

March 11, 2020

Continuing

Recently I started a personal Bible study through the book of Colossians. Colossians 1:23 says, “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven...” The word continue and its variations are found 195 times in scripture. The word continue itself is found 38 times. In II Timothy 3:14-15 Paul said to Timothy, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

The word continue has two distinct meanings. First it means to abide or remain in place for an indefinite period of time, to be steadfast or constant. Second it means to protract or extend, to draw out or persevere. In the context of Colossians 1:23, which definition do you believe God intended? The wording, ‘grounded and settled, and not moved away’ indicates steadfastness.

Notice that we are to continue in the faith. Continuance or steadfastness is important, but it is essential that we continue in the right thing. Sometimes I meet people who are continuing or abiding in the wrong things. They are determined not to be moved, in spite of the fact that they are being disobedient to God or not growing spiritually. What does Paul mean by the word faith? What was it that he preached and was a minister of? The answer is the gospel of Christ. Turn back and read Galatians 1:6-7. Paul was concerned that the believers would depart from the gospel that was preached unto them. In what ways might people today be guilty of not continuing in the faith or gospel of Christ?

May the Lord help us to live out I Corinthians 15:58, “...be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, foreasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”