want to devote your entire life to Him?

## Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

### Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

### Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?  
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?  
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?  
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

### Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.