

THINGS WE MUST CONTINUE

Int.

1. Aim: To show that we must continue in some things.
2. "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;" 2 Tim.3:14
 - a. There are some things we should continue all our life.
 - b. Then there are other things we should cease. - "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Rom.6:1
3. There is a possibility of losing what we have -
 - a. Many warnings are found in the N.T. about the possibility of falling away.
 - b. No man, however well instructed in the things of God, or grounded, is out of the reach of temptation, apostasy, and final ruin.
 - c. There is the necessity of watching, depending upon God, continuing in the faith, and persevering unto the end.
 - d. Timothy needed to be exhorted to steadfastness, and so do we.
 - e. Several arguments are made by Paul, to press Timothy to the duty of perseverance in the doctrine of Christ,
4. Definition of the word Continue = abide, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry, persevere — to stay in the same place – to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):
5. In this lesson we will notice some things that the Bible says we should "Continue" !!

Discussion

I. ONCE IN THE TRUTH, WE ARE TO CONTINUE IN THE TRUTH

- A. John 8:31 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed;"
1. They were to continue in His word - John 17:17
 2. John 8:24-30 - They had heard Him
 - a. They now knew that He is God, and His Father is God
 - b. They now believed that He is the Son Of God
 - c. We must CONTINUE in His word to be true disciples
 - d. John 8:32 -TRUTH would free them from their sins
 3. WE are to hear, believe, and continue in the truth
 - a. Rom 10:17 - Our Faith comes by hearing the word
 - b. The Word is of a character to convince us of its authenticity and its authority and power
 - c. We must be responsible for the way we hear it, how diligently we study it, how eager we are to learn
 - d. Once we are believers, we too, must CONTINUE in His truth to be free from sin
 - (1) We must not allow doubt to rob us of our faith
 - (2) Likewise we must fight against discouragement
 - (3) We must know the truth and thus disregard all error as false and not worthy of acceptance
 - (4) We must test every position, every idea, by the Word

- B. Gal 2:5 "That the truth of the Gospel should continue with you"
1. V. 1-4 Paul is describing a spiritual battle with error
 - a. This was the reason for the trip to Jerusalem - Acts 15:1-2
 - b. The trip was caused by error being taught by some men who came from Judea to Antioch
 - c. Unless this battle is won by truth, they are going to be taught error on the subject of the Law and circumcision for Gentiles.
 2. The consequences of that error are worse than bad
 - a. Gal 1:7 The true gospel is perverted
 - b. Gal 3:1 They stop obeying the truth
 - c. Gal 3:10 The blessings in Christ would be replaced by the curse of the Law
 - d. Gal 4:16-17 They have decided that true teachers are their enemies, and desire the approval of those who teach error
 - e. Gal 5:3-4 They were fallen from the grace in Christ
 3. Likewise we want to see the truth we have tried to uphold continue with you, not mixed with any error at all
- C. CONTINUE in the doctrines you have learned - I Tim. 4:16- "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."
1. V. 13-15 - He was to READ, MEDITATE on the scriptures
 - a. This would produce SPIRITUAL GROWTH in His life
 - b. Others would discern this and be encouraged, helped by it
 - c. He would benefit himself and others if he continued in the true doctrine (teaching) of Christ

2. We, too must continue in this doctrine to grow, benefit
 - a. 1 Pet.2:2 -We will grow with the sincere milk of word
 - b. We must love, meditate, study, consider God's law
 - c. We must seek and exhibit spiritual growth
 - d. We must grow to teach others Heb 5:12-14- Ought to be
- D. Continue thou in the things thou hast learned - 2 Tim. 3:14 "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;"
1. He was pointed to the fact he had reason to have confidence in the source of that knowledge
 2. I don't ask that you have undue confidence in me, except as I have reliably taught what the Bible says
 3. Remember that our confidence lies not in men, but in the Word of God

II. CONTINUE IN GOD'S FAVOR

- A. Acts 13:43 "Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God."
1. God's grace is not found just anywhere, it is found only in His Son (I John 2:1-2)
He is the propitiation for our sins.
 2. But in His son, this grace requires obedience — I John 2:3-5 How else can we know we are in Him?
 3. Grace tells us how to live to obey (Tit 2:11-14)

B. Continue in His goodness - Rom 11:22 "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."

1. None of us can say we are not richly blessed of God
2. But some of God's blessings for us are conditional
3. The ones who fell saw God's severity, the obedient, goodness
4. We do not want to see the severity of God
 - a. Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing...
 - b. Heb 12:29 He is a consuming fire
 - c. II Thess 1:7-9 Fiery Vengeance

C. Continue in fellowship with the Father and Son - 1 John 2:24 "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father."

1. There is no more valuable association than this!
 - a. Sometimes it is good for a person to have good contacts
 - b. You can't beat these contacts!
2. We can lose this fellowship when we sin (I sa 59:1-2)
 - a. II John 9-11 When we transgress God's law
 - b. We DARE NOT practice religious lawlessness

III. CONTINUE IN THE FAITH

- A. They exhorted them to continue in the faith... Acts 14:21-22 - "And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, 22. Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."
1. That means there is a "Faith" to continue in...Everything is not OK with God! There are TRUE and FALSE DOCTRINES
 2. If exhortation was called for, it means they could LEAVE the Faith, and needed to be encouraged not to do so
 3. So, Likewise, we can leave The Faith, and are to be careful to CONTINUE in it.
- B. Col 1:21-23 - They had been reconciled, redeemed, forgiven, made unblamable, unreprouvable, holy in God's sight
1. This state of forgiveness, blamelessness, is needed by all of us—we'll be lost without it
 2. But notice that it is conditional on their CONTINUANCE
 - a. He didn't say, "So That ye should continue..."
 - b. He didn't even say "While you continue..."
 - c. He said, "IF ye continue..." V. 23
 3. Therefore continuing in the faith was important to them, and is important to us, because we value our souls

- C. They (man and woman) are to CONTINUE in... I Tim. 2:15 "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."
1. Faith--We are to Walk by faith, live by faith, let our faith rule our lives
 2. Charity—love We are to love our spouse, we are to love others, we are to love even our enemies
 3. Holiness—We are to avoid sin, avoid the appearance of sin, avoid the temptations sin can bring to us. A Holy person is devoted to God
 4. Sobriety—A seriousness, maturity about our thinking. We are not to be silly, light, careless about our lives and thoughts

IV. CONTINUE IN LOVE

- A. John 15:9 - Jesus' love—we are to love one another as He has loved us
1. This love is a determined good will for others, even if they do not wish us good
 2. Expressions of ill toward others, wishing them ill, are not fitting for a Christian
 3. We can often say things and do things to others which say to them, "I hope something bad happens to you" Let's avoid this!
 4. There is a good climate of love among brethren here— expressed in many little, thoughtful, kind, courteous ways. Let's see this love continue, and grow.
- B. Hebrews 13:1 - "Let Brotherly Love continue"
1. This includes a sense of family, of belonging, of belonging to one another
 2. It also includes the goodwill mentioned above

3. It is also "brotherly"—considerate, kind, thoughtful, concerned, holy, pure, loyal, true, genuine, etc.
4. We need to let brotherly love continue with us

CONCLUSION

1. These are things in which we are to continue:
 - a. Truth - Prov. 23:23 "Buy the truth, and sell it not"
 - b. God's Favor
 - c. Faith
 - d. Love
2. But to continue in the truth, God's favor, faith, and love, we must first be IN those things!
3. Why don't you obey the Gospel today so you, too, can be In the Way of Salvation!! Then continue.
4. Acts 2:42 "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
5. James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."
6. Heb. 13:14 "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."