

How Can We Abide in God's Love?

International Bible Lessons

Jude 17-25

Sunday, April 10, 2011

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life” (Jude 20-21—NRSV).

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life” (Jude 20-21—NASB-U).

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (Jude 20-21—KJV).

Jude warned that in the last time scoffers and those with ungodly lusts would attack Christians. He explained that such people were devoid of the Spirit. Perhaps unexpectedly, Jude did not tell Christians to fight against scoffers but focus instead on building themselves up in their “most holy faith.” A “most holy faith” consists in trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and obeying Jesus Christ as Lord so believers will not sin when tempted by ungodly lusts and worldly people. As John H. Sammis wrote in his famous hymn, “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus” (*Trust and Obey*, 1887). God makes Christians responsible for keeping themselves “in the love

of God.” To abide within the circle of God’s love, true believers need to do what Jesus told all of His followers, saying, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Rather than return to a life of sin and rebellion, or take grace for granted, believers look forward to eternal life, a gift made possible by the mercy of God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Especially during periods of persecution or temptation, Christians need divine help to keep doing right. Jude told believers to “pray in the Holy Spirit,” Who also prays for those He indwells (see Romans 8:26-27). Through prayer, God’s children keep the lines of communication open between God and themselves. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit enlightens the minds and strengthens the desires of believers to follow Jesus in all situations.

— © Copyright 2011 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. — E-mail:
lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org

You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.

More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at
InternationalBibleLessons.org.

Read the verse by verse commentary on the Bible Lesson at: BibleLessonForum.com

International Bible Lessons Archives from 2007-2010
InternationalBibleLessons.com.

See the recommended study and worship resources at
SmallChurchResources.com.

Thinking Further

1. Why is it important for us as believers to remember some of the predictions that Jesus Christ fulfilled in the past? In what ways does knowing the “yet to be fulfilled predictions” help you in your daily life?
2. In what specific ways do some scoff at Christians and Christian beliefs today? Pray for any who scoff at Christ and Christian teachings today.
3. What does “most holy faith” mean to you? Is there any distinction between “faith” and “most holy faith”?
4. In what ways can you keep yourself in the love of God?

How can the church help people keep themselves in the love of God?

5. In what ways can believers and the church show mercy toward others today? Why must the mercy we show be “the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ” instead of simply our own mercy? What is the difference between the two types?

— © Copyright 2011 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.