

IDENTIFYING WHO IS TO CONTEND – JUDE 1:1-2

As we learned in last week’s overview of Jude, the theme is taken directly from the key verse 3—*Earnestly _____ for the _____ which was once delivered unto the saints.* In the weeks ahead our expositional study will answer: What to contend for, with whom we are to contend, and how to contend. Today’s introductory message will answer the question, who is to contend? As we will see this fighting is not reserved for the preacher, the studious or well-informed, the Bible Institute graduate or teacher, but for every believer. While many Christians may not feel up to the task, Jude’s salutation (greeting) and introduction will encourage _____ to act.

J

1. Jude’s introduction – verse 1a

a. The *servant* of Jesus Christ

- Doctrinally – This is how some other tribulation period writers begin their epistles: James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; see 1 Peter 1:1 and 2 Peter 3:1. These epistles are aimed at *Jewish* believers living in the “time of Jacob’s trouble” after the rapture of church age saints...
- Jude starts off by *subtly* pulling the reader into the doctrinal application of the book. This was not only to those living during Jude’s time *historically*—it is not only a *devotionally* instructive book to us today and to saints all throughout church history, but it ____ applies *doctrinally* to the Jewish remnant living during the tribulation period after the rapture of church age saints.

U

D

b. Something to consider about the possible author

- Our Lord’s earthly half-brothers did not believe in him while he was preaching to Israel (Jo. 7:1-5), but after the resurrection James became a follower (1 Cor. 15:1-7 – it is a reasonable assumption that _____ was also saved around this time).

It is never too late to get saved and become a _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ

E

2. Identifying who is to contend – verses 1b, 3

a. Written to ____ believers living at any time in human history

- This letter and its exhortation is not just to pastors or preachers, not just to the Bible students or the well-informed, not just to the Bible Institute graduate or teacher, but to _____ believer
- If _____ everyday believers throughout history did not take this counsel seriously we would not be here today...

b. A description of the saved recipients:

- Sanctified by God the Father – 1 Cor. 6:9-11

Sanctify – to set apart. Biblically it means to be set apart from this world and unto the person of God...

In this context it means *positional* sanctification, which happened instantly upon your salvation

- Preserved in Jesus Christ – Ps. 37:28; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:5c

Preserved – kept in a useful, favorable state; sealed until revealed – Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 1 Peter 1:5

- Called – 1 Peter 2:9

God is in the business of calling, and calling, and calling a person into his marvelous light until they respond or die... and every calling includes a purpose—our purpose is to bring him

3. The recipients are _____ – verses 2, 3a

a. The blessings of the Beloved

- Mercy
- Peace
- Love

b. God wants these blessings to be _____ in our life

- These blessings will keep us strong so we can *earnestly* contend