

THE LETTER FROM JUDE

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# THE REQUIREMENT OF MERCY

UNDERSTANDING WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF ME

*But you, dear friends,  
build yourselves up in your most holy faith,  
and pray in the Holy Spirit.*

*Keep yourselves in God's love*

*as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ  
to bring you to eternal life.*

*Be merciful to those who doubt,*

*snatch others from the fire and save them;*

*to others show mercy mixed with fear,*

*hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.*

## **THIS IS NOT OUR PART-TIME JOB!**

*Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.*

JUDE 3

*Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

1 TIMOTHY 6.12

- ▶ As you sit here today, the reality is that you are engaged in a battle that is desperate and deadly.

- ▶ The believer in Christ must take responsibility for their spiritual status and the outcome of their faith.
  - ▶ How important is God's Word in your life? (v.17)
  - ▶ Are you living by the Spirit or following "mere natural instinct" (v. 19)
  - ▶ What are you doing to build up yourself (and others) in "*your most holy faith*"? (v. 20)
  - ▶ What is the quality of your prayer life? (v. 20)
  - ▶ How are you keeping yourselves in God's love? (v. 21)
  - ▶ How are you living toward the return of our Lord Jesus Christ? (v. 21)

## ABUNDANT MERCY

*To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:*

*Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.*

JUDE 1b-2

*Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

EPHESIANS 2.3b-5

- ▶ “Mercy” is God *not* dealing with us as we deserve (Psalm 103.10); it is God dealing with Christ as *he* did not deserve. It is God sending Christ to die for *our* sins so that He could extend forgiveness to us.

*The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and plenteous in mercy and loving-kindness.*

PSALM 103.8

- ▶ Jesus told a parable (Matthew 18) to define the dynamics of mercy: a man was called to account by a king to whom he owed millions of dollars. The king, knowing the debt was unpayable, chose not to imprison the man and sell his family as slaves, but to erase the debt.
- ▶ Mercy is the outcome of love and compassion; it is extended by one who has complete authority and control over the one at fault, and assumes full responsibility for the debt of the guilty party.

## THE DEMAND OF MERCY

*Be merciful to those who doubt, snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear, hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.*

JUDE 22-23

- ▶ The first half of Jesus' parable revealed God's mercy toward our unpayable debt of sin; the second part revealed that "mercy received" is accompanied by specific "redemption" expectations.

**(1) Gratitude for mercy is that I give my life back to God as my worship.**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

ROMANS 12.1

(2) Having received God's mercy, I am obligated to extend mercy to others. In Jesus' story, the man who had been forgiven his unpayable debt was unwilling to extend time to a man who owed him a small debt. The king's response: " *'Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'* In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed." Jesus then said:

*"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

MATTHEW 18.33

*Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

JAMES 2.13

(3) God extended His grace and mercy in response to our unpayable debt of sin. **Those who are truly His children will have the same passion and priority for those who are sinners.**

*Be merciful to those who doubt, snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear, hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.*

JUDE 22-23

*“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

LUKE 6.32-33, 35-36

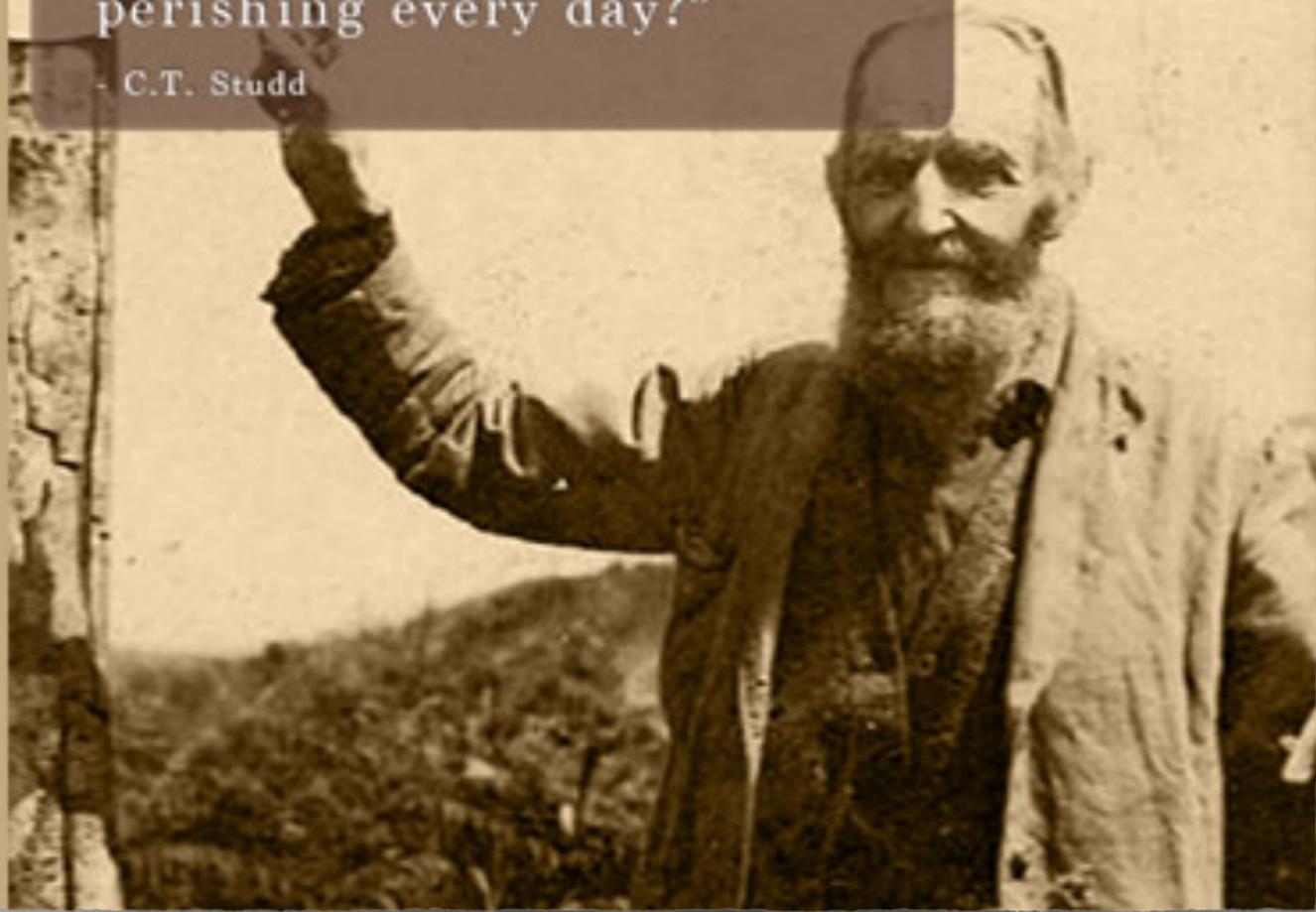
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Some want to live near the sound  
of a church or chapel bell;  
I want to run a rescue shop  
just a yard from hell.

—Missionary C. T. Studd

“How could I spend the best years of my life in living for the honours of this world, when thousands of souls are perishing every day?”

- C.T. Studd



“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”

- C.T. Studd



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Only one life twill soon be past;

only what's done for Christ will last.

—Missionary C. T. Studd