

## Giving Back to Jesus

The little book of Jude begins with some big reminders for Christians of all ages (both in time periods and in years). Let's examine three from the first three verses.

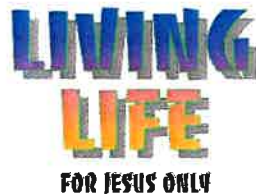
**Always put Jesus first (v.1).** The author of the epistle, Jude, was the half brother of Jesus Christ. And yet, rather than boasting about that, he referred to himself as, "a bondservant of Jesus Christ." First and foremost he considered himself a servant of Jesus. We would also do well to put Jesus first place in our lives. First consideration in everything we do should be Jesus and His will. He is our Master every moment of every day.

**Always remember that Jesus has saved us (v.1).** Jude reminded his readers that they had been "called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ." Christians need to constantly bring to mind that they were called out of the world by the gospel of Christ, sanctified by contacting the blood of Christ in baptism, and are preserved by the grace of God through faithfulness in Christ. It is vital to keep this on the forefront of our minds.

**Always be living for Jesus (v.3).** Jude's exhortation was to continue to "contend earnestly for the faith." As important as putting Jesus Christ first and remembering that He has saved us are, it is equally important to always live for Him in word and deed. Many false teachers and false notions abound, and we must be the ones to live and speak the truth concerning Jesus and His will. The Greek word translated "contend earnestly" was often used in reference to an athlete striving hard. Thus it is a reminder to us that living this way and speaking the truth is going to take a lot of concentrated, dedicated effort.

Another way of looking at these thoughts is that we need to be giving back to Jesus. He has given us so much (salvation, blessings, assistance, etc.). Let us in appreciation give Him first place in our lives, give remembrance to what He has done for us, and give Him a faithful life that honors and proclaims Him. Let's always give back to the One who has unselfishly given to us.

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (Bulletin Digest) -



"I gave, I gave My life for thee, what hast thou giv'n for Me?" - Frances R. Havergal

## News & Notes

**DONATIONS FOR MALAWI: (Clothing or other items),** bring to the building **this evening or tomorrow between 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** See Rico for details.

**TO HAVE SURGERY TOMORROW: Jim Hall** at Trinity West in Steubenville.

**CONVERT'S CLASS: each Thursday 11:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.** This class is open to all (new converts or others as a refresher). Each class will be for one hour.

**PANTRY: Green beans and peas.**

**SICK & SHUT-IN: Rehab, Beaver Falls:** Harry Huff. **At Home:** Linda Parkes, Randy Beagle, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **Calcutta Health Care:** Janice Hutchins (Marilyn Hadley's cousin), Home address: 130 N. Surry, East Liverpool, OH 43920. **Elsewhere:** Carol Williams (Sharon Sprout's mother), 104 N. Clayton, Carlsbad, NM 88220. **Todd Grimes** (Cindy Miskimen's nephew), 3827 Gibson St., New Castle, PA 16101. **Lori Stocks** (Karen Strum's niece), address on the bulletin board. **Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

## Love Is the Proof

In 1 John 3:11-18 we are given a way in which we can prove that we are the children of God. John has previously declared that God's children practice righteousness. In our text, he emphasizes the importance of love as a proof that one is God's child. Love is more than emotion. It is action, which is moved by the emotion. From these few verses we see some things concerning love that needs our consideration.

1. **Love Is Commanded (v. 11).** John recorded earlier in John 15:12: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." Love has been defined as goodwill in action. If love were only an emotion, it would not be commanded.

2. **Love Contrasted (v. 12).** Cain's action toward Abel is seen as a contrast to love (Gen. 4:1-8). Genuine love is not jealous and is not selfish.

3. **Love Confirmed (vv. 13-14).** John uses the word "know" so as to give assurance. We can observe our spiritual state by observing our love.

4. **The Consideration (vv. 16-18).** Let us consider the demonstration of God's love (1 John 3:16). God's love is an observable demonstration (1 John 3:16) and ours is also subject to observable demonstration. (1 John 3:17).

**Love is not an item to be put on a shelf!**

- Author Unknown -

(via Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL)