

WE ARE CHOSEN, LOVED, AND KEPT BY JESUS

By: Danny McGaughey

11/3/25

At times, people place importance on something by the size, by the brand name, where they purchase it from, by price, louder is better, and because a celebrity endorsed it. There is another reason, cheaper is better. In fact, it could be depending on finances. However, cheaper is not always better because there is a reason why it's cheap, usually the quality of the materials used to make the object, and in the long run, you spend twice as much on the same thing.

Whatever you do, do not place value on books in the Bible because of size. There are 13 books in the Old Testament referred to as the Minor Prophets. They are as important as any other book found in the Bible. Don't let the term Minor Prophets fool you. Take some time and read through them. If you read them, then you will see what I mean.

In the New Testament, we find four epistles that are one chapter long. They are Philemon, II John, III John, and Jude. The same thing is true with these epistles. Even though they are only one chapter, they provide instruction on relationships and warnings about false teachers in the world.

Jude was a half-brother of Jesus. There was a time when Jude and his other brothers and sisters didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah the Jews had been waiting for for centuries. ⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. ⁵⁴ He came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" ⁵⁷ And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." (Matthew 12:53-57)

We know that they changed and believed in Jesus as the Messiah. Now, let's look at Jesus' half-brother Judas' epistle of Jude. Yes, that is correct. Judas, the half-brother of Jesus wrote Jude. The name was changed for two reasons. One is to distinguish between Judas the brother and Judas Iscariot the betrayer.

The other reason is this: ¹ Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: ² May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. (Jude 1:1-2) Jude doesn't claim to be the half-brother of Jesus; rather, he calls himself a bond-servant of Jesus and the brother of James. No name-dropping here. Jude wants his epistle to be remembered because he is a bond-servant to Jesus and not because of family ties.

Here are three key wordings in verse 1: who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept. These are so important for us to remember, and here's why. Even when everything and everyone around us wavers, we know God will sustain us and keep us through hard times. Hard times are here. Flooding in Da nang, Vietnam, where we send teams, a hurricane in Jamaica, and the government shut down that is resulting in loss of much-needed family resources for food and the ability to pay bills.

Some comfort comes from knowing we are called and beloved by God and kept by His Son, Jesus Christ. We are encouraged by knowing God has called us, and this is not based on our performance, but out of His love for us. All of this should help us see we must live as bond-servants of Jesus, not just hearers of the word. "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." (James 1:22)

We are called by Jesus to repentance and to give our lives to Him. "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9)

"⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him." (Romans 5:7-9)

We are beloved by God. "¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:16-18) You realize that God didn't have to send Jesus. He chose to send Jesus because that's how much He loves and cares about you. He makes it possible through your acceptance of Jesus as your Lord and Savior, a place called heaven to be with Him for eternity.

We are kept for Jesus. "who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (I Peter 1:5) The idea of being "kept" suggests protection and preservation by Jesus Christ. The assurance of security is a recurring theme in the New Testament. This scripture highlights the ongoing work of Christ in the lives of believers, ensuring their perseverance and ultimate salvation.

We are called out of this dark world to a world of light through the Son. We are given this opportunity because God loves us, His creation, and through Jesus, and no one else, is life in heaven with God for eternity even possible. "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14:6) That we are called by God, loved by God, and kept for Him by Jesus should be so much encouragement to us, His creation. Have a blessed week.

Nobody Loves Me Like You:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG_IXFEO8yE&list=RDSG_IXFEO8yE&start_radio=1