

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 7



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

## REMEMBER THE WORD!

*Scripture Text: Jude 17*

In verses 4 through 16, Jude poured forth stern, sober warnings with a sharp denunciation of those who became involved in apostasy. In verse 17, once more his mind turned to the saints. He began another admonition to them with the term of endearment: *beloved*.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee (Psalm 119:11).*

### Which One Are You?

**But, beloved.** Basically, there are three kinds of people found in the Gospel: saints, sinners, and apostates (see 1 Peter 4:18). Throughout Jude we are dealing with apostates, the “enemies of the cross of Christ” (Philippians 3:18). God has always had a faithful people—the *beloved*. In the dark age of the Gospel Day, though the saints were secluded in catacombs and caves, Jesus said to them, “To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna” (Revelation 2:17).

As it was stated, in the darkest hours the church has ever faced, there have always been overcomers. In our struggle against apostasy though, it is very easy to feel that we are standing alone while everyone else is being swept away by its deception. That is not so! In Revelation 7:9, John saw “a great multitude [of saints], which no man could number.”

Jesus said in Matthew 12:30, “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 2:16, “To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.” Individually, the kind of people we are is determined by our responses to the message of the Word. Jesus said those who believed would be saved, but those who would not believe would be “damned” (Mark 16:16).

### Take Heed to God’s Word

**Remember ye.** We will never be moved away by deceptive spirits or evil men if we continue to give the Word of God its proper place in our lives. Psalm 119:9 asks, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word,” John 15:3 states, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

We are begotten by the Word, and we remain clean by “the washing of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:26). As long as we give heed to the Word, we can remain victorious and be part of the “beloved.” Individuals who have erred may also recover themselves from spiritual error *if* they will acknowledge the truth of the Word they have heard (see 2 Timothy 2:25-26). This is why Jude said *remember ye the words*.

### Doctrine of Verbal Inspiration

**Words which were spoken before of the apostles.** The clear indication of Jude’s words is that the *words . . . spoken before of the apostles* were prophetic and true, inspired by God. This truth is denied, denounced, and derided because those who do not have the Spirit of God cannot fathom the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. Proverbs 30:5 states, “Every word of God is pure.”

The injunction to not add to (or take away from) God’s Word is recorded throughout the Bible (see Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, and Revelation 22:19). Why is this injunction so vital? Because “all

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 7

scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Scriptures were written by men who *listened* to the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21 tells us that “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Jude expressly said to remember the *words* of the Apostles. Every word is vital. When the Apostle Paul spoke of “inspiration,” he used the Greek word *theopneustos*, which literally means “God breathed.” At man’s creation, when he was yet without natural life, the Lord God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul [being]” (Genesis 2:7).

The breath of God also brings spiritual life to man. This is why the enemy and his agents work so against you when you believe in the Bible’s inspiration and accuracy, and apply its teachings to your daily life. Dear saint, do not ever forget that whenever you face an onslaught from the enemy, your victory is in remembering to use the Word. Consider the temptations of Christ. He repeatedly used The Word to rebuke the enemy. Three times in Matthew, Chapter 4, He said, “It is written.”

### The Government of Christ

**Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.** This phrase contains several notable truths. The title *Lord* refers to *Christ’s* divine position of headship and authority over the church. The name *Jesus* refers to the mission He came to accomplish in this world (see Matthew 1:21), and *Christ* means “The Anointed One.” *Jesus Christ* has a definite government by which He operates the church. Jude, by saying, *Remember ye the words which were spoken . . . of the apostles*, was validating not only their words and their inspiration but also the offices and officers appointed by *Christ* to govern the church.

**Ephesians 4:11** provides us with a list of the divine offices. They are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. How is an individual placed in such an office? First, one must be given the gift (see **Ephesians 4:8**), then the *Lord* will set that person in office. The Apostle Paul often let it be known that he was chosen by *Christ*, “not of men, neither by man” (**Galatians 1:1**).

God always has a divinely ordered ministry in place—one that is able to see afar off and give us warning from Him. Regardless of what the surrounding conditions may be, as long as God’s people properly regard the Word and the true ministry, they can be victorious in their Christian lives.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**If others followed your lead, how would they walk?**