

BUT
GOD

But God, Yeah!
Jude 17-23

BUT GOD.

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One of my favorite words in the Bible is “But”

- But – mostly used as a conjunction
 - Used to introduce a phrase or clause contrasting with what has already been mentioned

One of my favorite words in the Bible is “But”

- Throughout Scripture we see “but God,” or “but Christ,” “but when...” or “but you”
 - Something was lost, but now it’s found
 - Someone was dead but is now alive
 - A person was blind, but now can see
 - There was no way, but God made a way

One of my favorite words in the Bible is “But”

- **Genesis 50:19-20 NIV** 19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

One of my favorite words in the Bible is “But”

- The word “but” in Scripture often introduces the message of the gracious and compassionate intervention of God
 - This simple term captures the nature of our God
 - He redeems, resurrects, and makes all things new
 - All seems lost and then we hear, “but God.”
 - He intervenes, He saves

One of my favorite words in the Bible is “But”

- **Ephesians 2:1-6** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked... and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

One of my favorite words in the Bible is “But”

- Jude uses this word today to show a vast difference between those trying to redefine Jesus and those who really know and follow Jesus
- He uses the term, “but you”

Jude 17-23 NIV

- 17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. 18 They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” 19 These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

Jude 17-23 NIV

- 20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.
- 22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Jude has been warning true believers about those who have entered their congregation appearing to be born-again

- **Vs. 4b** They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.
- **Vs. 8** In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.

Jude has been warning true believers about those who have entered their congregation appearing to be born-again

- **Vs. 16** These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

God knows who you are and who are His

- But you have been made new by an act of the Holy Spirit coupled with your faith
- You know who Jesus is, authority of the Apostles, your sins are forgiven by God's mercy and grace, what you are waiting for, and God promised
- I know you are struggling right now and confused but... there are some things for you to do

God knows who you are and who are His

- All of us can get sidetracked so, how can we safeguard ourselves and our families?
- Jude gives us 5 ways to safeguard ourselves

Vs. 17 Remember the Apostles

- Touchstone - a test or criterion for determining the quality or genuineness of a thing
 - Gauge, standard, and yardstick
- God has given us today Apostles or eyewitnesses to the majesty of Jesus Christ
- They are our touchstone of faith

Vs. 17 Remember the Apostles

- We can look at their lives before following Jesus
- How were their lives changed?
- What did they experience as they walked with Jesus and the first years of the church?
- What did they teach about Jesus?
- They are the touchstone and not some supposedly great mind 2,000+ years later

Vs. 17 Remember the Apostles

- Remembering is so important to mercy shown toward others
- We must be cautious with spiritual pridefulness
- We must never forget what Christ has done for us, where He found us and what He showed us
- Our touchstone is not our experiences but the Word and Promises of Jesus Christ

Vs. 20 Keep building upon your most holy faith

- Keep growing spiritually
- Learn as much as possible about the truth found in the Holy Scriptures allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you through them
- Set one's life to believe and practice it
- **Vs. 3b** God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.

Vs. 20 Keep building upon your most holy faith

- **2nd Timothy 3:15-17 NIV** 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- If we want to be trained in righteousness and equipped for every good work, we must make the Scriptures a central part of our lives

Vs. 20 Keep praying in the Holy Spirit or by the Holy Spirit

- Praying under the direction and influence of the Holy Spirit, trusting Him to intercede for us with “groans that words cannot express” (**Romans 8:26**)
- Those who would build themselves up in faith do so not by mystic journeys to the heavens or by self-glorying speech but by spending time with the Holy Spirit

Vs. 21 Stay firm in God's love for you

- This does not suggest that our salvation depends on our own effort, but rather that we live in faith and obedience to God
- John reminds us that to stay in God's love we must keep His commandments from the heart
- Keeping those commandments finds its ultimate expression in love of the brothers

Vs. 21 Keep your eyes ahead

- Jude, “wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life”
- God’s ultimate mercy will be extended to us when we take our first breath of eternal life
- But we are allowed to experience some of this today
- **John 17:3 NIV**, “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Vs. 21 Keep your eyes ahead

- Waiting in hope infuses all of life with expectancy and a desire to do all Jesus commands and expects of us so there will be no shame when He returns
- Even if Christ does not come back in our lifetime, we know that mercy and eternal life is ours
- **2nd Corinthians 5:8 NKJV** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Vs. 21 Keep your eyes ahead

- **1st Thessalonians 4:15-18 NIV** 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Vs. 21 Keep your eyes ahead

- **1st Thessalonians 4:15-18 NIV** 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.
- The promise of eternal life should motivate us to resist false teachers and obey Christ
- No matter you circumstance, as born-again children of God our best days are always ahead

So how are we supposed to respond to those proclaiming false ideas about Jesus in our congregation?

- **Vs. 22** Be merciful to those who doubt
- **Vs. 23** Save others by snatching them from the fire
- **Vs. 23** To others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.
- **MSG 22-23** Go easy on those who hesitate in the faith. Go after those who take the wrong way. Be tender with sinners, but not soft on sin. The sin itself stinks to high heaven.

So how are we supposed to respond to those proclaiming false ideas about Jesus in our congregation?

- What is missing from that list that you would assume would be there?
- Grab you pitchforks, shovels and rocks and drive them away
- This requires strong leadership within the church, not just those who are in leadership positions

So how are we supposed to respond to those proclaiming false ideas about Jesus in our congregation?

- Those who are mature, be maturing others
- Go easy on those who hesitate in the faith
- Less mature believers will have some doubts as they mature in the faith, and we must give them and the Holy Spirit time to grow and the opportunity to seek God

So how are we supposed to respond to those proclaiming false ideas about Jesus in our congregation?

- The more mature believers need to be patient with eyes and ears open
- Go after those who take the wrong way
- There will be those the Holy Spirit is working one and we need to be ready to walk with them down the path of salvation

So how are we supposed to respond to those proclaiming false ideas about Jesus in our congregation?

- Be tender with sinners, but not soft on sin
- These would be those who have rejected the conviction of the Holy Spirit for now
 - We need to understand if it was not for the mercy of our Heavenly Father, we would be just like them
 - We must speak the truth in love knowing their eternity if they refuse to accept God's gracious salvation

So how are we supposed to respond to those proclaiming false ideas about Jesus in our congregation?

- Victor Frankl, “Life is like a concentration camp. None of us get out alive.”
- Jude tells us that we have a wonderful hope
- **Vs. 21** We are, “waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”
- This is your future Christian – eternal life with Christ Jesus

So how are we supposed to respond to those proclaiming false ideas about Jesus in our congregation?

- Regardless of your past, present or future circumstance our ending destination is eternal life with Christ Jesus
- Not just eternal existence but life full and abundant
- **John 10:10 NIV**, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”

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