

Earnestly Contend for the Faith

A Humble Introduction and a Loving Request

Jude 1-2

1. The **identity** of the Author of the Epistle of Jude (v.1a)

There are several individuals in the New Testament who have the name Jude (Judas). Two of the twelve apostles were named Judas, but he does not claim to be an apostle and for many other reasons, neither of these seems to best match the identity of the author. It seems best to identify the author here as the brother of James who was an elder in the church in Jerusalem and a half-brother of the Lord Jesus.

2. The **Emphasis** of the Author's Identity (v.1a)

Instead of emphasizing a different aspect of his identity in order to gain an audience (cf. 2 John 1), Jude highlights an aspect of his identity that is universally relatable: a bondservant of Jesus (Gal 1:10; Phil 1:1; Col. 4:12; Jas. 1:1; Rev. 1:1).

3. The **Audience** of the Epistle of Jude (v.1b)

It is evident from the fact that Jude desired to write about a salvation that was common between them (v.3) that the initial audience was identified by their redemption by Christ Jesus. Here he is not expounding the depths of these realities, but he is rejoicing in them.

A. Called

This is a specific designation which is used in order to refer to individuals who have actually experienced the blessings of God's salvation (Rom. 1:6; 8:28; 1 Cor 1:2, 24).

B. Beloved in God the Father

This is a blessed reality that is experienced by believers in Jesus Christ. God shows kindness and has a general love for all of creation, but He has a special love for those who receive salvation (Eph. 1:6; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; 2:13).

C. Kept for Christ Jesus

One of the most continually comforting blessings that God has revealed for those who have trusted in Christ Jesus is that He is the one who will keep them secure (John 10:27-30; Rom 8:35-39; Jude 24).

4. **Jude's Initial Request on Behalf of His Audience** (v.2)

His love for his fellow believers is evident because of the content of the letter, and he desires that they would continue to experience the increasing blessings of their relationship to Jesus Christ.

A. Mercy: the application of Grace (Eph. 2:4; Titus 3:5)

B. Peace: the experience of the reality of God's peace with us (Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:4-7)

C. Love: the experience of God's unchanging attitude toward the believer (1 John 4:7ff; 1 Pet. 4:8; Eph. 5:25)