

Week 40
270/95

Transforming Daily
“... remember the words ...”
Jude 17

Jude charges the believers of the early church to remember the words of the apostles. The direction by Jude is in the imperative. In essence, his direction is more of a command. In light of what he has previously told them, it is only fitting, and for their own benefit, that he speak to them with authority. Jude's words are meant to be both encouraging and that which sustains the believers of the early church (and for that matter, any and every church) through what they were going to face, and did face. Keep in mind Jude is speaking prophetically here which has the dynamic of both present fulfillment in part with future and complete fulfillment to come.

What is the message that Jude wants every believer to hear? His message is simple. The Word of God is what will sustain them through these times of adversity as well as in and through all times of adversity. Implied in the imperative use of the word “remember” is Jude's admonishment for the believer to be good and diligent students of God's Word. A similar statement by Paul to Timothy is found in 2 Timothy 2:15 where Paul tells Timothy to be diligent and unashamed when rightly dividing the word of truth.

The message is still the same for us today. We are to be diligent students of God's Word, doing so means that we read it, study it, memorize it, wrestle with it, and share it with others. Jude wrote “remember” in the imperative then for the believers of the early church, and it still stands in the imperative for us. The 21st century believer has somewhat of an advantage over the believers of the early church because we have the whole Bible while they only had the Old Testament and part of the New Testament. Therefore we are to understand our advantage to hold more responsibility in the understanding and use of God's Word, and in particular, Jude's admonishment to remember the words of the apostles.

Do you own a copy of God's Word? Do you read it, study it, and share it with others? Do you believe it to be God's Word? Do you make it a practice to remember the words?