

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading Jude 12-16

- 535, I know Whom I have believed
- He will hold me fast
- Christ is mine forevermore
- 362, Blessed Assurance

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

Book of Jude - #5

The desiccating words and deeds of apostate teachers

Jude 12-16

Sending prayer

Today - Communion and pot-luck in the fellowship hall!

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

Book of Jude - #5

The desiccating words and deeds of apostate teachers

Jude 12-16

- June 4th, 2023 -

Book of Jude - #5

The desiccating words and deeds of apostate teachers

Jude 12-16

There are certain foods and substances, that when taken into the mouth, instantly suck up the moisture and make you want to spit them out. The teaching and deeds of the apostate teachers are like that to the believer walking in the Spirit. In our passage today they and their deeds are compared to five things in nature. And then their doom (and that of all false teachers) is called out prophetically from before the flood of Noah!

False teachers and the five metaphors from nature:

V12a, **...the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts - *Destructive***

These apostates are participating in the most intimate aspects of body life in the churches. *They're among, not "out there"!* For an ancient sailor one of the most frightening occurrences would be to strike their keel on an unmarked reef, tearing the bottom out, losing the ship, its cargo and drowning those on board.

when they feast with you without fear, (They have no fear of God)

caring for themselves; (Their *ethic is opposite* Christ's and Christ's children) See 1 Cor 11: 20 –

Pride, greed, rebellion mark their attitude and actions.

V12b, **...clouds without water, - *Disappointing***

There is nothing more frustrating and despairing to a farmer than to have planted his crops and then see dark rain clouds form... and then pass over without yielding their water to the parched soil. These men promise spirituality but yield dryness of soul and spirit. See Jeremiah 2:13, 17:13, John 4:10

carried along by winds These men, instead of being purposely moved by the one Holy Spirit (pneuma – wind) 2 Peter 1:21, are randomly and powerfully blown here and there by different, opposing winds (anemos – winds, plural).

J Vernon McGee: *"They [the apostates] have had courses in public speaking and homiletics, and they know how to spiritualize a text of Scripture and make it mean something entirely different from what God intended."*

V12c, **...autumn trees without fruit, - *Unproductive***

Fruit tree farmers work hard, pruning, tending the ground and preparing for the Fall harvest. How disappointing to come across a well tended tree that is baren when so much has been poured in and so much is expected of it!

Doubly dead

Uprooted Such a tree is uprooted and burned or turned into furniture!

V13a, **...wild waves of the sea - *Polluting***

casting up their own shame

See Isaiah 57:20 Waves cast up bits of filth and debris onto the shore with their waves and foam. Similarly the false teachers spread evidence of their uncontrolled, impulsive and powerful immorality and impurity wherever they went

V13b, **...wandering stars – *Unprincipled & Self-directed***

Unlike the normal stars in the heavens that follow the predictable courses and design rules of their Creator, these wander to their own bizarre impulses.

for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Their destiny is one of woe (see v11a) – Eric's translation: *the gloom of the darkness is specially prepared and preserved for them*

Something to ponder

There are at least two classes of people that might teach what is false:

- 1) Truly saved teachers, including pastors/elders, who generally teach what is true and right from the Word, but who have an area (or areas) of teaching that is/are aberrant or faulty. *These are to be treated with varying degrees of caution and perhaps distance. James 3:1 is one passage that deals with them.*
- 2) Unregenerate, unsaved teachers, including pastors/elders, who are truly apostate, as are the men warned about in Jude. *These are to be avoided at all costs once we know. Jude 13:c and 2 Tim 3:1-5 apply to them.*

Sometimes it is difficult to tell the difference until you get to know the person and their teaching well. **Be careful not to confuse *who you like with what they teach!* Jude 21-22 are worth careful consideration.**

Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis are knowable and they matter!