

Memory Verse

Jude 2

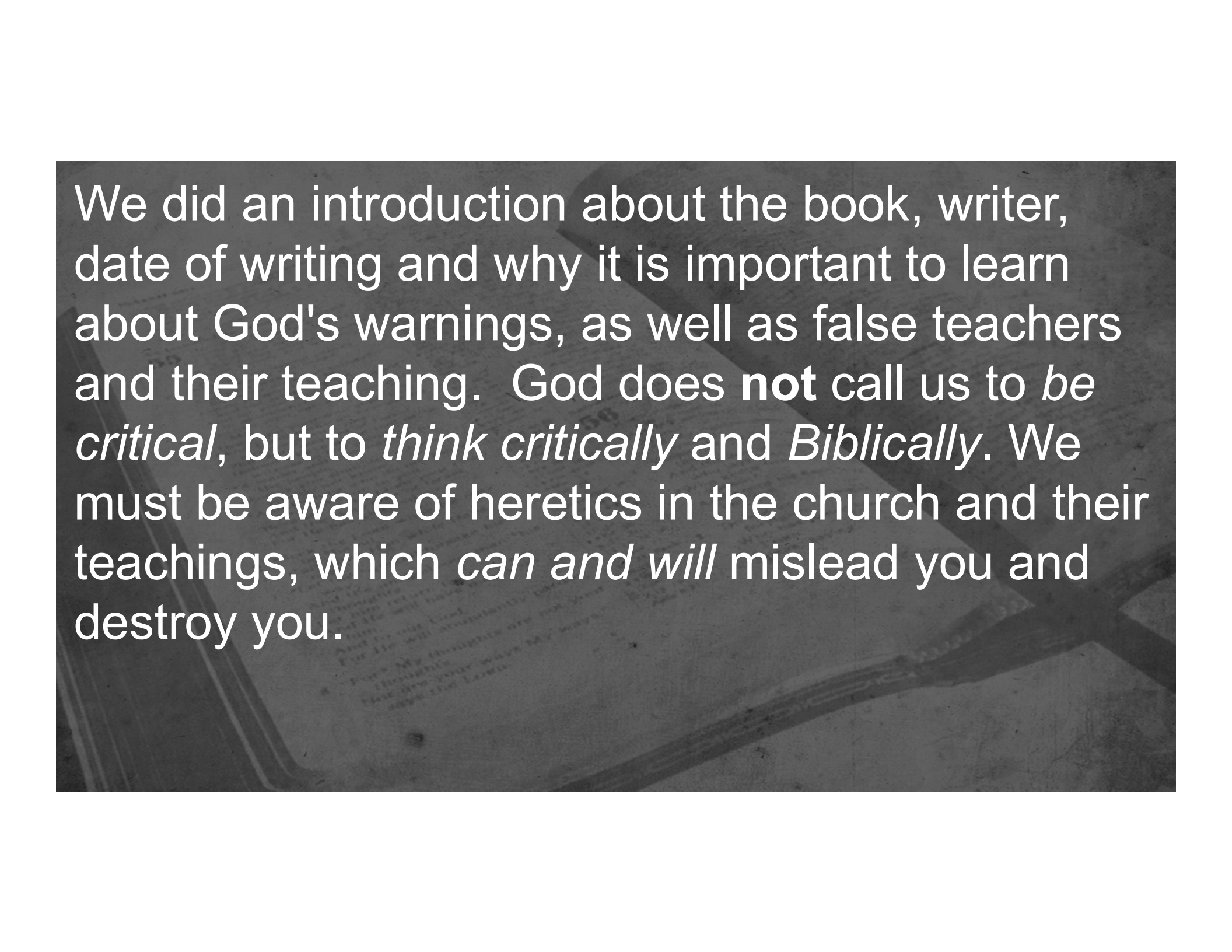
**May mercy, peace, and love
be multiplied to you.**

GRACELIFE  CHURCH

JUDE

Defend the Faith,
Grow in Grace

Pt. 2 – Greeting and the
Blessing of Salvation



We did an introduction about the book, writer, date of writing and why it is important to learn about God's warnings, as well as false teachers and their teaching. God does **not** call us to *be critical*, but to *think critically* and *Biblically*. We must be aware of heretics in the church and their teachings, which *can and will* mislead you and destroy you.

Jude 1-2

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

A. 1a – The Writer

As we discussed, *Jude*, or *Judas* in Greek, was the brother of Jesus. He didn't believe His brother was *Lord and Messiah* until **after** Christ's resurrection. Though he was Jesus' brother, *what does he call himself?* The NASB translates this as "*bond-servant*" and other translations say "*servant*." However, the Greek word is "*doulos*." The word means, "*slave*."

A. 1a – The Writer

And for *Paul and Jude*, to say one was a *slave of Jesus* had **massive cultural implications** then, and today. If you have put *your faith in Christ*, *how do you look at yourself?* Every Christian is *adopted into God's family* as His child, yet we are **also slaves of Jesus**. This *changes our perspective* and *brings humility* into our lives when we think of ourselves this way.

A. 1a – The Writer

Jude, the *slave of Jesus*, the Messiah. *He confessed his brother as Messiah or Christ. Jude was Jewish!* Jesus was the *promised Jewish Messiah*, who came to seek and save the lost, and today by God's grace through faith in Jesus, **anyone**, Jew and Gentile can find forgiveness of their sin. *Jesus is the only Messiah! Jesus is the only way of salvation!*

A. 1a – The Writer

Jude says he is the *brother of James*. This is the *James that wrote* the letter that bears his name, also the brother of Jesus. James, likewise, did not believe Jesus was the Messiah until **after** the resurrection. *2 letters in the New Testament were written by the physical members of Christ's family*. We have their writings kept for us today to study, read, and learn from!

B. 1b - The Recipients

Jude uses **3 phrases** to *describe his audience*: **1.** Those who are the called. **2.** Beloved in God the Father. **3.** Kept for Jesus Christ.

As a reminder, God used the *individual's personality, knowledge, style and more* to write what He wanted, by the guidance of the Spirit.

B. 1b - The Recipients

Many different followers of Jesus *may have read* this letter, so it may have **not** been to specifically one assembly or church, like some of Paul's letters. It may have been a *circular letter*. As you *read Jude*, you find **a lot of Jewish references only Jews would understand**, so his primary audience was *Jewish followers of Messiah*.

B. 1b - The Recipients

Those who are the called - this is the first phrase. The word "*called*" or "*calling*" is used in the Bible in different ways. The word "*called*" means "*invited*," "*summoned by God*," or "*appointed by God*," for something. Paul uses this word:

Romans 1:1

1 Corinthians 1:1-2

2 Thessalonians 2:14

B. 1b - The Recipients

The **King of the Universe** *calls, commands* or *invites* people to *first come to Him*. **How** does He do this? Through the *good news of the grace of God, received by faith in Christ*. **Believe** in Jesus! The **King of the Universe** commands you to trust in the One who is the 2nd Person of the Tri-une one God. To not do so is to rebel against Him!

B. 1b - The Recipients

Beloved in God the Father - God has and always will keep His covenant promises to Israel. These who trusted in God by trusting in Jesus, were *beloved*, or had a unique relationship with God. Yes, *God loves the world*. But **only** those in Christ *are beloved by God*.

B. 1b - The Recipients

Kept for Jesus Christ - *having been loved... having been kept...* and the word "*kept*" means "cause one to persevere or stand firm in a thing." These were individuals who were *standing firm* in Christ, who He is and what He did. He wanted them to continue to stand firm, and he explains *what he wanted them to stand firm in* as we study the letter.

C. 2 - The Greeting

He then comes to the *official greeting*, which was a common way to write letters in that day. You *stated your name first*, and **then** the *greeting*. We have another triad, or triple statement. His desire was that **3 things** would be *multiplied, increased, made full, or brought into maximum capacity* in their lives.

C. 2 - The Greeting

Mercy, or compassion. *Mercy* is not getting what we deserve from God. *Grace* is being given God's goodness when we don't deserve it.

Mercy or compassion is not being judged by God for our **sin**. When we understand how merciful God is to us, we **will become more merciful towards others**. To understand His mercy, we **first need to understand our sin!**

C. 2 - The Greeting

Peace. Peace of mind. Peace in life, and the *shalom* of God. The *Jewish concept of peace* is **more than** the *ceasing of hostility between God or someone*, though it includes that. Rather than just stopping something, there is a *completeness or wholeness that is added*. That is, *things are in order, or someone's character and life are in the order that God wants*.

C. 2 - The Greeting

Love. The Greek word here is "agape." This is one of the many Greek words we translate as "love." It is an **action word**, or verb. This is the *highest form of love* and means *seeking the best for another, even at one's own personal expense.*

In a word... **sacrifice.** Love demands sacrifice.
For God so loved the world that He...

C. 2 - The Greeting

Jude, based on the *gracious gift of God's salvation in Christ*, wanted his **readers** to grow to the fullest and *mature* in mercy, peace and love. Some of this was a *common greeting in that day*, guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit, his desire for them was sincerely to be *made full in their lives*. This cannot be done naturally, but is based on one's relationship with God, being *filled with the Holy Spirit*, who *produces God's fruit*.