

Same thing happens in churches, albeit for a different reason. It's a lot easier to get one's way with flattering speech, rather than with threatening or overtly demanding speech.

Then it says in verse 16c, they do what they do for the sake of gaining an advantage. Whatever the false teacher says and does, this is the end game.

When you first look at the word for “advantage” in the Greek, it looks like a negative advantage.

The Greek word here is “*χάρις*” – “*cháris*.” You will recognize this Greek word as the word for “grace.”

Some words that are the greatest words of Christianity, like “*cháris*,” can also be used in a negative way.

One of the most basic of doctrines of Christianity is “*cháris*,” but the use of “*cháris*” here is not that wonderful doctrine.

In verses 17 through 23, Jude is going to tell us, show us what our defenses are. He will tell us how to survive the false teacher, how to avoid them, and how to come out on the other side with your spiritual life intact, with a growing spiritual life.

“*Cháris*” is directed toward God, God's grace. But the false teacher plays on the word, on that wonderful doctrine, so that it's directed toward him or her. A total perversion of “*cháris*.” The word “*cháris*” here has a negative connotation.

We can translate it, “favor” or “to gain favor.”

Flattery is a means to gain favor from someone else directed toward the flatterer. That favor is bestowed on the phony in whatever way they want it.

That makes the person being flattered a puppet, dancing to the tune of the flatterer. I love what you say, so I'll do what you want to get it.

In the case of the false teachers, it's favor that they crave and seek for evil, self-centered purposes. They gain their objectives through the use of flattery, which is a powerful weapon when it's used on an arrogant person.

Finally, we have the genitive singular noun of the Greek word “ὠφέλιμος” – “*ōphélimos*.” It’s best translated “advantage.” It could be translated “gain” but here “advantage” fits the best.

If you have any arrogance in you, you are ripe for flattery, so that someone may gain an advantage. Arrogant people lust for flattery.

If you're not growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you're not gaining humility, which is an automatic by-product of spiritual growth.

Therefore, as an immature believer, you are vulnerable to the flattery of the false teacher, which allows him to gain the advantage.

Our expanded translation of Jude 16:

Jude 16: “These (false teachers) are grumblers (malcontents), faultfinders (highly critical, dissatisfied), conducting themselves according to the standards of their own lusts (patterns of sin), and their speech communicates an arrogance which flatters others for the sake of gaining an advantage.” (EXT)

Jude has now presented a complete profile of the false teacher.

A false teacher is always threatened by the accurate teaching of Bible doctrine, and they have to attack it. They are always self-centered and arrogant.

They are the apostates, the wrecker of believers’ spiritual lives, then and today. In unflinching terms, Jude has thoroughly identified the apostate false teachers in the churches of his day and in the churches of our day.

But Jude is not going to leave us depressed. Now, Jude changes direction in verses 17 through 23. These verses are about our defense against the evil that's rampant in the churches, both then and now.

It’s not enough just to be able to recognize false teachers, you also need to know what is necessary to be able to avoid their falsehoods.

Then, you must be able to make a defense against those falsehoods, and your defense is in your soul – Bible doctrine.

So in our next set of verses, he gives us our defense against the false teachers and against their apostasy.

When you look back at all the things that the false teachers are, their ability to infiltrate and to deceive and fool believers, it reminds us that we need to do our duty by growing in grace, so we are aware and on guard. The only sure defense is Bible doctrine in the soul.

Jude 17: “But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Jude 18: that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” (NASB)

Jude begins in verse 17 with, “But you beloved (Jude 1 & 3).” Now he's addressing them again as he did at the beginning of the epistle, “you beloved ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles.”

We should remember the words given to you and to me by the apostles. They were talking to you, as well as to me, to defend against apostasy. This defense is based on true doctrine that was taught by the Apostles to the Church.

The Apostles, of course, were important, critical, in fact, because they were the eyewitnesses to the life of Christ. This was one of their characteristics. They were witnesses to the life of Christ and they understood firsthand His thinking. They saw His actions and they were witnesses to the resurrection. That includes the Apostle Paul. Although he was not there at the cross, he saw the risen Savior on the road to Damascus. He saw the resurrected Christ. So, the Apostles held the highest authority other than Christ in the churches.

This is because they brought the mind of Christ to the churches. This is the Church Age. This is 50 or 60 years into the Church Age. The only connection that these people have to Christ is with these Apostles.

They weren't there for Christ. They didn't see Him on this earth. But they understand His word through the Apostles. So, the Apostles were the highest authority by virtue of their position, as chosen by the Holy Spirit. The spiritual gift of Apostle was bestowed on twelve men by God the Holy Spirit at the very beginning of the Church Age. Their authority as apostles was demonstrated many

times by the supernatural gift of miracles, tongues, and other aspects they had to their apostolic gift. Their teaching projected the very authority and message of the Lord Jesus Christ.

That's why Jude can make this statement to believers.

1. These twelve, the Apostles, were the men who spoke the divinely inspired word of God. The canon of Scripture was not completed at the time that Jude wrote his epistle (letter).
2. But the apostles had spoken throughout the churches. The Apostle Paul traveled all over the Middle East and Europe and North Africa. The other apostles went many other places.
3. They taught the church with a capital C, in other words, the body of Christ. They were the providers of Bible doctrine.
4. They spoke until they completed the writing of the canon of Scripture. The word of God was verbal until they completed the canon.
5. The Apostle Paul wrote a number of letters, epistles, to various churches, which now are part of the canon of Scripture. That's also what Jude is doing. The four Gospels were written as historical documents, the documents about our Lord Jesus Christ.
6. The book of Acts was history, written by Luke, the man who wrote the book of Luke.
7. Peter wrote several epistles. John wrote a number of epistles, but they spoke before they wrote.
8. After they finished the canon, they passed from the scene. The gift of apostleship ceased to exist.
9. Their divinely inspired words of doctrine continue to be the only means of growth and defense for believers.
10. The Word of God is divinely inspired, so it is the word of God, but it's their words that they spoke, and that's what Jude is emphasizing.

11. What the Apostles spoke is the bulwark against falsehood to this very day, and certainly beyond.
12. Their spiritual gift of apostleship authorized their leadership and authority over all the churches. Not just some local churches, the Church. That's the widest authority that anyone has ever had in the Church Age, those twelve.

In comparison, our pastor has the authority over one church and that is this church.

The ultimate authority in the church today is the Word of God, the Bible, as taught by pastor teachers in local churches. That's exactly what Jude is making reference to. The apostles taught, now we have what they taught in writing, and that's the authority.

No false teachers or apostates could supersede the doctrine that the Apostles taught. It was the mind, the thinking, of Christ. It was His doctrine. It was then transferred from the mouths of the Apostles to the minds of their listeners.

So, Jude now exhorts the beloved, the believers in the churches, to remember. Don't forget.

What a critical word is remember. The Greek word is “*μυμνήσκω*” – “*mimnēskō*.” This is in the imperative mood; this is a command “to remember.” This isn't a suggestion. Believers are mandated to continually recall to mind; “therefore I have confidence.”

That's exactly what Jude is talking about. The doctrine previously learned from the Apostles, through what we know as the grace apparatus for perception, is what we must recall. That is the understanding of doctrine metabolized, which is the front-line defense that is resident in the soul of every believer, or it should be.

Believers fall for all sorts of falsehoods and, without Bible doctrine, there is no hope of not having falsehood infiltrate your thinking.

The Grade Apparatus for Perception: we know it also as Operation Z, or the grace apparatus for perception.

Jude 17: “**Now you, beloved** (members of the royal family), **remember** (never, ever forget) **the spoken words** (doctrinal truths) ...”

This illustration is designed to depict the operation of the soul in relation to the teaching - in this case, the apostles, the Holy Spirit, and your positive volition.

Never forget the teacher, the Holy Spirit, who empowers and teaches and your positive volition. This is all that's necessary for you to defend yourself. This brings metabolized doctrine into your soul.

It represents the process of doctrine taught, doctrine metabolized, and doctrine applied, i.e., the dynamics of a doctrinal defense.

There are seven compartments through which “*epignosis*” continuously flows, unless you cut it off with your own volition.

As long as you are positive and believe the doctrine by faith, it becomes “*epignosis*,” and it will continue to flow.

Ephesians 3:19b describes the results of that flow as it fills the soul. The verse calls it all the “fullness of God.”

The fullness of God is a mind saturated with divine viewpoint and a ready defense. This is the first line of protection against the onslaught of false doctrine.

First Compartment: Frame of Reference

1. What is the frame of reference? It is the encyclopedia of the soul. It retains and stores metabolized doctrine.
2. The more doctrine that you metabolize, the more “*epignosis*” that you bring into the frame of reference, the more doctrine metabolized, the more that is stored.
3. You must stockpile a large supply of doctrine. This is the ammunition for your defense, and you need a lot of ammunition.

Second Compartment: Memory Center

1. This compartment is closely connected with the “Frame of Reference.”
2. Memory is the cognitive process inherent to retaining the doctrine that is stored. You store it and you memorize it, so you have it in your memory.

The “Memory Center” and the “Frame of Reference” are closely connected because they represent the cognitive process of retaining doctrine that is stored.

3. Bible Doctrine that has been drawn from the “Frame of Reference” is committed to the memory center.
4. By studying, you are committing it to your memory so you can recall it. It’s just like studying for a test in school.
5. The doctrine now is ready for recall under any circumstance. So, this is a build-up of the defense. It's not the end of the defense, it's just part of the build-up.

Third Compartment: Vocabulary Storage

1. Vocabulary storage is the dictionary of the soul. We have an encyclopedia, a “Frame of Reference,” now we have a dictionary. You can't operate without an encyclopedia and a dictionary.
2. Vocabulary is the tool for thought. You cannot think without words. You have to have words to communicate.
3. You must have a vocabulary. If you have a four-letter word vocabulary, your range of thinking is very limited.
4. With a simple vocabulary comes very superficial thought. We need to build a vocabulary that represents the full range of doctrinal concepts.

Fourth Compartment: Categorical Storage

1. This storage area accumulates groups of technical theological words to portray God, man, salvation, the spiritual life, and on and on and on. (Hence, the illustrations.)
2. This is an illustration portraying the scripture and how it gets into your soul. From the pages of scripture to your soul. This is divine viewpoint. This is thinking Bible doctrine.

3. So, you've got all these words, and these words represent a lot of different concepts, technical words to portray all of these theological disciplines.
4. As you take in “*epignosis*” doctrine, this compartment (Categorical Storage) combines the technical words from “Vocabulary Storage,” principles of doctrine from the “Frame of Reference” and the “Memory Center.”

Fifth Compartment: Conscience of the Soul

1. This is the norms and standards of the soul that separate right from wrong. It knows what is right and it knows what is wrong. When you have the norms and standards of Bible doctrine, you can separate falsehood from true doctrine.
2. With Bible doctrine, your conscience is not built on the never-ending changing human viewpoint conscience.
3. Without your conscience being developed with Bible doctrine, your conscience won't be able to defend you from falsehood.
4. If you don't have a conscience developed by Bible Doctrine, falsehood is going to go right through you, into your right lobe, and destroy it. Your conscience guides you to “paths of righteousness.”
5. This is defined in Psalm 23:3, Psalm 25:4, and Psalm 25:10 as the “paths of righteousness.” This is how you operate in this world.
6. The conscience is where you make good decisions from a position of strength, rather than bad decisions from a position of a weakness.

Sixth Compartment: Momentum Compartment

1. The “Momentum Compartment” is another critical compartment as part of your defense system. If your “Momentum Compartment” isn't working, false doctrine is coming in.
2. This is the domain of spiritual power. Here, all your Bible doctrine that has been metabolized is stored, and is coupled with the Holy Spirit in the “Momentum Compartment.”

3. The “Momentum Compartment” is the energizing of doctrine for spiritual growth and application.

PRINCIPLE: The Holy Spirit is the power behind your defenses.

Without the momentum of Bible doctrine moving you forward, and there is no greater power in the universe. You won’t have a sure defense against false doctrine.

Seventh Compartment: Wisdom

1. As a believer advances, metabolized doctrine circulates through his “Stream of consciousness” until it reaches its final destination – the “Wisdom Compartment.”
2. Wisdom is the place of application of Bible doctrine to experience. This is “*epignosis*” doctrine becoming wisdom ready for application, and it results in the spiritual life.
3. This one compartment is the result of the Grace Apparatus for Perception (GAP/Operation Z), “*epignosis*” doctrine in the right lobe flowing through the stream of consciousness. This one compartment is the result: wisdom in your soul.
4. The fullness of God is his wisdom (Ephesians 3:19). It's divine viewpoint ready to be used.

Ephesians 3:19: “And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (KJV)

5. Wisdom is the tip of the spear of your defense. It's what skewers false doctrine. The wisdom of doctrine metabolized is the bastion of protection against the foolishness of falsehood.
6. In the wisdom compartment, all the falsehoods of the false teachers are blocked. The FLOT line is the application of Bible doctrine to every circumstance of life.

Jude 17: “Now you, beloved (members of the royal family), remember (never, ever forget) the spoken words (doctrinal truths) which were previously taught by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,” (EXT)

Jude 18: “that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” (NASB)

It says, “spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you,” and then he describes what they say.

“In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”

First, Jude does not identify himself as among the apostles. So, he’s not referring to himself in reference to what the apostles taught.

The apostles spoken of in Jude 17 &18 do not refer to Jude, but rather to those who spoke in advance of what Jude is warning in his letter.

Jude has gotten the message, he has metabolized the teaching of the apostles concerning the subject of which he is writing, and now he is passing it on to those in the churches he’s writing to, and to us.

In this statement, Jude is assuring believers of the authority of his message. This comes from the apostles who got it from Jesus Christ. It's His mind.

Jude is saying the authority of this message is not from me. The authority is from those who were divinely inspired.

“In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”

We need to develop defenses. Believers must protect themselves from the false teachers of which there are so many today, especially in this country. We need to be protected from their falsehoods, that which would be very destructive to the spiritual life.

That's the point of Jude's epistle. Know them, know their thinking, know their activities so that you can guard yourself against those activities.

Jude begins by telling us in Jude 17 to remember. “*Mimnēs̄skō*,” as we saw earlier, “you must remember.” This is in the imperative mood. It’s a command!!

Jude 17: “Now you, beloved (members of the royal family), remember (never, ever forget) the spoken words (doctrinal truths) which were previously taught by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,” (EXT)

This is a warning, but it's also a defense.

First, they should remember the warnings Jude has already provided in verses 4 through 17. Don’t forget what you have been warned about, what you have been told about the false teachers.

Then Jude moves forward by continuing to elaborate with more warnings. These warnings are not just from him, they are from the apostles themselves.

I think it's clear from all of this that Jude has been relying on the apostles who have taught him in order to write this epistle to the churches.

They should remember then the very words of the Apostles.

But before they (the apostles) wrote the New Testament, they spoke the New Testament. They didn't just write it and disappear from history.

These were traveling apostles. Most of all, the apostle Paul traveled, but so did all the others. They spoke the mind of Christ, the word of God, and what we now call Bible doctrine, because it has been recorded by the apostles for us.

What Jude is going to tell us is the exact exhortation that the apostles spoke beforehand that they must recall.

This is just one thing they were saying, this is not all that they were saying, but this is the one thing Jude wants to use for his particular purpose, ungodly lusts.

Here is the exact apostolic warning, and they are warning of another characteristic of false teachers that believers must be able to discern and to avoid.

“Mockers!” You've got to know about these guys, and you've got to know what they're like.

So now, we need to know about the mockers, so that the false doctrine that they bring will not get through to you.

This is the second time that Jude has used this language, “the ungodly following after their own lusts.” He wrote the exact same words about lust in verses 15 through 16b. This again shows you that Jude is using the doctrine taught by the apostles throughout this epistle.

The false-teachers are confirmed in verse 16 as [grumblers](#), [fault finders](#), and we've covered that. They speak in [arrogance](#), and we've covered that.

They are [flatterers](#), [flattering the weaknesses of believers](#) but they are also, according to verse 18, [mockers](#), and this is the new characteristic that Jude, by way of the Apostles, wants to communicate.

Our first word is the nominative plural masculine none “ἐμπαίκτης” – “*empaiktēs*.” It means “mockers” or “scoffers.”

1. “*Empaiktēs*” means, in this case, those who “speak derisively,” “scoffers,” or “scorners.”
2. This is how arrogant people speak to those they consider inferior.
3. They may also be threatened by the very one he mocks.
4. The scorner, the mocker, puts someone down to build himself up. It takes great strength not to give in when made to feel, or attempted to be made to feel, stupid or ignorant. That's the intention of the mocker.
5. Right and wrong are not generally the issue for the scoffer. Doesn't matter whether it's right or wrong.
6. The mocker assumes his beliefs and his contentions are always correct because he believes himself preeminent and unrivaled. Who can think and know more than the “mocker?”
7. He cannot abide different opinions from his own. There is no such thing as a different opinion or ideologies. That's the arrogance of the scoffers.

8. The mocker is without humility, and certainly without consideration of others. They have no consideration of anyone else.
9. Therefore, the mocker will always be in conflict, especially with authority other than his own authority in the eyes of others.
10. Mocking and sarcasm is a means of winning an argument, stopping disagreement, winning conflict, without having to convince anyone of the validity of their case.
11. In the very act of sarcastic mocking, the mocker proves just the opposite. So, he's got to cover it and stifle others with mockery.
12. He is all about promoting his nefarious agenda or person because they either fear the truth or reject the truth because of their blind arrogance, and because it disagrees with the way they think. Human viewpoint always mocks divine viewpoint.

So, mockery is inherently a sin. The very act of mockery by arrogant people indicates an attitude of superiority, coupled with vindictiveness and implacability toward the supposed inferiors.

It projects anger and hatred toward anyone who disagrees. Therefore, mockery is inherently a mental attitude.

1. Mockery was the great weapon the Sanhedrin used against Christ in his trials and crucifixion.
2. They mocked him incessantly for his true claim to be the Messiah. So, they were mocking the truth.
3. The Sanhedrin were the epitome of false teachers. They taught Judaism. They taught the perversion of the Old Testament. They taught that the Messiah could not be Jesus Christ. They were the epitome of false teachers and the epitome of those who mocked.
4. As they beat the Lord Jesus Christ, they asked Him to prophesy who it was that was beating him.