

St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church-WELS

Sermon by Pastor A. Schultz
9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 21, 2013 Jude v. 24,25 NASB



24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

Homer was a month short of his 4th birthday when his brother Langley was born – Homer and Langley Collyer lived on 5th Avenue in New York City. Homer and Langley were collectors – compulsive hoarders we would call them today. The neighbors said they seldom saw the Collyer brothers but were sure they were collecting books, furniture, musical instruments and more! The brothers were not slow. They both attended Columbia University studying laws that applied on the open seas and engineering. They were creative and often worked on inventions – a vacuum to vacuum the inside of pianos and a Model T Ford adapted to generate electricity. What they really collected were newspapers and cardboard – huge bundles of newspapers and bundles of cardboard – so much so – that their huge house was packed with “things and stuff”. The brothers ate 100 oranges a week, plus black bread and peanut butter. They ate food that was out of code and being thrown out by grocery stores and restaurants – and used the money they saved to buy more stuff. They walked through the city scrounging “things and stuff”

they found on the curb. The brothers were also *not a little* paranoid. Teenagers used to throw stones at their windows – so they boarded them all up. Fearful that someone was going to sneak into their home and try to steal their stuff – so they set up booby traps – to crush them. When at last both brothers died – literally buried under *ball park 150 tons* of things and stuff their bodies were not discovered right away. How sad! How tragic! How painfully sad that people should die like that! God’s Word today – from the letter of Jude – reminds us that all that matters is the grace of God. All that matters is the mercy and forgiveness we have by grace through faith in the crucified and risen Christ! Today God’s word reminds us:

Glory, Majesty, Power and Authority to Jesus!

~~I. Jesus keeps us from stumbling~~

II. Jesus gives us great joy

Remember Jesus’ ½ brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas – *Jude*. Remember 1 & 2nd Peter, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John, *Jude* and Revelation. Remember overlap with 2 Peter chapter 2. Remember Apocryphal The Book of Enoch and The Assumption of Moses. Remember false teachers are like *wolves in sheep’s clothing*.¹² **These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm – shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted – twice dead.**¹³ **They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.**

God’s Word says, **“²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling...”** The Greek word means *not stumbling... standing firm, exempt from falling – especially of a horse!* If you were a small person back in **1933 – like 80 years ago – living near Detroit – you might have heard The Lone Ranger** – on the radio. If you are my age – or a little older – you were a small person

back in 1949 to 1957 – and had a big cabinet black and white TV – you probably watched The Lone Ranger on television. Clayton Moore was the Lone Ranger and Jay Silverheels was Tonto. There is a movie now – The Lone Ranger – that they say might be doing better at the box office – if there were more people my age – going to the movies! It's more than 2/3rd of the way through the movie – before the Lone Ranger riding his faithful horse Silver – goes riding – the William Tell Overture – the trumpets and French horns – the literal goose bumps on your arms – as the Lone Ranger rides to the rescue! Jesus keeps us from stumbling! He is the one who holds us up. He's the one who keeps you from falling. What set of grandparents hasn't taken hold of their grandchild – grandma on one side and grandpa on the other side – and when they get to the curb – or a pothole or a puddle – and they both lift – and their grandchild flies over the obstacle! They cannot stumble. They cannot fall! They are safe! The Lord Jesus keeps us from stumbling and falling. Remember when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph **Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.⁹ No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.¹¹ One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.¹² She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. Genesis**

39:6b and following. Jesus makes us strong – when we are tempted – to sometimes literally run away from painful sin and hurtful behavior!

²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, You don't see a lot of happiness – much less great joy in our world today. But what the **LORD calls us** to do – the **LORD enables us** to do. Think about Philippians chapter 4 ⁴ **Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!** ⁵ **Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.** ⁶ **Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** ⁷ **And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** Remember **Psalm 103 a psalm of the shepherd King David.** **Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.** ² **Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits –** ³ **who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,** ⁴ **who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,** ⁵ **who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.** ⁶ **The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.** ⁷ **He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:** ⁸ **The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.** ⁹ **He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;** ¹⁰ **he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.** ¹¹ **For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;** ¹² **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.** ¹³ **As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;** ¹⁴ **for he knows how we are formed, he**

remembers that we are dust. You don't have to walk around with a sappy insincere smirk on your face. But when you remember all the LORD's grace and goodness – there will be a peace and calm – a happiness – even joy in your heart because now is secure and your eternal future is secure for Jesus' sake. Bring that joy to your family life – joy to your work place – joy to your class at school – and it will be contagious for Jesus' sake.

...to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority,...glory! What does that mean to you – *glory*? To many people glory means to be recognized as the best – the greatest – to be judged the best in your field – perhaps in the whole world! Earthly glory doesn't last. Who won the Academy Award for the best picture of the year – say – 2 years ago? Do you know? **The Artist** – a French movie – the first French movie ever to win the Academy Award – the Oscar for best picture. The best actor – just 2 years ago – a **Frenchman named Jean Juardin!** Did you know that? He didn't have any lines in the whole movie – it was a silent movie – not without sound – there was lots of music – just no talking! Best Actress in 2008 just 5 years ago? **Kate Winslet** played the part of **Hanna Schmitz in The Reader**. Did you know that? Did you see that movie? Who won the Stanley Cup this year? Do you know? **The Chicago Blackhawks** – and so? Who won the World Series last year? Do you remember? The **San Francisco Giants beat the Detroit Tigers in just 4 games!** Who cares? Who won the most Grammy Awards ever – **21 of them? Stevie Wonder!** The fact is – as we learned this past week – you can be young and handsome and talented and gifted and popular – and still have terrible addictions to drugs and alcohol and die at age 31 all alone! Earthly glory doesn't last. It doesn't matter. Giving glory to your Savior who sacrificed his blood literally – will matter forever!

That's why we worship him together in church – and alone – whenever we want to. Glory be to Jesus – who is bitter pain – poured for me his lifeblood – on Good Friday!

...before all time and now and forever. Time – is an odd concept if you stop and think about it. Time! It was reported archeologists discovered a **lunar calendar in Scotland** the other day. It had parts and structures that suggested they understood the 12 lunar months. It was mistakenly reported this was a critical step by people toward the invention of measured time. That's simply wrong. God's Word tells us in the very beginning – when God said, **"Let there be light...it was evening, it was morning – the first day."** Again and again God created out of nothing – then filled what he had made – the sky was filled with the sun, the moon, the stars and planets – specifically – among other things – for keeping track of time – the seasons. The sea was filled with all sorts of creatures. The soil was filled with plants and covered with animals and insects – all sorts of things that creep on the ground. Again and again it was evening – it was morning another day. Finally on Saturday – the 7th day the LORD rested – stopped making new stuff. And because of that – Old Testament believers rested on Saturday. God invented time – not people! 60 seconds in a minute – 60 minutes in an hour – 24 hours in a day. 30 days in a month – sometimes 31 – once a year – February – shorter. Years, decades, centuries, millennia – all part of God's plan – until he takes us home to heaven when there will be what?

Timelessness – or endless time – which is what we would have had – if there wasn't Eve and Adam and the Fall into sin.

Eternity – *forever* – we will praise and thank the one true God!

When the Collyer Brothers died – police and workmen removed some 130 tons of garbage from their brownstone home. The brothers had thousands of dollars in the bank – equivalent

today to more than \$1 million. They also had some 25,000 books – many of them about engineering and medicine. They had human organs pickled in jars, 8 cats, 14 pianos – both grand and upright, a clavichord, 2 organs, banjos, violins, bugles, accordions and more. So much was so spoiled the house itself had to be knocked down and hauled away lest it become an even worse threat to public health. Where their house used to be – today there is what’s called a **pocket park** – a little city park the size of their home and the little bit of grass around it – a pocket park! What a powerful reminder that life is not about “things and stuff”! You can actually accumulate more than a million dollars and literally 150 tons of stuff – and when it’s all over – you end up with nothing – literally nothing! It’s all gone – all hauled away! What matters is your Savior – your Redeemer – with nail marks on his hands and feet – the spear wound scar to his heart. What matters – all that matters is Jesus’ forgiving love. That love will never fail. And all eternity will not be too long to thank and praise to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true. Amen!

To God alone all glory!

Pastor Anthony E. Schultz ||
