

## **“Antidote for Apostasy” Jude 17-25**

**Introduction** - Jude has given us a very detailed description of the Apostates, vv. 15-16.

- Their Past Judgments, vv. 5-7
- Their Present Characteristics, vv. 8-13
- Their Future Judgement, vv. 14-16

At this point in his letter, Jude takes a new direction. He moves from exposing the apostate teachers, to encouraging his beloved brothers, see vs. 17 & vs. 20.

He moves from his description of the apostates; to our defense against apostasy. From the *anatomy of apostasy* to the *antidote for apostasy*.

Four ways to guard yourself against apostasy:

### **I. Remember the Apostles Predicted It**, vv. 17-19

1. Jude reminds his readers that the presence of false teachers in the church was to be expected; it should not surprise or dismay or discourage them. The apostles had predicted it! (vs. 17)

**Illus.:** Paul, Acts 20, I Tim. 4:1, “*the spirit speaketh expressly*” and II Tim. 3:1-9; also Peter, II Peter 2 & 3:3, “*knowing this first that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust,*” John, I John 2:18-19.

2. Verse 18: Jude was not an apostle!

Note: A. Mockers in the last time.  
B. Walk after their own ungodly lusts.

3. Verse 19:

A. “*Separate themselves.*” They cause division.  
They cause division. Luther, “*those who make factions.*”

Illus.: Liberalism, modernists.

B. “*Sensual*”- We get our word “*psychology*.” It’s literally, “*soulish*”; its the self-conscious life which animates their bodies. It’s natural in contrast with the supernatural. The realm of the senses.

C. Verse 19, “*having not the Spirit.*” Romans 8:9, “*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.*”

Contrast with a Christian!

Do you have the Holy Spirit?

## II. Build a Strong Christian Life, vv. 20-21

1. **Building:** Fortify yourself through sound doctrine, vs. 20.  
We are responsible for our spiritual development. How? Acts 20:32, “*I commend you to God, and to the word of...*”
2. **Praying:** Pray in the Holy Spirit, vs. 20. Romans 8:26-27. It’s also praise and thanksgiving.
3. **Keeping:** Keep yourself in the love of God, vs. 21.
  - It’s not keep yourself saved, vs. 1.
  - It’s keep yourself in His love! Illus.: Luke 15 (the prodigal son)
  - How? John 15:10, “*If you keep my commandment.*”
4. **Looking:** Look for Jesus to come, vs. 21. Mercy and eternal life. Key, “*looking,*” Titus 2:13, “*looking for....blessed hope.*” For the Christian, it’s the Rapture. Contrast with the second coming.

It’s a God-centered, Christ-centered, spirit-centered life!

1. Word of God!
2. Praying in the Spirit of God!
3. Keeping yourself in the love of God!
4. Looking for the coming son of God!

### III. Practice Discernment toward Victims of Apostasy, vv. 22-23

1. Those who have doubts and are as William Barclay says, “*flirting with falsehood,*” vs. 22.
2. Those whose condition demands aggressive action, vs. 23a.
3. Those whose pollution requires personal caution, vs. 23b.

### IV. Trust in Jesus to Keep You, vv. 24-25

How can we live in the last days and not fall?

“*Trust in the God who is able to...*”

God is able:

- To save you
- Stabilize you
- To do, Eph. 3:20

1. “*Keep you from falling*”
2. “*Present you*” faultless before the presence of His glory
3. “*With exceeding joy*” when we see Jesus!

1. “*To the only wise God our Savior.*”

2. Be “*glory*” and “*majesty*” and “*dominion*” and “*power*” now and forever!

**Is he your Savior?**