

- I'd like to begin this evening by reading through an entire letter of the New Testament. So if you would please turn to the last book of the New Testament, Revelation. Now, turn back a couple of pages to the short little 25 verse **Letter of Jude**.
- There is a lot of good meat to this short book, and there is much to be gained from it. Usually, lessons from Jude center around contending for the faith and studies of false teachers. However, this evening I'd look to Jude from a different angle. I'd like to look to it from the standpoint of Learning Spiritual Contentment. I don't believe I saw this word used any in this short book, but I believe the principle is entirely present throughout this book as he taught and also as being necessary for a study of it. Let's consider this short book and what we can learn from it when it comes to be spiritual content.

## **I. Be content with God's blessings**

### **A. Be content with God's Truth. (vv.3,4,10-19)**

1. There were some who were not content with the simply truth of Faith in God and His salvation. There would be little admonition for this striving for Truth if truth was being observed. **(v.1)**
2. Some had crept in who had turned away from the truth.
3. These types of people in **v.4** are again spoken of in **vv.10-19**. These types of people were being sought after by others who were not content with Truth.
4. Sadly they are described as clouds without water **(v.12)** and wandering stars **(v.13)**. Both of these descriptions would have been strong language for the people of this time.
5. Sadly, we have many people who practice the same things today. They are not content with the simple Truth of God's Gospel. Instead, they seek out other things to suffice them in the religious world, and all they are finding are more clouds without water and wandering stars.
6. We are to seek out and find truth. Once we find it, let us be content with such and not waste our time with useless searching for that which will not truly suffice.

### **B. Be content with God's Grace. (v.5)**

1. Jude uses the Children of Israel as an example of those that were not content with God's Grace.
2. God had graciously brought them out of slavery by His awesome power, but unfortunately, some of the people became unsatisfied with God's gift of freedom.
3. They found life in the wilderness to be rough and they grumbled against God, Moses, and Aaron. **(Ex. 16:2,3)** They were not content with God's freedom but they wanted material wealth over anything else.
4. Eventually, many were even left out of the promise land for their disbelief in God and their unwillingness to honor the Grace that had been showed them. **(Heb. 3:14-19)**
5. We ought to be a type of people who are content with God's Grace. We should not overlook God's freedom and expect for God to bless us with abundant physical riches. Many people buy into the health and wealth Gospel because they are not content with freedom in Christ. **(v.16)** We must always be content with His Grace and realize that our true reward is in heaven.

### **C. Be content with God's Design. (vv. 6,7)**

1. Jude uses the angels and Sodom and Gomorrah as examples of those were not content with the way which God designed things to be.
2. The angels were not content with heaven and its glory and they fell. Those of Sodom and Gomorrah were not content with God's design for male and females and they sought after strange flesh. Both groups were punished for their lack of respect for God's design.
3. Many today are not content with God's designs for this life. They are not content with the church's design, they are not content with the marital design, they are not content with the family design, etc.
4. Because of their discontentment, they seek to change that which God has designed into something completely different. They seek to change God's design for the church, marriage, and the family.
5. We should be content with God's design. His way works! When we seek to change his design, we alter the perfect wisdom of God and we seek to elevate our wisdom of His wisdom. This is pure foolishness on our part and we out to be content with God's design for all things.

## II. Be content with what God has revealed.

- A. There are a lot of question marks written in my Bible in this letter. I see 5 at least. I have these question marks because I just don't know much about what is mentioned. We need to keep a couple things in mind when we run across things such as this in Scripture.
- B. God has not revealed everything to us.
  1. In the context of God's Judgement, Moses records in **Deuteronomy 29:29** that there are certain things that are secrets of God. We just don't know about them.
  2. There are many things just within **Jude** that I am completely unsure about. The angels of **v.6**, the reviling of angelic majesties of **v.8**, the argument of **v. 9**, the love feasts of **v.12**, and the reference to Enoch's prophesy in **v. 14**.
  3. Other mysterious things are mentioned throughout the Bible. How Satan became what he is, what the fruit in the garden was, how Noah got all the animals on the ark, etc.
  4. God just hasn't revealed these things to us, yet we can still be content.
- C. There will be some questions that we just can't answer.
  1. There just isn't enough information to answer some of the questions that we have in the Bible. Some people are never satisfied with what God has revealed. This leads them to a place where they are always just asking questions instead of honestly seeking answers. These people are rarely ever satisfied.
  2. Bro. Doy Moyer had some good words to say about these kind of people within the past couple weeks.
    - The question-seeker is rarely satisfied with any answers, but continually sees unanswerable questions. The answer-seeker has questions, too, but is able to recognize legitimate answers and is happy to find them.
    - The question-seeker's follow up is to the effect of, "Yeah, but what about...?" The answer-seeker's follow up is to the effect of, "Now let me understand how to apply this."
    - The question-seeker mistakes a search for questions with a humble search for truth. The answer-seeker finds truth through humble acceptance of legitimate answers.
    - The question-seeker looks for clever ways to ask the questions so as to stump others. The answer-seeker looks for clarity, not to stump anyone, but to lead to solid conclusions.
    - The question-seeker sees the questions as an end in themselves since no answers suffice. The answer-seeker sees the questions as a means to find real answers.
    - The question-seeker uses the lack of answers as an excuse to raise doubts. The answer-seeker uses the lack of answers as a way keep seeking and finally trust in the One who does have the answers.
    - The question-seeker uses unanswered questions to suspend judgment upon God and Christ. The answer-seeker suspends judgment on an unanswered question, but can still trust God.
  3. Which kind of person will we be? Will we be content with what God has given us or will be dissatisfied and waste time seeking that which is far about us in God's wisdom.

Contentment is a trait that is not had by all people, but by God's grace we can become a people that are both content physically and spiritually. May God help us to remember our place and be content with both the physical and spiritual blessings of God. May He be glorified in all that we do!