INTRODUCTION: I am always delighted to return to be with you after being on mission, and today I am eager to get back to our examination of the Book of Jude. Several commentators I have read have noted that the Book of Jude may be the least read, least understood, and least appreciated book in all the New Testament. Yet interestingly, some have also noted that it may be one of the most needed and one of the most applicable to certain critical periods of history. I would say that we live during one of those times, and that the message the Holy Spirit sent through the half brother of our Lord is like

- Crystal clear water to a man parched and dying in the desert.
- A plate of chicken, rice, and fruit to a child starving in Africa.
- A healing medicine on an infected wound.

Jude’s message was urgent in his day, and it is at least as urgently needed in ours. He said,

Jude 3  ... I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

First we asked the question “What is that kind of faith that is worth fighting for?”

We noted that Jude described it as

- Faith In A Resurrected Savior
- Faith In A Sovereign Lord

Then we asked, “Who has that kind of faith?”

Jude said,

- Those who have been called by God and who have answered that call.
- Those who are sanctified. God forgave their sin and made them righteous, and whom God began to transform to be more like His Son in their daily living.
Those whom God is now preserving, keeping as part of His family for eternity.

Verse 2 of the Book of Jude is one of those verses that we who have been saved a while too often overlook. We come to the mention of the things that are here, and we have seen them so often in God’s Word that we just scoot right by them. That is a big mistake, and I admit I have made it myself many times; but it really is a mistake. Because stopping to read these words and to allow their significance to settle in our souls is more than just taking time to smell the roses. These words are more than just a fragrant aroma to the heart and mind, they are more like oxygen to someone with COPD. These words offer life, vitality, healing to the hurting, help to the struggling, and hope to those in despair.

So would you read this verse with me and then join me in a little collective meditation on their significance?

Jude 2  Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

We find here three blessings of faith and a multiplier.

I. THE THREE BLESSINGS

A. Mercy

1. Whereas grace has been described as receiving what we do not deserve.

2. Mercy is not receiving what we do deserve.

3. One translation is “clemency.”

4. Folks, could all of us who have come to faith in the resurrected Savior and Sovereign Lord, just take a minute to remember the mercy God has shown to us?

   a. Mercy for all the sins we committed before we got saved.

   b. Mercy for

      • Rebellion

      • Willful ignorance

      • Flagrant wickedness

   c. God had compassion on us and orchestrated things in our lives so that we would hear the gospel. The Holy Spirit
• Convicted us of our sin
• Convinced us of Christ
• Warned us of the judgment to come

d. And then even granted us faith so that we would have the capacity to trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

e. And God did all of that when what we really deserved was condemnation, judgment, separation.

f. And after saving us, He still was not finished. Daily the Lord gives us mercy, counting our transgressions as paid for by the blood of the cross. Considering us who owe so much as free of the debt of sin.

g. If hardly a day passes by that you stub your toe on some sin, then hardly a day goes by that you do not experience the mercy, the compassion, the clemency of God because you have that faith, trust in His Son as your resurrected Savior and your Sovereign Lord!

h. And even when the chastening hand of God falls upon the lives of believers, it falls in mercy.

• Mercy because it does not come with every sin or waywardness, but only when sin is persistent and we are stubborn instead of repentant.

• Mercy in that the intent of chastisement is to help us not to harm us. God is not getting even. God is not punishing with vengeance. God is correcting His children as a loving parent corrects their children. So the Lord chastens us for our good and His glory.

Thank you God for giving to each of us who have come to faith in Christ, your mercy!

B. Peace

1. The Greek word for peace “eirene” means peace in the sense of “lack of conflict,” but it means more than that.

2. It is very kin to the Hebrew word “shalom” which means peace in the sense of general well being, being “at peace.”

3. Therefore, sometimes this word is translated harmony or it implies a freedom from worry because “all is well.”
4. And that is the peace we gain through faith in Christ.

- It does not come through an absence of problems, but in spite of them.
- It is an internal sense that in the midst of the battle, all is well.

“Horatio Spafford was a wealthy Chicago lawyer with a thriving legal practice, a beautiful home, a wife, four daughters and a son. He was also a devout Christian and faithful student of the Scriptures. His circle of friends included Dwight L. Moody, Ira Sankey and various other well-known Christians of the day.

At the very height of his financial and professional success, Horatio and his wife Anna suffered the tragic loss of their young son. Shortly thereafter on October 8, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire destroyed almost every real estate investment that Spafford had.

In 1873, Spafford scheduled a boat trip to Europe in order to give his wife and daughters a much needed vacation and time to recover from the tragedy. He also planned to join Moody and Sankey on an evangelistic campaign in England. Spafford sent his wife and daughters ahead of him while he remained in Chicago to take care of some unexpected, last minute business. Several days later he received notice that his family’s ship had suffered a collision. All four of his daughters drowned; only his wife had survived.

With a heavy heart, Spafford boarded a boat that would take him to his grieving Anna in England. It was on this trip that he penned those now famous words,” (story taken from sharefaith.com)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well (it is well),
with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.
That is peace! That is what we have in Christ when we put our trust in Him.

C. Love

1. The Greek language has several words for love.

2. Here the word is used that means God like love. It is the word for love used in John 3:16.

   John 3:16  For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

3. I like the way the contemporary song writer has put it:

   How many kings step down from their thrones?
   How many lords have abandoned their homes?
   How many greats have become the least for me?
   And how many gods have poured out their hearts
   To romance a world that is torn all apart
   How many fathers gave up their sons for me?

   And folks, the answer is, Just One!
   And He did it because of love.

D. But God not only loved us, He loves us.

This is the amazing thing that Peter learned after he denied Jesus three times. After Jesus´ death on the cross and his resurrection, Peter returned to fishing. He did not do this because Jesus didn´t come through. Jesus came through!

   - He rose from the dead just like He promised.
   - He was Messiah just like He said.

The problem was Peter didn´t come through. He said, “Even if everybody else betrays you Lord, I will never deny you!” But he did, so he may as well give it up and go back to earning a living by fishing. He wasn´t any more fit for the Kingdom of God or the family of God than Judas the Betrayer was.

Then Jesus showed up on the seashore. Jesus sought him out. Jesus came to him, because He loved him. And Peter could not even wait to pull in the nets and row the boat to shore. He dove in the water and swam to Jesus, because Jesus not only loved him in the past, He loved him still, in spite of what Peter had done.

E. I don´t know what all you have done. That´s OK; you don´t know everything I´ve done either. But God knows it all about both of us!
But let me tell you something.

He loves us anyway. And He not only loved us, He loves us still.

He loves us enough to save the worst sinner, forgive him, transform him, and give him an eternal home in heaven.

And even when we are sure that we have disappointed Him, been unfaithful to Him, denied Him in word and/or deed, betrayed Him even, He still loves us.

He loves us enough to come seek us out in the boat we are hiding in.

II. ALL THE MERCY

ALL THE PEACE

ALL THE LOVE

IS MULTIPLIED!

Jude 2  Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

The mercy he has shown us

The peace that is available to us

The love that He has for us

Is 10 times

100 times

1,000 times

1,000,000 times

more than we know or can imagine.

Jude 2  Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.