

Jude 17-25

7-20-14

Safeguards

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 Pray for **Tanzania** Team: Nauert's(Steve, Shawna, Dillon, Josiah, Brooke, Marissa), Alex, & myself.
- B. Slide#3 *Trade of Innocence* Movie tonight 6pm. Watch movie trailer. It's not a cheesy movie, very good quality. It's modeled after IJM, asking organizations like **Hagar** to use it for awareness.
- C. Prayer: *There is no where we can go where* Your **hand** cannot **reach** us, *where* Your **eye's** cannot see us, *where* Your **presence** cannot **touch** us.

II. **Intro:**

- A. Slide#4 Title: *Safeguards*
- B. Slide#5 The story is told of a **monastery** in Portugal, perched high on a 3,000 foot cliff and accessible only by a terrifying ride in a swaying basket. The basket is pulled with a single rope by several strong men, perspiring under the strain of the fully loaded basket. One American tourist who visited the site got nervous halfway up the cliff when he noticed that the rope was **old and frayed**. Hoping to relieve his fear he asked, "How often do you change the rope?" The monk in charge replied, "Whenever it breaks!" *Daily Walk, March 30, 1992*
 - 1. **A ship in harbor is safe - but that is not what ships are for.** *John A. Shedd*
 - a) Note on my desk says, *Control the things you can control. I plan, I safeguard, then place myself into God's hands for His part. A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.* Prov.16:9
- C. Slide#6 Outline: *But you beloved*; The Believer & Self; The Believer & Sinners; The Believer & Savior

III. Slide#7 **BUT YOU BELOVED... (17-19)**

- A. A good general, after explaining **where** the enemy is (*in their midst*); & **what** they do (*their tactics*), **now** hits them with their **Battle Strategy Safeguards**.
- B. W/your binoculars search for 5 distinguishing markings in 18b-19: *mockers; have ungodly lusts; sensual persons(worldly); cause divisions; & devoid of Spirit.*
 - 1. Once apostates cut loose the anchor of **Scripture**, they freely follow the winds of **their own lusts** w/o remorse. Swindoll

IV. Slide#8 **THE BELIEVER AND SELF (20,21)**

- A. *Believers are to be building on the Word of God; praying in the power of God; keeping in the love of God, & expecting the eternal mercy of God.*
- B. Slide#9 **BUILDING** (20a)
 - 1. From vs.3 *contend earnestly for the faith* (that complete body of Christian truth). That are **absolutes. Solid truth**, that can't be *amended, erased, or molded* to suit

each new generation's lifestyles.

C. Slide#10 **PRAYING** (20b)

1. Prayer **not** in the Spirit, is in the *flesh*. Only the prayer that comes **from** God, goes **to** God. *We must shoot the Lord's arrows back to him.* (Spurgeon)
2. Andrew Murray, "Let it be your business every day, in the secrecy of the inner chamber, to meet the holy God. You will be repaid for the trouble it may cost you. The reward will be sure and rich."

D. Slide#11 **KEEPING** (21a)

1. We do not keep ourselves saved, **but** we should keep ourselves in the love of God by obeying His Word (v. 21). www
2. *"We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God."*

E. Slide#12 **EXPECTING** (21b)

1. **Stop...remember why your fighting...focus** on when the war is over...**eternal bliss!**

F. Slide#13 **So, build up your faith; pray w/the heart of God; keep in the love of God, & expect the eternal mercy's of God.**

V. Slide#14 **THE BELIEVER AND SINNERS (22,23)**

A. *Jude instructs on how to deal w/3 types of sinners:*

B. Here's how to take care of the battle scarred: *those in great doubt, great danger, great depravity.*

C. Slide#15a **Those who are in Great Doubt** (22)

1. **Be merciful to those who doubt**^{niv} Those doubting in battle. *Show them compassion.*

D. Slide#15b **Those who are in Great Danger** (23a)

1. Save the defectors. **Those going A.W.O.L.** (Absent Without Official Leave)
2. NIV **Have mercy w/fear** – for you could be in the same place, **if** not but by the grace of God.
3. **Pulling them out of the fire/burning building** with the "shoulder pull" technique.

E. Slide#15c **Those who are in Great Depravity** (23b)

1. **Hating** – instead of *hating them* as traitors, we should **hate the sin** that's destroying them.
2. **Defiled garment** – If a wounded soldier that you came upon had **poison oak** all over his uniform, you'd help him discard it, **being careful not to get it on yourself.**
 - a) This stain has actually gone down to even the **undergarment** (orig.) is dirty.
 - b) This **image** actually came from **Lev.13:47-59** where the **priests** were to **burn** the leper's polluted garments that carried the disease.

(1) **Hate** the **disease**, even the **garments** that are destroying him, **but** not the person.

F. **Slide#16blank** What is your concept of Evangelism?

1. **Do you see it like strong horseradish**: where people praise it with tears in their eyes.
2. **For some people**, evangelism is an **evangelical mugging mission**, where we go into a phone booth, come out with a big red S on our chests and charge out into a neighborhood, seldom our own, to win it for Christ.
3. **For others**, it's some kind of **evangelical ambush** where we lure the honest, unsuspecting victim to some type of an event, lock the doors, and sing 22 vss of *"Just as I Am."*
4. **Some people** think of evangelism as a **bombing mission** where, from protective cloud cover at 30,000 feet, we fill backyards with gospel bombs.
5. **For others**, evangelism is **herding fish into the stained glass aquarium** where the big fisherman throws the lure from the pulpit.

G. *I pray we're as passionate as a firefighter going back into the building to save another victim.*

VI. **Slide#17 THE BELIEVER AND SAVIOR (24,25)**

A. **Slide#18a,b Jesus' Ministry** (24)

B. **His current ministry** (24a): Preventing us from **falling down here**.

1. **Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling** - In one sense the path to heaven is **very safe**. In other respects there is **no road so dangerous**.¹
 2. **It is full of difficulties**. One false step and down we go. [Burma hike. 2am. 40 lb. pack. 18" wide dirt path. Water both sides. Foot gave way. Face first]
 3. **What a slippery path** some of us have to tread. How many times have we exclaimed with the Psalmist, *But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.*
 4. If we were **strong, sure-footed** mountaineers, this would not matter so much; **but in ourselves, how weak we are!**
 5. We have many foes who try to either **trip us or push us** down. **Our road is rough & we are weak**. Only an Almighty arm can preserve us from unseen foes seeking to destroy us. Such an arm is **engaged & ever ready to keep us from falling**.
 - a) **God**, I'm not able to save myself. I'm not able to live up to Your expectations God. I'm not able to save my marriage. I'm not able to be good enough. I'm not able to not stumble. I'm not able to live spotless. I'm not able! - **Now TO HIM who is able!!!**
- (1) This is cause for **doxology!** :)

¹ Adapted from Spurgeon Morning, Oct.9, Jude 24.

C. Slide#18c,d His coming ministry (24b): Presenting us **faultless** *up there*.

1. And to present you **faultless** before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.
 - a) His *Keeping power* can not only keep you from falling into sin, **but** also bring you out of sin
 - b) His power to **keep us safe**, *compels us* to keep ourselves close to him (21).
2. Let **faultless** roll around in your mind. *We are far from it now; but as our Lord never stops short of perfection* in His work of love, **we shall** reach it one day.
3. The Savior who will **keep** his people to the end, **will also present** them at last to himself, as Paul said, *He did this to present her to Himself as a glorious church w/o a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.*²
 - a) Pure spiritual virgins *without spot or stain*.
4. **How will Jesus make us faultless?** He will **wash us** from our sins in His own blood **until** we are **white** and **fair as** God's purest angel.
 - a) We shall be **unblameable** and **unreproveable**. He will make us **so perfectly holy**, that we shall have *no lingering tendency* to sin.
 - b) Judgment, memory, will - every power and passion shall be **emancipated** from the power of evil. *We shall be holy even as God is holy.*
 - c) The saints **beauty** will be as *stunning* as that of **the place** prepared for them.
 - d) **Sin** gone, **Satan** shut out, **temptation** past for ever, **and** ourselves **faultless** before God,... *this will be heaven indeed!*
 - e) Let's rehearse the song of eternal praise of all the blood-washed host...**read together the last verse in the translation behind me...**To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

D. Slide#19a Jesus' Magnificence (25)

E. No **doxology** in all of scripture do I enjoy more than this one by General Jude.

1. **Doxa** = *glory*. **Lagas** = *to say, a word, a saying*. **Doxology is a praise saying**.
 - a) Usually speaks to 4 things: *To God. Glory. Forever. Amen.*
2. Find them all throughout Scripture. End of 5 books of Psalms (end of 41,72,89,106, all 150).
3. When Jesus is born angels sing in Lk.2, **Gloria in excelsis Deo** (*Glory in the Highest, God*).
 - a) **Glory**/shekinah had been absent for years.
4. Then Jesus gives at end of **Lord's Prayer**. *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*
5. **It's never anything mundane**. It's not when we find a parking spot at the mall near the store, & you say, PTL! - **No**, *never trivial, never mundane* **but** *marvelous, transcendent, redemptive, thanking God.*

² Eph5:27

- a) When some people hear that *Heaven is forever*, often they think forever the same. *No way Jose*, it is *forever different!* - Thus, the *detonating doxologies* that explode throughout *the Revelation*. Like, a Champaign cork blowing off cuz of all that pressure.
- F. Slide#19b **Amen** – is a seal stamped at the end of this letter, then filled with molten steal, expressing the *confident eternal majesty* of God...the God who is able.
1. Read - Is.52:10-12
- G. Slide#20 24–25 *msg* And now to him who can keep you on your feet, standing tall in his bright presence, fresh and celebrating - to our one God, our only Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Master, be glory, majesty, strength, & rule before all time, & now, & to the end of all time. **Yes.**