

truth. Jude tells us that “Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses.” (Jude 1:9) Michael was careful not to misuse his tongue even when dealing with the Devil. The false teacher speaks without having the facts. Apostasy means not knowing or not having the truth. False teachers are unreasonable and absurd. Jude provided Cain and Balaam as examples of what he was teaching. (Jude 1:11) Cain was full of pride and wanted to do things his way instead of what God commanded. Balaam was greedy and he would say whatever people wanted said if the pay was high enough. Jude listed 5 comparisons to apostasy. They are, (1) Spots in your feasts of charity, (2) Clouds without water, (3) Trees whose fruit withereth, (4) Raging waves of the sea and (5) Wandering stars. (Jude 1:12-13) “These all perished in the gainsaying of Core.” (Jude 1:11) Korah was a Levite, who along with Dathan and Abiram, rebelled against Moses. (Numbers 22) We must remember that the Lord is coming to execute judgment upon all who reject His authority. (Jude 1:15) The hearts of these apostates were so hard that they fed themselves with no respect for God and with no fear of judgment. Jude described the false teachers in this way. “These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.” (Jude 1:16)

*How to defend against apostasy – Jude 1:17-25:* Our major defense against apostasy is stated in Jude 1:17. “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Children of God are obligated to know and to remember the words that were inspired by God. The words of the apostles have the authority of God. God warned about mockers who would turn people away from the truth. (Jude 1:18) These false teachers are guided by their own lust. To avoid apostasy, build up yourselves on your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Ghost. (Jude 1:20) Jude wrote, “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (Jude 1:21) Keep yourself focused on God’s mercy that brings eternal life. Keep rebuking false teachers and keep rescuing souls that repent. Snatch them out of the fire. (Jude 1:23) If you wish to keep from falling, make sure that you remain a faithful child of God. “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.” (Jude 1:24) Stay faithful and give glory to God. Jesus has all authority; He deserves preeminence in all things. “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” (Jude 1:25) God is infinite in wisdom, and hath wisdom from Himself. Jesus washed us from our sins in His own blood, and made us kings and priests unto God the Father.

The message of Jude was, “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (Jude 1:21) To become a Christian you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of sins (Luke 13:3), confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10) and be baptized into Christ. Serve God faithfully so you will not miss that Heavenly Home! (Revelation 2:10)

--- *Charles Box*