

# Eat, Drink, and Be Merry

Long Beach Alliance Church • August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**For certain persons have crept in unnoticed,  
those who were long beforehand marked  
out for this condemnation, ungodly  
persons who turn the grace of our God into  
licentiousness and deny our only  
Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**~Jude 4 (NASB)**

## 1) Jude, Brother From The Same Mother...

- A) The short letter of Jude (literally, “Judas”) begins with a typical Christian greeting, authenticating the sender of the letter (Jude 1).
- B) “Jude... brother of James” (Jude 1) seems to be an odd claim of authentication. If this is Jude, the younger brother of James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ (cf. Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3), why not just lay claim to having Jesus Christ as your older half-brother?
- C) Interestingly, the beginning of James similarly leaves out any claim to Jesus as half-brother in the salutation (cf. James 1:1). Perhaps the two half-brothers of Jesus (James & Jude) did not authenticate their letters as half-brothers of Jesus out of both humility (Jesus was God’s Son, and therefore it was too lofty to claim a brotherly relationship with Him), and perhaps humiliation (his brothers did not follow Jesus until after His death, cf. John 7:5; Acts 1:14).

- D) These characteristics of God’s people are important to recognize! Jude recalls that Israel was a people who were “called” (Isaiah 41:9), “beloved” (Isaiah 43:4), and “kept” (Isaiah 42:6), and is recognizing that what is true of Israel (God’s chosen people) is true for followers of Christ (God’s chosen people).
- E) Jude is recognizing that followers of the Messiah are “grafted in” to God’s chosen people (cf. Romans 11:17-24), participants in God’s extraordinary gift of salvation!
- F) All the stories of Israel in the Old Testament are the rich history AND future of salvation in Jesus Christ! The “old stories” look forward to salvation through the Messiah, and inform us of God’s “type” of work in the future!
- G) To those who in their “calling” are both “beloved” and “kept,” Jude extends the multiplying blessing of “mercy and peace and love” (Jude 2). You are loved and secure, may the blessing of this reality be multiplied to you!

## 3) The Occasion For Jude’s Letter

- A) Jude appears to have intended to write a very different letter focused on “our common salvation” (Jude 3), but was urgently sidetracked from his original intent with this short “emergency letter” dealing with heresy.
- B) Jude’s urgency comes from a heart of love (note “beloved”) which reflects the heart of love which God has for His “called ones.” It is this love which burdens Jude, and makes this letter “necessary.”
- C) Rather than simply explore salvation, Jude’s purpose in writing is to “contend earnestly” (vigorously agonize in your effort) for the faith “handed down” (Jude 3).

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- D) Why the sudden change of heart? Jude's readers are apparently "unaware" of certain people who pose a deadly danger to their faith (Jude 4). This is an emergency letter about a faith-threatening/life-threatening problem!
- E) The people who have secretly slipped into the church, perhaps as traveling teachers or newer members of the local congregation, are "ungodly" and "marked for condemnation" (Jude 4). They appear to be legitimate, but they are the devil in disguise!

### 4) The Heresy Unmasked

- A) These destructive individuals have "turned" (ESV, "perverted") the faith "handed down to the saints" (Jude 3) from the Old Testament and through the apostles of Jesus Christ, into a "license" for doing whatever they want to do (Jude 4).
- B) The word "licentiousness" (ESV, "sensuality"), is a word rich in significance, meaning that the false teachers "lack restraint in conduct which morally violates God's grace and uses God's grace as an opportunity to feed their own appetites of sexual/sensual hunger."
- C) Jude attacks "cheap grace," grace without repentance or grace that grants a license to sin more than before. Using the relationships which come through Christ's church for selfish means, often with sexual and immoral results.
- D) Rather than being saved with a transcendent destiny in mind, they have taken the grace of God and turned it's significance into earthly pleasures (eat, drink, and be merry) which actually leave people in bondage to sin and addiction, resulting in the denial of Jesus Christ, their Master and Lord (Jude 4).