

Who Are You Listening to?

September 6, 2020

Jude 17-19

Who are you listening to?

How does the one you listen to affect the way you live?

Who you listen to and heed determines how you live

How you live is of eternal significance in the sight of God

Would you pray with me

T/S: Before we unpack Jude 17-19, I want you to meet Zachary

CONTEXT: Video- EyeWitness: Jude (6:59)

Big Idea of today's message:

Christians are commanded to remember the Word of God because creeps corrupt Christ's Church

T/S: By way of preview, I want us to consider the following questions

I. Who do Christians Remember? (the Source)

II. What do Christians Remember? (the Substance)

III. Why do Christians Remember? (the So what)

T/S: Before we consider what and why Christians remember we must first understand the Source

I. Who do Christians Remember?

This point is like a heart to heart with my daughter

v17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ

A. the Loved by the Lord listen to the Lord

But you- follows the description of the false teachers against whom Jude would guard Christians

Beloved- dear fellow Christian; a tender address

2 Thes. 2:13- *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth*

Those that are loved, chosen, and saved by God

“ought to remember the words spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ”

B. Commanded to remember the Word of God

Here we are directed to the words of the *apostles*

Who are the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ?

The 12 disciples chosen directly by Christ who witnessed His resurrection (Luke 6:13; Acts 1:21-22)

Later, Paul was uniquely set apart as the apostle to the Gentiles (Gal. 1:15-17)

Why are Christians commanded to remember the words of the apostles?

They received, declared, and wrote *God's word*

The apostles spoke and wrote what was revealed by God to them and their close associates and then delivered and taught it to the churches as the whole counsel of God or the standard of teachings

This truth is founded on 2 Timothy 3:16- *All Scripture is inspired by God*

So, when the God of the Word commands us to remember the words of the apostles, He is commanding us to **i. Hear and heed the Word of God**

Not to merely hear the Word of God, but to hear and humbly obey His word

James 1:22- *do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says*

Therefore, biblical remembering requires biblical hearing and biblical hearing is loving obedience

the APPLICATION of this point is a miracle

How did you go from hearing the word of God to heeding the God of the word?

It begins with a miraculous heart transplant

Video: John Piper- Heart of Stone

Have you received this miraculous heart transplant?

How do you know?

Who are you listening to? God or world, flesh, devil

Look at your life and see what it says

T/S: Let's consider what God commands Christians to remember- see that the who and what are inseparable

II. What do Christians Remember? I like to relate this point to the future conversation with my daughter. I will warn her against those guys who only want to hurt her In a similar way, Jude warns Christians against creeps

v18 *“In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts*

First & foremost **A. Christians warn Christians in love**

See the love of God for His sheep through this warning

Acts 20:30,31- *and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears*

“In the last time there will be mockers”

Refers to **B. The coming of creeps in the church**

Peter anticipated the coming while Jude deals with their arrival

last time- period between the arrival to Christ's return

i. Creeps corrupt Christ's words

Mock- to play like children, to sport with, to treat with contempt or make fun of

In particular, creeps mock the hope of Christ's return or any teaching of Scripture through ridicule

2 Peter 3:4- ***"Where is the promise of His coming?"***

Creeps say, ***'God has not judged the world and He will not'***

God says, ***"the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men"*** (2 Peter 3:7)

Creeps mock and corrupt the Word of God to give themselves license to ***"follow after their own ungodly lusts"***

C. Creeps live corrupt lives

Occurs in v16 – personal corruption

Following after their own ungodly lusts is to say that their ungodly lusts lead their lives- slaves to sin

Creeps call a great iniquity nothing, have no love for Christ, depart from the faith, and lead others down the same wicked and destructive path

Application

I exhort you to warn in truth and in love against false teachers, false teaching, and immorality per w.w.w.

Mocked because of the name of Christ? *Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners so that you will not grow weary and lose heart (Hebrews 12:3)*

You are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Praise God that you bear Christ's name

Does your lifestyle champion Christ's words or corrupt His words?

There is sanctification in hearing and heeding

May we be a people who are continually pleading with the Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus

T/S Now let's consider why it is so important that Christian's remember this warning from the apostles

III. Why do Christians Remember?

My daughter will be crushed by those guys if she does not heed my instructions and warnings

v19 these are the ones who cause divisions, worldly minded, devoid of the Spirit

*Know this first of all, **A. Creeps divide the church***

Cause divisions – actively and intentionally make dissensions, parties, factions, and disunity

If they can't divide it then they will separate from it and lead people out of the true and supernatural fellowship into their false and superficial fellowship

Ro. 16:17-18: *I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve*

Whatever differs from the sound doctrine of the Scriptures, opens a door to divisions and offences. If truth be forsaken, unity and peace will not last long (Matthew Henry)

Worldly minded (merely natural)

B. Creeps defile the church

Worldly minded stands opposed to spiritual

Vicious or corrupt as all men are w/o the Holy Spirit

Subject to gratifying the cravings of the flesh (Eph. 2:3)

Wisdom flowing from corrupt desires and affections

James 3:15,16- *This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is **earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice***

Creeps spread their demonic wisdom like gangrene and lead others into more and more ungodliness

Gal. 5:9 *You were running well. **Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from Him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump***

Do you see that by continuing in the church, creeps divide and defile the church?

Here is the pinnacle of Jude's description of the creeps

devoid of the Spirit

In the church but **C. Creeps are not the church**

devoid – do not have the Spirit of God in them

Romans 8:9- *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him*

Jude gives ample evidence of this in his letter

v4- Ungodly, live in lusts, deny the Lord
v8- Reject authority; **v9-** Slanderers; **v11-** Greedy
v16- Arrogant, show favoritism

Christians sin but not to same magnitude

Application

Why do Christians remember the Word of God?

For the glory of God (1 Pe. 4:11; 1 Cor. 10:31)

If the Church is divided and defiled, then the image of Christ is stained and His name is dishonored

Unity in the faith and purified hearts reveal the Gospel and the glory of God to the world (John 17:23)

Christians are unified and made pure by the Holy Spirit and the faithful application of truth to the heart (Eph. 5:26,27; John 17:17)

Satan & creeps know this. Therefore, they make every effort to corrupt and twist the Word

Precisely to divide and defile the church

Creeps hate Christ and His bride, the Church

So, Christ through Jude calls, commands, and commissions Christians to contend and they contend by hearing and heeding the Word

His Word commands us to defend the faith and His family, all by His grace and all for His glory

T/S My earnest prayer is that you remember daily

I. Who do Christians Remember? The God of the Word

II. What do Christians Remember? The Word of God

III. Why do Christians Remember? The glory of God

T/S As we close, I want to give you the final takeaway

God's Word never fails- trust Him w/ all of your heart

This warning against creeps is intended to help the church avoid deception, division, and defilement

In light of the reality of the presence of creeps,

Jesus commands Christians to contend and promises them the victory. He will not lose one.

One more question: What is most valuable to you?

If God, then you will treasure His word, the unity of the body, and obedience to Christ?

Stand firm in the faith and make every effort to defend the faith and the family of God for the glory of God at all costs because *nothing is more valuable*

LET'S PRAY

Video: Paul Washer- the Church (3:00)