

## THE AGE OF APOSTASY

Jude

Let me begin with a word we don't often use "**apostate**." The Greek word literally means "to fall away from." The dictionary defines an apostate as... "a person who has rejected the tenets of the religion he once claimed to believe." In biblical terms, an apostate is anyone who claims to be a Christian, and yet denies the fundamental truths of the Christian faith.

You could say Jude is just an old book... but what we *really* have is a survival manual for believers in the days of apostasy... days like ours! What can we say about this little letter from Jude? In only 25 verses he dissects the lives of the apostates revealing their character, their doctrine, their moral error, and their ultimate destiny. Then he reveals how believers should respond to moral and spiritual apostasy.

The whole theme of the letter is found in verse 3;

\_\_\_\_\_ **for the faith...**

But notice something else.

**This faith has been \_\_\_\_\_ to the saints.**

Jude tells us **how to spot the apostates**: (4)

- 1) They \_\_\_\_\_ slip in and do their evil work,
- 2) They do not know \_\_\_\_\_,
- 3) They \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ is the Sovereign Lord, and
- 4) They use their religion as an excuse for \_\_\_\_\_.

Jude's **Two-part strategy for spiritual survival**

First, "Keep \_\_\_\_\_ in your Christian life." (20-21).

Second, while we wait remember there's \_\_\_\_\_ to be done!

(22-23) These verses describe three groups of people.

- 1) "those who \_\_\_\_\_"
- 2) Those who must be "\_\_\_\_\_ " out of the fire.
- 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ of the apostates.

Jude closes by giving us **the \_\_\_\_\_ for our hope**.

First, there is the \_\_\_\_\_ **of God**:

*"To him who is able to keep you from falling"*

Second, there is the \_\_\_\_\_ **of God**:

*"To present you before his glorious presence."*

Third, there is the \_\_\_\_\_ **of God**:

*"Without fault and with great joy."*

Until then... \_\_\_\_\_ UP... AND \_\_\_\_\_ DOWN!