

Transforming Daily
“... *preserved in Jesus Christ* ...”
Jude 1b.

This short phrase may very well indicate the whole matter of the false teaching that Jude warns about in his letter. Jude was probably warning the early believers about false teaching against the truth of the gospel. Oversimplified, Jude, as did Paul in his epistles, tells the recipients to watch out for legalizers (most likely Judaizers), teachers who desire to undermine the believer's faith and confidence in Christ alone for their salvation. The legalizers of their day taught that salvation came by way of Christ *and* keeping the law (in particular, circumcision). Basically Jude was telling the early church not to entangle themselves with those kinds of people teaching that kind of doctrine.

What does it mean to be “preserved in Jesus Christ?” Simply put, it means that anyone who trusts the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ alone for their salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit eternally. No one can remove the believer from that relationship or add to that relationship any other requirement than grace through faith.

When my wife makes preserves she puts the fruit and the preserving agent in a glass jar and waits for the transaction to be sealed. The believer is the fruit, Christ is the preserving agent, and the Holy Spirit seals the deal. However, sometimes the jars don't seal. When that occurs, my wife throws the whole concoction away because the fruit, preserving agent, and seal didn't set right. It's the same way spiritually. Just because someone says that they are trusting Christ doesn't mean that they really do. In that case, (which is only truly known between them and God) there is no true relationship for the Holy Spirit to seal and preserve. The Bible uses the terms in those cases that they will be cast into outer darkness (like my wife throwing out the whole concoction of fruit). It's not the case that the person truly believed and lost their salvation, but that they didn't truly believe in the first place.

Are you truly trusting Christ alone for your salvation? Are you relying on any other factor or element to save you from your sin? Are you resting on God's Word according to His promises for your salvation? Know this, if you are truly a believer, trusting in nothing and no one else for your salvation except for the shed blood of God's Son, then you are preserved in Jesus Christ.