



# BEACON

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4850 Saufley Field Road; Pensacola, FL 32526  
850-455-7595

## “And of Some Have Compassion”

*Kent Bailey*

The epistle of Jude has correctly been referred to as a handbook on apostasy. Jude’s purpose was to write to Christians and encourage them in their faithfulness to Christ. He sought to accomplish this by six specific particulars:

1. Contending earnestly for the faith.
2. Scriptural prayer.
3. Remaining in the love of God.
4. Seeking the mercy of God.
5. Evangelizing individuals who are in a lost condition.
6. Continuing in personal faithfulness.

In noting these specifics, we read the words of inspiration:

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. 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. And of some have compassion, making a difference: and others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh (Jude 17-23).

In consideration of the text, special attention is given to the fact that in evangelizing the lost, we are to have compassion on some seek to save

others with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

**We must consider the fact that individuals outside of Christ are in a lost state and a condemned condition.** According to current census reports, the population in the United States is 347,275,807. In 2025, it was reported that there were 8.231 billion individuals in the world. It is estimated that the world’s population will reach 10 billion by 2075. There are some very serious consequences we must consider in view of our eternal destiny. As individuals, we are born with free moral agency. Upon attaining accountability, individuals who choose to sin against God bring about personal alienation from Him (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 3:23). If one abides in such a lost condition, one will suffer the consequences of sin in an eternal Hell (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14-15). The condition of condemnation indicates that when one’s destiny is sealed—either at death or the Judgment—such is both eternal and irrevocable.

**Because of the reality of sin, we must earnestly contend for the faith.** In verse 3, Jude correlated the importance of defending the truth of God with that of the salvation of humanity. To **contend earnestly** literally means to wrestle or strive. As it is used figuratively in our text, it denotes the extreme efforts that are to characterize the work of the faithful in the defense of God’s truth. In using such terminology, Jude writes con-

cerning that of argumentation and persuasion, not physical force.

Truth is always controversial. Such was the case during the earthly ministry of Christ. Such was the case during the first century of the New Testament church. Such will be the case today when the Word of God is faithfully proclaimed (1 Tim. 6:12, 20). Christ was the most persistent, alert, resourceful, and masterful controversialist that ever lived. He lived during the time when controversy was the order of the day. Both the Pharisees and Sadducees were schooled and skilled in the methods of argumentation. Christ unsheathed the sword of the Spirit and threw the scabbard away. From the banks of Jordan, where He was baptized, to Mount Calvary, where he was crucified, Jesus Christ demonstrated Himself to be the master of honorable controversy. Due to the reality of sin, we must also so contend in this way (Jude 3-16; Rom. 16:17-18).

**If we are not proclaiming and defending the Gospel of Christ to those in a lost state we are not contending for the faith.** Our efforts must be inclusive of both positive and negative work. Prior to laying a proper foundation we must clear away the debris. This necessitates destructive work on the weeds and the removal of junk

(1 John 3:8). Then, and only then, can one affirm God's truth regarding the good news of the Gospel. Those who allege to be noncontroversial contradict themselves. They argue that one ought not argue and debate against debating. They affirm that we ought never attempt to change another's views and then attempt to change our views. They affirm that no one should oppose anyone in religion if they are sincere. Then they oppose us for sincerely believing that others are wrong. The church of Christ in the first century was militant in preaching the Gospel, defending the faith, and evangelizing those who were lost (Acts 8:1-4; 9:19-22; 17:5-6).

**Because of the urgency of our work, we must be militant in our actions.** Jude 21-23 demonstrates this fundamental truth. There are different attitudes among those lost. Some are honorable, sincere individuals who simply have not been taught any different. Others are more advanced in their error and nearer to the Hell that awaits them. They are therefore to be snatched, as it were, from the eternal fire that awaits them. Our love for the lost will be demonstrated by our loyalty to Christ and our uncompromising stand for the New Testament pattern.

*Calhoun, GA*

## Focusing Upon the Glory

*Stan Harvey*

Saul and Solomon—two prospective kings, two glorious beginnings, and two disappointing endings. Both reigned over Israel for 40 years. It is true that they had glorious beginnings, but it is also true that they had tragic and sad endings. Saul, after years of unwise choices and failed obedience to God, took his own life rather than be killed by the Philistines, the fierce enemies of God's people (1 Sam. 31:1-4). Solomon, who in later years lost his spiritual focus and yielded to foreign women who turned his heart to other gods, died in shame before Jehovah God (see 1 Kin. 11). However, the many commendable and

remarkable qualities found in both men at the beginning of their reigns are traits that every child of God could and should welcome, adopt, and hold on to.

Please consider some of these God-pleasing attributes.

### Regarding Saul

Saul learned, quite unexpectedly, that he had been chosen to serve as ruler over God's people. Getting right to the point, the prophet Samuel asked Saul, "And on whom *is* all the desire of Israel? *Is it* not on thee, and on all thy father's house?" (1 Sam. 9:20). Three important points

emerge regarding the selection of Saul and his response—points that should be considered by God’s people of every age: God chose Saul (9:15-16), God’s people are chosen as well (1 Pet. 1:10-11) and are called by the Gospel (2 The. 2:14).

Christians must act as though they are chosen! Saul felt insignificant (1 Sam. 9:21). God’s people often feel the same way, thinking the task is too big for them (cf. Paul’s struggle with the battle against evil that raged within him, Rom. 7:13-8:1). Yet God’s people are **not** insignificant! Shortly before Samuel anointed Saul as king, he took him aside saying, “stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God” (1 Sam. 9:27). This pause before his anointing no doubt prepared him to accept his new and awesome responsibilities. Saul was turned into another man—his heart was transformed (10:9). In the same way, God’s people must be transformed by the renewing of their minds (Rom. 12:1-2).

#### Regarding Solomon

Shortly after Solomon had been made king, God appeared to him in a dream and said, “Ask what I shall give thee?” (1 Kin. 3:5). The Scriptures clearly reveal the characteristics the **Lord** loved in Solomon: he loved the **Lord** (3:3) and was a reverent and worshipping man (3:3-4). Solomon’s response—that he was but “a little child” and that he did not know “*how* to go out or come in” (3:7) demonstrated his humility.

Recognizing the ominous task before him in leading God’s people, Solomon asked, “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people” (3:9). God was pleased. He will be pleased when His people ask the same today!

Consider the content of this response and learn!

- What a person asks of the Lord—makes a difference (3:9)
- How something is asked—makes a difference (3:11).
- The reason for which something is asked—makes a difference (3:9).
- Selfishness is asking for something—makes a difference (3:11).
- God will then make a difference in one’s life (3:11-13).

When God’s children today embody these early traits found in Saul and Solomon, they will make a great difference in the world! Unfortunately, the abandoning these heavenly qualities will bring not only heartache on earth but the possibility of spiritual death. One only need look at the later lives of King Saul and King Solomon! God’s children must focus upon the glory, not the tragedy of these two kings! “Holding forth the word of life; that I may have whereof to glory in the day of Christ, that I did not run in vain neither labor in vain” (Phi. 2:16—ASV).

*Copied*

When Gideon answered the call of God to go in His might to deliver Israel from the hand of Midian, he built an altar at the scene of his call and named the place, Jehovah-shalom, (“The Lord Send Peace”). God did send peace. But it was peace through conflict, not compromise. We do not see Gideon calling a “unity meeting” with the Midianites. He did not ascend a knoll, lift up benedictory hands, stretch out spreading arms to Israel’s foes, and say, “Let us have peace together.” He drove the Midianites out by “the sword of the Lord, and of Gideon” (Jud. 7:20). There are some who seem to think that the Lord has dispensed with the sword, dismantled the Armour, and resorted to diplomatic conferences with the powers that be.

*Foy E. Wallace, Jr., Deceased*

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Send your email address to:

[bellviewcoc@gmail.com](mailto:bellviewcoc@gmail.com)

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Bellview Church of Christ

4850 Saufley Field Road

Pensacola, FL 32526

850-455-7595

Michael Hatcher, Editor

[bellviewcoc@gmail.com](mailto:bellviewcoc@gmail.com)



## A Christian's Report Card

Now as school is out, we as parents were anxious to see our children's report card, to see the kind of grades they made. How proud we were as they made all A's or made the honor roll. How about our own report card with the Lord, is He pleased with us? How do we stand in His sight on these points?

1. (Mat. 7:21)
2. (John 14:15)
3. (Rom. 12:1)
4. (1 Cor. 16:2)
5. (Jam. 2:10)
6. (Mark 16:15)
7. (2 Pet. 1:5-7)

*Author Unknown*

## Sick

### Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Burleson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Mete Maldonado

## Weekly Services

### Sunday

Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

## Bellview Church of Christ

**Bishops:** Paul Brantley

Michael Hatcher

Bill Busch

**Minister:** Tim Cozad