

**Preaching Christ....**  
**...by the power of the Holy Spirit**  
**...and the authority of the Word of God**

**Date:** 23 December 2018  
**Services:** 730, 930 T (Carol service)  
**Series:** Christ(mas) is coming  
**Passage:** Jude 24-25  
**Title:** ...and we shall be without fault

**Outline**

1. **No stumbling!**
2. **Without fault!**
3. **Great joy!**

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**INTRODUCTION**

- We are spending this time leading up to Christmas not thinking so much about Jesus' **first** coming into the world... but his **second**...
- and we've seen so far that when Jesus returns... we shall **see his face**; we shall be **like him**, we shall **know fully**... and this morning – that we shall be **without fault**....
- so I want us to explore these brief verses from the Epistle of Jude... and see what it means that God will
- keep us from **stumbling**
- present us to himself **without fault**
- and with **great joy**...

**1. No stumbling**

- Jude wants to praise God - to give glory to him - because he is able to keep us from stumbling...!
- Now he's not talking about keeping us from stumbling **literally** - we'll still trip on the footpath or the toy the grandchildren left on the kitchen floor...
- ...but in his brief Epistle... he has been warning his readers about people he calls '**scoffers**' who do their **own thing** without **God**...
- Have a look with me at v 17ff - *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.*
- We see plenty of that in the church today...
- ...as church leaders **neglect** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to follow **political** or **environmental** issues or **gender fluidity** or **same sex marriage agendas**...
- They follow their own ungodly **desires**... mere **natural instincts**... they do **not** have the **Spirit!** //
- And the question is - how do you know that **YOU** won't stumble in these matters?
- How will **you** guard yourself from false doctrine?
- How will you ensure that **you** just don't adopt the ways of the **world**?
- ...that **little by little**... you will **abandon God's word** and do your own **thing**?

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- Well **Jude** here commends to us **two** things... and I love the balance... one that we must build **our trust** in **Jesus** and second that God is well **able** to **keep** us from **stumbling**...
- Have a look with me at vv21-21 - *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.*
- **Keep** yourselves in God's love... he says... How? Building your **trust** and **praying** in the **Holy Spirit**...
- You build yourself up in the faith – in your **trust** – by **exercising** that trust... and praying in the Holy Spirit – that just means – **real** prayer... not **set** prayers – **wrote** prayers – **prepared** prayers – but **real** prayer –connecting **your** heart with **God's** heart... //
- **Are** you building yourself up in God's love? /
- **That** will keep you from stumbling...
- And note the context – build yourself up in God's love *as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life*... that's the Christian life - growing in our relationship with **Jesus** as we wait – as we wait for his **return**... //
- But the other side of the coin... is the confidence we have in God – that **he** will keep us from **stumbling**...
- He will **protect** us... **strengthen** us... give us **discernment** to **correct** error... give us a **determination** to stay with the **truth**... /
- **How** will you be kept from stumbling into the same errors we see around us?
- By **strengthening** our **trust** and keeping **praying** – **really** praying...
- ...and looking to God who is **able** to **keep** us from **stumbling**!! //

## 2. Without fault

- The second reason Jude wants us to give glory to God is that he will present us to himself *without fault*...
- v24 again - *To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy*
- So let's get our **heads** around this...
- God is going to **present us** to **himself**...
- That's a mind-blowing thought it and of itself **isn't it?**
- And when he **does** so... we will be **without fault!**
- How is that **possible?** – when if you are anything like me – you're only too painfully **aware** of your faults right now... and if you were to **list** them – they would run into **many pages!**
- **How** is it that on that **day** – God will present me to himself *without fault*? //
- because: *if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2.*
- Jesus will be our **advocate** – our **barrister** – before the Father.
- And he will NOT be saying to the Father - 'look go easy on this person – I know them –

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they've tried their best'.

- No; he will say 'I **died** for this **person**'.
- 'My **death** covered **over** their **sin**'.
- 'My **death** for them was an **atoning sacrifice**.'
- 'Their sin has been utterly **dealt** with - **removed**'.
- And so, you will be presented '**without fault**'. //
- You see the Christian life is one of gradual **transformation** into the likeness of Christ.
- The Apostle Paul says we are being transformed from **one** degree of glory to **another**..
- ...until that **last** day - when - as we saw earlier in the series - we shall be **like** him...
- ...and **we shall be without fault!** //
- How **good** is this??
- It's no wonder then thirdly - that we will have

3. **Great joy!**

- Great **joy** because we'll be standing before the Father without **fault!**
- As I said before, if you are anything like me, you are only **too** aware of your present faults and shortcomings.
- The **obvious** ones which your friends and family know well and see all too clearly!
- And your **secrets** sins about which **you** only **know**.
- **Now** - we are aware that we are **broken** ... / **selfish**... full of **pride**... ready for **revenge**... dealing with thoughts **unbecoming** a child of the King... but **THEN** - **wonderfully** - **gloriously** - **beautifully** - **without fault**...
- because of what **Jesus** has **done** for you, on the last day - and in fact - even as the Father sees you **now** - **you are without fault!**

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- Friends - this is the big **picture** of **Christmas**
- This is where Christmas **ends** up...
- It starts way **back** before time with God's plan to bring us to **himself**...
- It's **revealed** in the coming of **Jesus** the **first time**...
- but it has its **end-point** - it's **purpose** - it's **goal** - in us being **presented without fault** by the **Father** to the **Father** - through the work of **Christ**... **WITHOUT FAULT**...
- and **that** should fill your **heart** with **joy** and **wonder** this **Christmas!!**