



"CONTINUE IN THE FAITH"

"If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister" (Col. 1:23).

Christianity extends hope, security, and blessings to those who are "grounded and steadfast." The faith calls us to "continue" in it. Only then can we develop a firm standing through Christ. Each day we live is a test to either "continue in" or be "moved away" from the hope of the gospel.

The effect of continuing in the faith might be viewed as a firm foundation on which we build our life to withstand the storms of trouble (Matt. 7:24-27). It might be described as an "anchor for the soul," where its cables of hope ascend upward and are firmly fastened in heaven's table land (Heb. 6:19). Yet this *security* cannot be found in the one who does not *continue*. It cannot be seen in the one who is "...tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine..." (Eph. 4:14). This security is not seen in the one who "doubts" where his faith is seen, as *a wave driven in the wind* (Jas. 1:6). Neither the wave nor the wind defines the course of the one who continues in the hope of the gospel, for he chooses to not be moved away.

"Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace..." (Heb. 13:9). What is it exactly that can establish the heart in grace? "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). The one who is striving toward this security and stability is the one who chose to serve and honor the Lord yesterday with the saints and seeks such every time they meet (Heb. 10:25). The one who is building the sure foundation prioritizes his week that he may redeem the time in prayer and learn what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:16, 17). He is not a hearer only but a doer of the word and work (Jas. 1:22, 25). He will take care not to fall in one of the greatest snares of the soul—lethargy. Rather than becoming a hardened soil which produces thorns and briars that are useful only for the fire, he carefully cultivates his heart to take advantage of heaven's rain and strives to bear the fruit of heaven's herbs (Heb. 6:7, 8). The Bible presents a challenge to each of us every day of our lives. Where God is not unjust to forget our work and labor of love, we should not be unjust to forget His by becoming sluggish!

"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Heb. 6:10-12).

May God bless your faith with strength this week, and may your faith glorify His name.