**Salvation Worth Fighting For**

*Jude 3*

**Introduction**

1. **Jude 3** – it seems as though Jude changed the topic of his epistle due to some information concerning false teachers.
	1. Intended to write about a positive, uplifting topic – common salvation.
	2. Needed to encourage the brethren rather to defend the truth against those who were contrary to it.
	3. Possible alternative – Jude’s intention was to write of a specific facet of the “common salvation,” that being the need to contend for the faith.
	4. Either way, included in our salvation is the need to defend it.
2. Some Christians do not want to deal with conflict. They want only those matters which satisfy their itching ears (**cf. 2 Timothy 4:3-4**).
	1. The “sound doctrine” to which Paul referred – **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – includes reproof (conviction of sin).
	2. Some do not want to hear, or be involved with in any way, teaching or rhetoric which exposes sin and error.
	3. Even if they recognize something as sinful, or that which is error, and would not be involved in it themselves, they’d just as soon leave it alone than address it.
	4. This conduct is often placed behind the façade of love, and peace.
3. There is much in scripture that makes us feel good. God has blessed us with these positive truths, matters wherein we find comfort.
4. However, we must not take these blessings for granted.
5. God has not simply given them to us by His grace but has ENTRUSTED them to us.
6. If we truly value the spiritual blessing that is salvation, and all it entails, then we will willingly contend for the faith which brought it to us. (The gospel of Christ – objective faith.)
7. Our Common Salvation
8. Freedom from Sin – **John 8:31-36** – Jesus can make us free from sin by His word.
	1. **Romans 3:23** – all have sinned, so all were slaves of sin.
	2. **Romans 7:21-25; 8:1-2** – when one comes to the realization of his slavery to sin. Jesus is the only answer.
		1. Where there was condemnation now there isn’t.
		2. Now there is life apart from sin in Christ Jesus.
9. Reconciliation to God – **Romans 5:10** – Jesus’ death reconciled us to God.
	1. **John 17:3** – eternal life is to know God, but not just surface knowledge, but in an intimate way – relationship through His Son.
	2. **Isaiah 59:2** – sin separates us from God, which is spiritual death.
	3. **2 Corinthians 5:18-21** – God’s plan of salvation is one which restores a fallen relationship between Himself and man through Christ.
10. Adoption as Children – **John 1:12-13** – given right (authority) through Christ to become children of God – born into His family.
	1. **Hebrews 3:6** – we are of the household of God.
	2. **Romans 8:15-17** – We are adopted children, thus, heirs of an inheritance.
11. A Hope of an Inheritance – those born of God are His children – **1 Peter 1:3-4** – born to an inheritance.
	1. **1 Peter 1:5** – kept by faith for that inheritance.
	2. **1 Peter 1:9** – the end of a proven faith is salvation. (Faithfulness.)
	3. **Romans 5:3-5** – tribulation, patience, character, and hope that doesn’t disappoint.
12. There is a constant threat to all of these:
	1. Can become slaves of sin again – **2 Peter 2:18-19** – men who had strayed from the truth, taught false doctrine, and lived in error – brought under bondage again.
	2. Can lose fellowship with God – **Hebrews 3:12-14** – can depart from God – only partakers if we are steadfast to the end.
	3. Can be put out of God’s house and become a child of the Devil – **1 John 3:8-9** – to turn back to sin is to be of the devil.
	4. Can lose our inheritance – **Hebrews 12:15-17** – like Esau sold his birthright, we can sell our inheritance for the passing pleasures of sin.
13. We should rejoice in these matters of salvation always (**cf. Philippians 4:4**). However, if and when it is threatened, we must fight for it (**cf. Jude 3**).
14. Is there not a cause?
15. David’s Attitude – Is there not a cause?
	1. Some judge the hearts of those who boldly address issues of sin and error which threaten the faith, charging them with ulterior motives:
		1. Seeking attention.
		2. Seeking a following.
		3. Seeking power.
		4. Seeking preeminence.
		5. Etc.
	2. These reflect the attitude of David’s brother – **1 Samuel 17:28** – I know your pride.
	3. We must reflect the attitude of David – **1 Samuel 17:29** – He wasn’t seeking attention, or fame, and didn’t simply want to see the battle.
		1. He knew Jehovah had been defied – **1 Samuel 17:26**
		2. He knew God must be defended, and glorified – **1 Samuel 17:47**
	4. WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS A CAUSE! WE MUST NOT SIT IDLY BY WHILE OUR ADVERSARY IS AT WORK TO ENSLAVE SOULS!
16. Our Common Enemy (WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND CELEBRATE OUR COMMON SALVATION, BUT WE MUST ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE AND OPPOSE OUR COMMON ENEMY.)
	1. Satan
		1. He is cunning, seeking to deceive – **2 Corinthians 11:3-4**
		2. He is ruthless, seeking to destroy – **1 Peter 5:8**
		3. He has blinded the world – **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** (They have refused to see the light, but WE WHO HAVE COME TO THE LIGHT MUST REALIZE THE DANGER OF DARKNESS, AND THE WORK OF SATAN TO COVER THE LIGHT.)
		4. He is at work to influence followers of God – **John 13:2** (Judas); **Acts 5:3** (Ananias and Sapphira); **2 Timothy 2:26** (men taken captive by Satan to do his will.) (CONSIDER HOW HE WORKS – NOT POSSESSION, BUT INFLUENCE THROUGH TEMPTATION)
17. Our Call to Arms
	1. The call of discipleship is not one to an exemption from conflict – **Matthew 10:34-39** – we must stand for Christ at all costs.
	2. We are soldiers of Christ – **2 Timothy 2:3** – soldiers fight.
	3. We wrestle against Satan and his spiritual hosts – **Ephesians 6:11-12**
	4. We are to support the truth as its pillar – **1 Timothy 3:15**
	5. We are to be the light which exposes darkness – **Ephesians 5:11**
	6. We are to strive together against the foes of Christ – **Philippians 1:27-28**

**Conclusion**

1. It is right to rejoice in our salvation given us by God. We should want to constantly talk about it, and encourage each other by it.
2. However, if that is exclusively what we do, it may be taken from us.
3. We must be on alert constantly, and eliminate the threats toward our salvation.
4. Christians cannot be spiritual passivists. We are called to spiritual war – a war that won’t end until Christ’s coming.
5. Isn’t our salvation worth fighting for?