Epistle of Jude – verses 17 - 25; Encouragement for Christian Believers:-

Verses 17 - 19; Exhortations to Christians:-
Remember that this Letter was written to Christians who were struggling with some in their congregations who held onto and shared false teaching – verses 3 – 4. The fact that there would be scoffers and 'activists' setting up divisions in the churches. (see for example 2 Timothy chapter 4, verses 3 – 4 and Acts chapter 20 verses 28 – 31). It is those who would change *"the faith once delivered to the saints"* who cause the problems. These verses sound harsh when looked at in the present day. Remember this is the Word of God written and handed down for our benefit. It cannot just be ignored as 'old fashioned' because it is counter-cultural in a modern context.

Verses 20 - 21; A Direct Charge to Believers:-
Purity of life commences with sound doctrine which is *"the faith once delivered to the saints"*. Constant referral to scripture and constant 'prayer in the Holy Spirit' are the means by which the believer is built up and grounded in the faith. We are called to wait and watch for the coming of the Lord. Read Matthew chapter 24, verses 42 – 44.

Verses 22 - 23; An Ongoing Task:-
In this passage, Jude urges Christians to respond to those affected by false teachers. The verb *'convince'* refers to a need for intellectual persuasion and verse 23 to those who have been encouraged into moral laxity – loving the sinner but hating the way that they live an immoral life. See Zechariah chapter 3 verses 1 – 5 for an example from Old Testament prophecy.

Verses 24 - 25; Benediction:-
A vital reminder that it is the infinite resources of the Lord God Himself who alone is competent to keep us from falling in this life and bring us to Himself in the Last Day. In these verses the saving power of God is shown *"in Jesus Christ our Lord"*. The final ascription of *"glory, majesty, dominion and authority"* is Jude's testimony to the gracious character of God who wrought our salvation through Christ.

Soldiers, who are Christ's below,
strong in faith resist the foe:
boundless is the pledged reward
unto them who serve the Lord.

'Tis no palm of fading leaves
that the conqueror's hand receives;
joys are his, serene and pure,
light that ever shall endure.

For the souls that overcome
waits the beauteous heavenly home,
where the blessèd evermore
tread on high the starry floor.

Passing soon and little worth
are the things that tempt on earth;
heavenward lift thy soul's regard;
God himself is thy reward.

Father, who the crown dost give,
Saviour, by whose death we live,
Spirit, who our hearts dost raise,
Three in One, thy Name we praise.

From Latin 1736, translated by J. Clark 1839 – 1888

Terry Brighton 24 / 9/ 2026