

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Jude v20-25**.
- B. Can you remember that last time you heard these words? For example:
 - 1. "You can't miss it!"
 - 2. "This will only take a minute."
 - 3. "Just read and follow the instructions, it will go right together."
 - 4. "Trust me; I know what I'm doing."
 - 5. "The check is in the mail."
- C. But on a more serious note, there are some very important last words in the NT. The last words of Jesus, James, Peter, and John, and Jude are worthy to be remembered.

I. THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS.

- A. Scripture text: **Ac. 1:8**.
- B. Jesus did not leave His apostles unprepared to preach and teach. We, as Xians, are also to live by the Spirit (Ac. 2:38; Gal. 5:25).
- C. The "promise of the Father," was the HS. And He changed many things about the apostles:
 - 1. Their concept of the kingdom changed (physical to spiritual).
 - 2. They went from doubters to believers.
 - 3. They were led into all the truth (Jn. 16:7-8, 12-13).
 - 4. They were able to do miracles (Ac. 2:43).
 - 5. They were willing to suffer and die for the faith.
- D. The apostles carried out their mission, given by Jesus (Ac. 1:8; Mk. 16:15).
- E. X's words can be meaningful to us today. We are to be led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14).

II. THE LAST WORDS OF JAMES.

- A. Scripture text: **Jas. 5:20**.
- B. James leaves us with the idea of being a soul winner.
- C. Those who know the way of righteousness and have turned away need the encouragement of faithful brethren to come back to the Lord (2Pet. 2:20-22).

III. THE LAST WORDS OF PETER.

- A. Scripture text: **2Pet. 3:18**.
- B. Growing in grace means growing in appreciation for our salvation in X.
- C. Growing in knowledge means allowing the word of X to increasingly dwell (Col. 3:16).
- D. Understanding the will of God and appreciating the grace of God keeps us away from sin.

IV. THE LAST WORDS OF JUDE.

- A. Scripture text: **Jude v24-25**.
- B. This text is known as the great doxology (to give praise), and is given to close a worship service.
- C. What God does for us:
 - 1. Keeps us from stumbling.
 - 2. Makes us stand in His presence.
 - 3. Gives us great joy.
 - 4. Allows us to be blameless.
- D. What God is (His character):
 - 1. Our Savior, through JC.
 - 2. Has all glory.
 - 3. Has all majesty (sovereign power).
 - 4. Has all dominion (territory).
 - 5. Has all authority (ruling power).
 - 6. Has all these for all time.
- E. Our God is a good God, who wants our love and adoration. He deserves it!

V. THE LAST WORDS OF JOHN.

- A. Scripture text: **Rev. 22:21**.
- B. These are fitting words to close out the NT (and entire Bible too).
- C. It is grace, God's unmerited favor and love towards us, that makes our salvation possible.
- D. Because of grace, we know Jesus; His plan of salvation; His church; and His second coming.
- E. Thanks be to God for His great grace toward us.
- F. As the OT ends with "remember the Law" (Mal. 4:4), the NT ends with "grace be with you all."

A PERSONAL CONCLUSION.

- A. Thank you for 13 years of...
 - 1. Being patient with me as I grew into the preacher/teacher I am today.
 - 2. Loving my wife and family, not putting them under a double-standard.
 - 3. Seeking out my advice on Bible matters and trusting my opinion.
 - 4. All of the wonderful compliments on my sermons and classes.
 - 5. All of the prayers, both public and private, in my behalf.
 - 6. Embracing my ideas, programs, ministries throughout the years.
 - 7. Being there when I was down, depressed, and discouraged.
 - 8. Thirteen years which Bonnie, the boys, and I will never forget.
- B. Lake Land/Mattoon will always have a very special place in our hearts. May God bless. Godspeed.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. May the last words you hear at the judgment be "well done, good and faithful servant."
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.