Jude 20-25

## Non-Christians had snuck into Jude’s church unawares

### Teaching heresy— Fight for the faith

## How do you do that, specifically?

### Saw some answers last week in vv 5-19

### Back up, and look at vv 17- end give us three more answers (Jude likes threes)

# 1. Don’t be surprised (vv 17-19)

## Don’t be surprised! Expect these problems

### Apostles prophesied that scoffers will come in the last days

### False teachers in Jude’s church were the fulfillment of these prophecies

## “Scoffers” — People who mock true believers for what they believe/live

### 1. Mock God with their theology, as they attacked the doctrine of …

#### The supremacy/sovereignty of Jesus and the second coming (2 Peter 3:3-4)

### 2. Mock God with their lifestyles — “ungodly”

#### Speak piously about God — “religious” — but mock him as they live in constant sin.

### Can thumb our nose at God not only by what we believe but also by how we live

## Easy to think it will not happen here

### We too live in the last days

### We are not immune to these “scoffers”

### Expect it — “To be forewarned is to be forearmed.”

### Without taking away from the force of Jude’s teaching —fight fair (Moo, 294)

# 2. Fight for Faith: Devote yourselves to your own spiritual growth

### Vv 20-21 — Look first to yourself before going to battle

## 1. “Build yourselves up in your most holy faith”

### Expanding on “faith” in v 3

#### Build yourselves up in your core beliefs are the foundational

### How? Learn it. Live it.

#### False teachers mocked God with their theology and lives

##### Fighting them takes the same form

#### Learn it — Bible study, casual reading, talking, Shiloh In., Grudem

#### Live it — let what you are learning change how you live

##### Knowledge that does not transform breeds arrogance and self-complacency

#### As we learn it and live it, we are preparing to fight the faith

## 2. “Pray in the Holy Spirit”

### Not charismatic utterance

#### All prayer is prompted/encouraged/empowered/guided by the Holy Spirit

#### Rom 8 — It is the Spirit who intercedes when our words fail

### Reassurance: when you and I face turmoil and opposition, we are not alone

## 3. “Keep yourselves in the love of God”

### Strange? —Romans 8:35, 38; John 10:27-29

### Theological balance — God’s actions and our own actions

#### Phil 2:12-13 — Work out salvation — God is at work

#### Moo, 297

### We take an active role in our sanctification

#### John 15:9-10

#### Can’t go out and live any way we want — disciples, followers

#### God made us new creatures, and expects us to live like new creatures, empowered by the Holy Spirit

# 3. Fight for Faith: Reach out to those affected (vv 22-23)

## 1. Those who are doubting the orthodox faith

### Starting to fall prey to the heresies — don’t shun but pursue with mercy

### Difficult: easier to shun and rebuke — 25 hours in a day

### Mercy is more effective than a harsh rebuke — spend time; rebuke

## 2. Those almost swayed — snatch them from the fire

### Much more aggressive

### Fires of judgment: teetering on the brink of hell

#### Acceptance of the false teachers’ beliefs and behavior is apostasy.

### Many false teachings that will not send a person to hell — in Jude’s case, yes

## 3. False teachers themselves — show mercy

### “Pity.” Also prayers for mercy — none are beyond redemption

### Fear the influence of being in close contact — contaminated by false teaching

### Hate what they are teaching — graphic picture

#### “Garment” is the one closest to the body.

#### “Stained” refers to human excrement

#### “Jude pictures the sinful teaching and practices of these people as underclothes fouled by feces.”

### As a whole, the church has lost its disgust and hatred of false teaching as it has lost its love for the truth

#### Not complacency or passive acceptance, but hatred of heretical teaching

# Feel like retreating — I can’t do it on my own

## You’re right — doxology (vv 24-25)

### It is God who keeps us — keeps us from stumbling — keeps us in His love

### It is God who empowers us to live lives of holiness — “blameless”

### We can’t sit back and coast

## False teaching will come — can’t afford to be surprised

### Some will be heretical — attack on the person of Jesus and the way of salvation

#### Some false teaching will just be wrong

### We are not going to “baton down the hatches” and try to ride out the storm

#### Get ready to do battle

## 1. Watch ourselves

### Strengthen our faith — learn it, live it

### Keep ourselves in God’s love by being obedient

## 2. Reach out to those affected

### Treat them with mercy, as aggressively as we need to.

### Fearing the contamination of false teaching and hating heresy

## All this is possible only because God keep us

### Empowers us to live lives of holiness.