♦SERMON NOTES **♦**

Sunday, May 6, 2012

"STAYING FAITHFUL TO THE END"

(Jude 17-25)

Jude is an appropriate introduction to the book of Revelation. It tells what the world will be like for believers in the days leading up to the end of time. It also tells believers how to live well for God in such troubled times. How are we to stay faithful to the end?

"Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed" (Romans 13:1, NASB).

1. Find confidence in	(v. 17, 20).		
2. Remember 3. Grow in 4. Pray in the 5. Commit yourself 6. Anticipate 7. Encourage	(v. 20). (v. 20). (v. 21). (v. 21).		
		8. Share the	(v. 23).

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(Jude 17-25)

"Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!" (James 5:7–9, NLT).

"Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed" (Romans 13:1, NASB).

"You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!" (2 Timothy 3:1-5, The Message).

1. Find confidence in God's great love (v. 17, 20).

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1, NIV).

"will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39, NASB).

2. Remember God's truth (v. 17).

3. Grow in your faith (v. 20).

"Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6, NIV).

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5, NIV).

4. Pray in the Spirit (v. 20).

"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will" (Romans 8:26-27, NLT).

5. Commit yourself to God (v. 21).

"The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him" (1 John 3:24, NASB).

6. Anticipate eternity (v. 21).

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23, ESV).

7. Encourage other believers (v. 22).

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35, NASB).

"If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead" (1 John 3:14, NLT).

8. Share the Gospel (v. 23).

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10, NIV).

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen" (Jude 24-25, NASB).