Postcards from Heaven

(Jude)

Introduction: 1. We have been examining the four "one chapter" books contained in the New Testament, and tonight we will look at the book of Jude.

2. This brief postcard reminds us that we are at war, that we have an enemy, and that we must be vigilant.

I. The Reality of Apostasy

- A. (Jude 1-4).
- B. Jude, the brother of Jesus desired to write about their "common salvation," but the Holy Spirit led Jude to write about a more pressing matter.
 - 1. Contending for the faith (v.3).
 - 2. False teachers who had crept in secretly (v. 4).

II. Examples of Apostasy

- A. (Jude 5-11).
- B. Israel (v. 5).
- C. Fallen angels (v. 6).
- D. Sodom & Gomorrah (v. 7).
- E. Cain, Balaam, & Korah (v. 11).

III. Signs of Apostasy

- A. (Jude 4,8,12-19).
- B. They turn grace into license (v. 4).
- C. They deny Jesus is Lord (v. 4).
- D. They reject authority (v. 8).
- E. They act like brute beasts (v. 10).
- F. They make promises they can't deliver and flatter people (v. 12, 16).
- G. They find fault (v. 16).

IV. Judgment On Apostates

- A. (Jude 14-15).
- B. Jesus is coming in judgment with his angels to convict and punish the ungodly.

V. How To Avoid Apostasy

- A. (Jude 20-25).
- B. Build yourself up in the faith (v. 20).
- C. Pray in the Spirit (v. 20).
- D. Keep yourself in the love of God (v. 21).
- E. Continue in your mission of saving the lost (vs. 22-23).
- F. Trust in God to save you (vs. 24-25).

Conclusion: 1. May this postcard remind us there's a battle raging around us and we must give maintain balance; defending the faith and proclaiming good news!