

IN TOUCH

FAITH: JUDE'S THE DUDE

Dear Friend:

I hope you are not offended at the title, not trying to be sacrilegious, just trying to capture your attention. In my ongoing sermon series "Little Book Big Message" we will focus on Jude this Sunday. Jude is tied with Philemon for third place of the smallest books of the Bible. Small book, big message!

Hebrews 11 is perhaps the most well-known chapter about faith in the New Testament. On a side note...Jude was a literal brother of Jesus. Jude gives us 3 instructions about faith. In verse 3 Jude says that we are to "contend for the faith". What does it mean to contend for the faith? He is talking about the Christian faith and all the truths of the faith. Christianity was being attacked by false teachers both inside and outside the church, it was also being severely challenged by the government. Sound familiar? Jude says..."EARNESTLY contend for the faith". Earnestly is left out of the NIV translation but is found in KJV and many others. What does contend for the faith mean? The Greek word for contend means "to struggle for, to struggle upon something". It was often used when talking about a military battle. Jude's message to us today: passive faith won't do; we must be ready to stand against those who oppose the Christian faith. The second instruction Jude give us is: "Build yourself up in your faith". Again, passive faith won't do, we must have growing faith. How to have growing faith is explained in verses 20 & 21, pray in the Holy Spirit, keep ourselves in God's love and share your faith, which brings us to the third instruction...share our faith. Listen to Jude's imagery: "snatch them from the fire and save them, show mercy missed with fear" What fire is he talking about? The fire of hell, of course. Wow...what a huge and important responsibility, God actually wants us to share our faith so that people won't go to hell. Wow...what a huge responsibility we have!

Contend for the faith, grow in our faith, and share our faith. Three instructions from Jude about what we must do with our faith. How are you at following instructions?

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Pastor Alan Hicks & Pastor Dan Kopp (both have cancer), Randy Wickiser (now in rehab).

Event: This Sunday New Albany Presbyterian Church worships at the shelter house. Parking spaces on the east side that touch the sidewalk are reserved specifically for Franklin (near the kitchen door). Of course, you can always park wherever you want. Get here for Sunday School at 9:00 and no problem! Kirk is taking us deep into Romans. Get here at 10:00 and parking will be crowded!