Year C #750

Discerning Apostacy

031005-5

Hello! This is Dorothy -

There is a verse in the **Book of Jude.** I think you know it, but I am going to say it to you:

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Why am I reading that? Because that comes right at the end of the little book called **Jude.** If you want to find **Jude,** you go right to end of the Bible and there is **Revelation.** You find this little book of one chapter just before it. It is an amazing chapter! You realize it is rather like a sandwich of truth. Only you say, "What do you mean?" Well, when you have a sandwich, what do you do? You have two pieces of something like bread and you put the good things inside. Usually, both sides of those good things look alike. So, at the beginning of this chapter of **Jude**, you have this assurance for the Christian. Right at the end of the end of this chapter, **verses 24 and 25**, you have the assurance for the Christian. The next layer going in has to do with the believer and his faith. On the other side is the

believer and the faith, in **verses 20 and 23.** Then you have an amazing verse which describes apostates, there in **verse 4**. Another verse comes on the other side of the sandwich, **verses 17 to 19.**
What do you see when you read about apostates? Something we need to heed.

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the - *only true Lord* - **Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

You see, there is this sandwich closing in. What it does is it also then shows, in **verses 5 and 8,** all about the apostacy, which was in the Old Testament history. Then the apostacy goes back to the Old Testament prophecy, all the way through the Bible. It started in the Garden of Eden with Cain and all the way through the Bible, we read about apostacy. As we bring it right down to you and to me today, we come to that key place where God is dealing with your life and mine. We read in this amazing section which I love -

11 Woe unto them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and

ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah.

12 These are spots in your feasts of charity *-feasts of love -* **when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear . . .** In other words, they are right in your midst**.**

How do you know somebody has an apostate spirit? How do you know if the person who is speaking in your midst is not really one who is walking in the Lord? Always check. What did you learn of Jesus? Did you come closer to Him? Did you receive of Him? Was He uplifted? Did you find that it was to the Lord and the Lord alone to Whom you were being drawn? Or did you find your mind was taken off into other things? Most of all, were you fighting something of a disturbing spirit going on as if you did not belong in what was being said to you?

Seven things happened to Cain, this man who decided he would not go the way of God, You see, he had a strong self will. He was angry with God. He was so angry with God, because what he brought to God wasn't being accepted. He refused to go the way God said in bringing the sin offering, which had to do with the precious Blood of Jesus. He ended up murdering his brother. He lied to God and he became a vagabond. That was Cain, because he went his own way.

Today, you might come to the place that you realize you have gone

far from where the Lord really wants you - from that intimate joy and spirit of being His and knowing that fellowship with Him. Would you turn today, please? Would you turn to Him even this moment and say, *Lord, whatever it takes, I want to be where I should be, on track with You, in Your Word, and praising You that Jesus alone is the Only One Who is the Mediator to bring me to Heaven.*

In Thy precious Name. Amen.