

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 11



*Contend  
for the faith  
which was  
once delivered  
to the saints  
Jude 1:3*

## THE CALL TO ACTION—PART 2

*Scripture Text: Jude 21*

Verse 21 is the continuation of thoughts that were begun in verse 20. The words in verse 21 serve as a call to action to the army of the Lord. “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal” (2 Corinthians 10:4). They are of a spiritual nature. This is why we were told to be “building” and “praying” (verse 20); then in verse 21, to “keep” and be “looking.” The truth will always have foes. We cannot allow ourselves to become so involved with thoughts of them that we forget the supreme purpose for which we (the church) are in this world.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ. Ephesians 2:4-5*

### A Personal Responsibility

**Keep yourselves.** This appeal is a personal one. Regardless of what groups of men may do or what moves or choices your family may make, you are individually responsible for your own soul. On that great day, we shall stand as individuals, not as families or as groups. 2 Corinthians 5:10 plainly says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body.”

The phrase *keep yourselves* lets us know that we cannot govern others. The opposite is true as well: no one else can do this for us—not good parents, not excellent youth leaders, not burdened Sunday school teachers—not even a godly pastor can do this for us. The exhortation Jude gave the saints when he used the word *keep* was that an active, constant effort should be maintained on their part.

### Remaining in God’s Love

**In the love of God.** In Luke 15:11-32, the prodigal son started his life enjoying the presence of his father. He had all the benefits of sonship. He could enjoy his father’s presence and experience his love. One day he chose to remove himself from his father’s house, from his father’s presence, and from all the benefits of being with his father. He put himself in a position where he could not enjoy his father’s love, even though his father, deeply wounded, still loved him. The son had moved himself to such a far-off position that the love of the father was of no benefit to him. It is possible to engage in such sinful activity that you move from God’s love to His hate.

In the Word of God, there are six things the Lord hates. One is found in Proverbs 6:19: “He that soweth discord among brethren.” One of the preventatives for apostasy is staying *in the love of God*. We must ever work at keeping ourselves *in the love of God*. There are many misconceptions concerning God’s love. It is not a feeling or an emotion. The word *love* is derived from the Greek word *agape*. It means a commitment to action. (If a man truly loves his wife, there are certain things that he does and certain things that he does not do.)

John 15:9 states, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.” How do we do that? John 15:10 tells us, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love.” 1 John 5:3 says, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” The only way to not be one of those who “kept not their first estate” is to keep God’s commandments. James 2:10 states, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” Full obedience is the only safe position to occupy.

### Looking for God’s Mercy

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**Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** The word *looking* is the culmination of the other three elements that Jude admonished us to have working in our lives. If you are “building” on your personal experience, “praying” as you ought, and keeping yourself “in the love of God,” then you will have a missionary eye. **John 4:35** says, “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

We are to be *looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ*. What does this mean? Watch for opportunities to show the *mercy* of God to the lost. Have an eye that is quick to spot those who may respond to an offer of *mercy*. Too many times, when we are involved in a battle against apostasy, we become so engrossed with the battle that we see nothing else. We need to remember our mission, which is to introduce souls to *the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

### Having Eternal Life

**Unto eternal life.** These last words of our text reveal two truths. The first one is, when we lead men and women to “the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ,” we are leading them *unto eternal life*. *Eternal life* is not some distant promise that we will receive after we die, but it begins here and now: when we receive an experience of salvation. **John 3:36** declares, “He that believeth [present tense] on the Son hath [present tense] everlasting life.” **1 John 5:11** tells us, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” When Christ, through the Holy Spirit, makes His advent into one’s life, *eternal life* comes as well.

The second truth found in the phrase *unto eternal life* is that every (true) child of God is endeavoring to stay in the love of God and is living with eternity in view. If you will do the things necessary to have a healthy experience and gauge everything by eternity’s standard, you will never be swept away by storms of apostasy. The sum thought of all of this is that if we do as we ought, we will come out as we ought. “Surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God” (**Ecclesiastes 8:12**).

### JUST A THOUGHT

**If, during our lifetime, we live with thoughts of eternity;  
then, during eternity, we will not regret the thoughts of our lifetime.**