

S.O.H.L. (11/15/10)

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

The Great Falling Away

& False Teachers (Pt. 3 of 3)

In this meditation, the Apostle Jude speaks to us about people falling away from the grace due to incorrect beliefs and teachings of men. People who feel free to vent to the desires of the flesh. In this meditation, Jude speaks to us with a warning about wrong conduct and false doctrine, just as Peter and Paul spoke to us in the previous meditations.

JUDE (VS. 4-11) – (4) I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (5) So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful. (6) And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. (7) And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment. (8) In the same way, these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings. (9) But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses' body.) (10) But these people scoff at things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do whatever their instincts tell them, and so they bring about their own destruction. (11) What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money. And like Korah, they perish in their rebellion.

JUDE (VS. 12-19) – (12) When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord's love, they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots. (13) They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness. (14) Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones (15) to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (16) These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want. (17) But you, my dear friends, must remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ said. (18) They told you that in the last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to satisfy their ungodly desires. (19) These people are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They follow their natural instincts because they do not have God's Spirit in them.

Jude clearly identifies the apostate, while at the same time exposing their character in order to warn believers of their true nature and their final destiny. He was laying the groundwork to call his readers to action against these ungodly men and their practices. I now conclude this meditation with scripture spoken by our heavenly Father. (**Matthew 7:15-20**)

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 7:15-20

November 1, 2010

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A person who knows everything has a lot to learn!