Intro: 1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

• This book was written by Jude, the brother of James and Jesus, where “Judas” is the same in Greek as “Jude”). Jude was probably written in the mid-60s A.D. Considering the letter’s apparent Jewish perspective, Jude’s audience was probably Jewish Christians, or a mixture of Jewish and Gentile readers where the Gentiles were familiar with Jewish traditions. This was to be circulated to all believers and all churches. It is still more relevant today than ever before.

° 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Mark 6:3

I. Here is a picture of a true minister – Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James

a. Ministers must have a personal relationship with Jesus

• Yes, we all need to have a personal relationship with God. But I know of many have their minister card for personal job on the side or just for something to do on the weekend ministry. They have not made a personal commitment to Christ, they do not take it seriously, they really don’t have a love for the ministry, just a gift in conning people.

° 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:11, 24

b. Ministers must live the life of Christ

• Many ministers miss the point. We are not going to live a perfect life in Christ, even the disciples could not live like this. It is not how you start but how you finish. We are called hypocrites, we are called every slang name one can think of, but we take and keep on preaching, knowing that we are hypocritical sometimes, but who has not been hypocritical at times. This does not change what is wrong or right. What is wrong is wrong and what is right is right.

° 27 that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Acts 17:27, 28

c. Ministers are servants of Christ

• I understand how many ministries, pastors, teachers, and evangelist list that they are the head of their local ministries, but truth be told here, it is not your ministry it all belongs to Christ. In reality it is His ministry, and we are all servants to Him and His work, not ours. This is called being a servant and Paul, all throughout his books, made this very clear.

° 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:1-7

° 10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

d. Ministers are to share their Christian life with others

• He is doing this point by addressing to the church his book that reveals the destruction of mankind and how sins are destroying the culture. Who best to tell us what Christ meant, by someone who has been with the Lord when He was going up. Jude and James would be close to those years where we know nothing about.

° 14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. 15 As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” Hebrews 3:14-15

II. Here is a picture of a true believer – To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

a. True believers are called by Christ

• The word called (hagiazō) means to be called out for a purpose. A sanctified person is one who has turned from sin and to Christ. They have been set apart to follow God. They are set apart for God’s work, God’s will, God’s biding, anything, and everything that is associated and related to the will and work of God, the Christian is called to do. If anyone who is a Christian and will not do any work of God of any kind is not a Christian.

° 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

° 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” Mark 3:35

b. True believers are loved by God

• Yes, God loves the world, but God has a deeper love for those who love Him. This relationship is what separates the saved from the lost. You can’t have a relationship with God if does not exist, if you don’t follow and keep His word. It does not exist if you are not willing to love the church, which is made up of believers. You will not get to heaven just based on God’s love only, the condition is you must be born again.

° 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ John 3:4-7

° 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” John 14:21

c. True believers are preserved by Jesus Christ

• The preserved (tēreō) word has a diverse meaning. It could mean preserved of being preserved, it could also mean to observe, to watch, to be watched, to be watchful, to charge, to hold or to be held. The one word that would describe all these words is “to protect”. As a Arminian we do believe in the protection of God.

° 1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3

d. He receives the three great gifts from God:

• God’s great gift of grace is never overlooked, but we should also mention that there are other great spiritual gifts that God gave us that should not be forgotten.

1. The believer receives the gift of mercy

• We don’t deserve God’s gift of grace, but without God’s mercy we are just as hopeless. We deserve hell, but God’s mercy is given to us after we have accepted God’s grace (through our faith in Him) that saves us from satan’s hell.

° 25 Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. 1 Corinthians 7:25

2. The believer receives the gift of peace

• The first message that the angels brought to the world at the coming of Christ is peace on earth, one of the last words of Christ before returning to the Father was Peace (Jn. 20:21).

° 2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 2 Peter 1:2

3. The believes receives the gift of love

• We need to end with the great gift of love. Note what John said about these gifts of grace, mercy, and peace. He said that they come from the Father and Jesus Christ. They are wrapped in truth and love. It is God of truth and love, not of men.

° 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:6-7

° 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love. 2 John 1:3