**THE DESCRIPTION OF TRUE BELIEVERS, v. 1-2**

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(v. 1-2) **Introduction**: How can we tell whether or not a person is a true minister of God? How can we tell whether or not a person is a true believer? This is the discussion of this passage. Remember: Jude was the brother of our Lord. At first, he did not believe in Jesus Christ. But some time after the resurrection of Christ, he gave his heart to the Lord and surrendered his life to preach the gospel. Here we see him sitting down and writing to the believers of the first century. And in writing, he wastes no time: right from the start he describes himself as a true minister of Jesus Christ and his readers as true believers of Christ. Consequently, in his opening remark we have a picture by which we can measure ourselves, the picture of a true minister and of a true believer.

[1.  There is the picture of the true minister (v.1).](about:blank#link485)

[2.  There is the picture of the true believer (v.1-2).](about:blank#link486)

**1.** (v. 1) **Minister— Servant— Humility**: there is the picture of the true minister. Who is he? Jude says two simple things about himself.

1.  He says that he is "the servant of Jesus Christ." This is amazing, for as stated above, Jude was the brother of Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth ([Matthew 13:55](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+13%3A55); [Mark 6:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+6%3A3); cp. [John 7:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+7%3A1-5), esp. [John 7:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+7%3A5)). At first he did not believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the Son of God who was to come to earth as the Savior of the world. But note what Jude says here: he says that he is "the servant of *Jesus Christ*." He now believes that his brother Jesus is the Messiah, the *Anointed One* of God. He believes that his brother Jesus is the Son of God who came into the world to save man. He believes that his brother Jesus can save him from sin, death, and judgment; he believes that his brother Jesus can make him acceptable to God. What an enormous turnaround! What a testimony for our Lord Jesus Christ!

Note what else Jude says: he says he is the servant of Jesus Christ (see note, Servant—•[2 Peter 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00004652#sp10073) for discussion).

**"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour" (**[**John 12:26**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+12%3A26)**; cp.** [**Romans 12:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+12%3A1)**;** [**1 Cor. 15:58**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A58)**).**

**"[Laboring] not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men" (**[**Ephes. 6:6-7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+6%3A6-7)**).**

**"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (**[**Col. 3:23-24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3%3A23-24)**).**

**"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (**[**Hebrews 12:28**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A28)**).**

**"And ye shall serve the Lord your God" (**[**Exodus 23:25**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+23%3A25)**).**

**"What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (**[**Deut. 10:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+10%3A12)**).**

**"Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling" (**[**Psalm 2:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+2%3A11)**).**

**"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing" (**[**Psalm 100:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+100%3A2)**).**

2.  Jude says that he is the brother of James. Who is James? What James would be so famous and well known that all the believers of the first century would know him by his first name? There was only one such James, the James who was the Lord's brother, the James who was the pastor of the great Jerusalem church, the mother church of Christianity.

Note this fact: Jude identifies himself by referring to James. Believers all over the world knew James, but few knew Jude. Therefore, he must identify himself so that his audience will receive his exhortation. He is simply Jude "the servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James." Note the *humility* of this man! The only claim he has is that he is a slave to Jesus Christ and the brother of a famous man. He could have easily been jealous of his famous brother, resentful of the fact that he had to live under the shadow of his brother, resentful that he had to use his brother's name to get a hearing from believers. But Jude was not jealous or resentful. He was a true minister of God: he walked humbly among the believers of the world, humbly before God, ever so thankful that God had called him to serve His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, thankful for whatever call God gave him.

**Thought 1**. The true minister of God has two very basic traits.

1)  The trait of being the servant and slave of Jesus Christ. And remember: Christ means Messiah, the *Anointed One* of God, the Son of God whom God sent into the world to save men. This is the most basic belief of a true follower of Jesus Christ. Therefore, every true minister of the gospel makes this belief the basis of his life and ministry. He is a true minister because he is the servant and slave of Jesus Christ.

2)  The trait of humility. The true minister walks humbly among believers and before God. No matter how low God's call is to him, he is thankful for the very fact that God called him. He is, after all, the servant and slave who is available to do the bidding of his Master.

**Thought 2**. The fact that Jude was a brother of our Lord is glorious evidence that Jesus Christ is exactly who He claimed to be. It is touching when we realize that Jude had lived as the half-brother to Jesus for years. Day in and day out, hour by hour, month by month, and year by year Jude had played, eaten, worked, slept, and gone to school with Jesus. He had roamed the surrounding hills with Jesus as a boy and seen Him play with other children and relate to the neighbors and adults of their neighborhood. Jude had seen how his brother received and responded to adult instruction, teaching, and supervision. He had also probably seen Jesus take over the head of the household when their father, Joseph, had died.

**"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (**[**Mark 16:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+16%3A19)**).**

**"Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God" (**[**Luke 22:69**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+22%3A69)**).**

**"He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all" (**[**John 3:31**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A31)**).**

**"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (**[**Acts 2:36**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+2%3A36)**).**

**"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins" (**[**Acts 5:31**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+5%3A31)**).**

**"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (**[**Romans 10:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A9)**).**

**"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living" (**[**Romans 14:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+14%3A9)**).**

**"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (**[**1 Cor. 8:6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+8%3A6)**).**

**"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places" (**[**Ephes. 1:19-20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+1%3A19-20)**).**

**"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (**[**Phil. 2:6-11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+2%3A6-11)**).**

**"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing" (**[**Rev. 5:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+5%3A12)**).**

**2.** (v. 1-2) **Believers— Sanctified— Preserved— Called**: there is the picture of a true believer. Who were these believers? If Jude was writing to a particular church or group of churches, he does not name the church or churches. This points toward him writing to all the believers of the first century. Apparently the fact that Jude and James were brothers of the Lord Jesus Christ carried a lot of weight with the believers of their day. When they spoke, it made the believers stand up and take notice, for they had lived with Jesus day by day before His ministry and had experienced dramatic conversions from unbelief to staunch belief. This fact probably points to Jude writing to a wider audience. What he was writing was to be circulated among all the churches among all believers. In these opening words, Jude pictures just who a believer is. We can actually measure ourselves against his description and tell whether or not we are a believer.

1.  Believers are the "*sanctified*" (*hagios*). The sanctified person is a person who has turned away from sin and set his life apart to follow God. He is a person who is set apart unto God, a person separated from the world and its possessions and pleasures, a person who is dedicated to following God, a person who has given *all he is and has* to God. (See [Deeper Study #1, Sanctification—1 Peter 1:15-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00001270#link146) for more discussion.)

Note: the Greek text here is uncertain. Some have the word *beloved* instead of *sanctified*. That is, believers are *beloved* in God the Father. God holds them ever so close to His heart. They have accepted His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; honored Him by believing in Him. Therefore, God loves the believer with a very special love, the love that accepts the believer and gives him the right to live in God's presence forever and ever.

2.  Believers are "preserved in Jesus Christ." The word "preserved" (*tetērēmenois*[PWS: 3032](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=P\#3032: Preserved)) means to be kept; to be guarded and watched after. God keeps the believer, guards and watches over him. The believer is a person...

•  who is watched over by God.

•  who is guided and directed by God day by day.

•  who is strengthened by God to walk through all the trials and temptations of life.

•  who is protected from all the enemies of life, even death.

•  who is to be escorted into heaven quicker than the blink of an eye when the time comes for him to leave this world.

•  who is given life, both abundant and eternal.

•  who is given assurance of God's presence and love through all of life.

The true believer is a person who is preserved and kept by God. He is a person who is looked after and cared for by God. But note: it is *in Jesus Christ* that God keeps a person. The believer is a person who has placed his life into Jesus Christ; he is a person who is *trusting* Jesus Christ to save him. It is the true believer in Jesus Christ whom God preserves.

3.  Believers are the "*called*" (*kletois*). This means several things.

a.  It means that believers are the persons who have responded to the call of the gospel. God calls man to accept the gospel. He tugs and pulls at the heart strings, convicts and convinces man to accept Jesus Christ as His Son, but man has to respond to the call of God. God cannot make the decision for man. The believer is a person who has genuinely accepted the call of God. God summoned him, called him, and the believer responded. He became a believer, a person who truly believed in Jesus Christ.

**"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen" (**[**Matthew 20:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+20%3A16)**; cp.** [**Matthew 22:14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+22%3A14)**).**

**"Among whom [all believers] are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (**[**Romans 1:6-7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A6-7)**).**

**"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (**[**1 Cor. 1:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A2)**).**

**"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (**[**1 Cor. 1:23-24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A23-24)**).**

**"[God] who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (**[**2 Tim. 1:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+1%3A9)**).**

b.  It means that a believer has been called to be a *saint*, that is, to live a life of holiness. The word "saint" (*hagios*) means holy one or holiness. The believer is called to be holy and pure and righteous just as God is.

**"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints [holy ones]: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (**[**Romans 1:7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A7)**).**

**"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (**[**1 Cor. 1:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A2)**).**

**"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation" (**[**1 Peter 1:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A15)**).**

c.  It means that the believer is called to have a heavenly hope. He is called to an eternal hope, the hope of living forever with God. He is called to be perfected and conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ forever.

**"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling [the hope of eternal life]" (**[**Ephes. 4:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A4)**).**

**"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus" (**[**Hebrews 3:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A1)**).**

**"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (**[**Phil. 3:14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+3%3A14)**).**

d.  It means that the believer is appointed to a very special task and duty while on earth. He is called to serve Jesus Christ.

**"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God" (**[**Romans 1:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A1)**).**

**"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother" (**[**1 Cor. 1:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A1)**).**

**"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God" (**[**1 Cor. 7:20-24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+7%3A20-24)**).**

4.  The believer is a person who has received the mercy and peace and grace of God.

a.  He has received the mercy of God (see note, Mercy—•[2 John 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00010295#sp10074) for discussion).

b.  He has received the peace of God (see note, Peace—•[2 John 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00010311#sp10075) for discussion).

c.  He has received the grace of God (see [Deeper Study #1, Grace—2 John 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00010354#link453) for discussion).