Elder's Corner

24. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25. To God our Savior, who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.
(Jude 24, 25)

I was blessed as I read this brief epistle this morning. **Jude,** the author, didn't seek fame by proclaiming himself as a brother of **Jesus Christ,** though he could have **(Mark 6:3** e.g.). Though once at odds with his **brother Jesus (John 7:5),** since our Lord's resurrection all of that changed. Now **Jude** identifies himself as a **bondservant of Jesus Christ (Jude 1).** The apostle Paul also reveals that **Jude** had a **believing wife** who accompanied him as he preached the gospel of **Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 9:5).** Together with Peter's second epistle, **Jude** warns of apostasy that is bound to attack and infect the New Testament churches. An appropriate subtitle for Jude's epistle might be "The Acts of the Apostates," because **Jude** uses this brief letter to show examples of and provides warnings about apostasy and its purveyors.

The dispensational study on Wednesday evenings has emphasized the fact that the focus of **the Lord God** as He administers His eternal moral absolutes via a variety of ruling factors is that He might be glorified.[1] **Jude** looks forward to a coming day when He will be glorified by dealing with the **ungodly:**

> **to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (Jude 25)**

Paul writes in agreement in **Romans 9:22**. **The Lord Jesus Christ** will indeed be glorified as He executes **judgment on the ungodly (Rev. 19:11-21)** and He assumes His role as **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.

In verse 24 above **Jude** reminds us that **the Lord Jesus Christ is able to keep you from stumbling,** in order **to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy**. In this life **Jesus** is there to **keep** us **from stumbling** into apostasy. But that verse goes beyond that. William MacDonald writes:

> He is able to make us stand faultless in the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. This is truly stupendous! When we think of what we were—dead through our trespasses and sins; when we think of what we are—poor, weak, failing servants; and then to think that one day we will stand absolutely faultless in the Throne Room of the universe, rejoicing with exceeding joy—what grace is this.[2]

Verse 25 reveals that **God** is glorified as our **Savior**. These thoughts by Wiersbe explain this wonderful doxology in a thoughtful way:

> He is not only our Saviour, but He is "the only wise God." He can give you the wisdom you need to live your life to the glory of God. The false teachers boasted of their special knowledge, but they lacked spiritual wisdom. God gives wisdom to those who ask Him (James 1:5), provided they are sincerely willing to obey Him. If Christians would seek the wisdom of God in the Word of God, they would not stumble into the traps of the false teachers but would walk to please the Lord (Col. 1:9–10)). Why should we walk in obedience to God's will? So that Christ might receive the glory! *Glory* is the sum total of all that God is and all that God does. Everything about Him is glorious! The glory of man fades as the mown grass, but the glory of God goes on eternally. *Majesty* means "greatness, magnificence." Only God is great. When we praise God, we praise the most magnificent Person in the universe. He is not simply King; He is King of kings! He is not simply Lord; He is Lord of lords! *Dominion* has to do with God's sovereignty and rule over all things. The Greek word means "strength, might," but it carries the idea of complete control over all things. *Power* means "authority," which is the right to use power. All authority belongs to Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18), including authority over the powers of darkness (Eph. 1:19–23). As we yield to Him, we share His authority and accomplish His will.[3]

Have you accepted **Jesus Christ** as your **Lord and Savior.** He will be glorified in that, and He will **keep you from stumbling**. Make it your daily goal to give Him **the glory and majesty, dominion and power** that belong to **Him. Amen.**

Maranatha!

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[1] The theological term is "doxological," having to do with glory.

[2] William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary: New Testament,* rev. ed., (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990), 1162

[3] Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 562.