

MARKS OF GODLY BELIEVERS  
PART 4—CONTINUING  
2 TIMOTHY 3:14

**Introduction**

In *verses 1-9*, Paul told Timothy that perilous times were on the horizon and then he described in great detail the characteristics of the things that would come!

In *verses 10-11*, Paul pointed Timothy to his own godly example that he had lived before Timothy as well as his example of enduring persecution!

In *verse 12*, Paul told Timothy that anyone and everyone who decided to live Godly in Christ Jesus would suffer persecution!

Then, in *verse 13*, Paul told him that things weren't going to get any better, but evil men and seducers were only going to get worse and worse!

In the face of this discouraging news, **Paul then challenged Timothy to “CONTINUE” in the things he had learned and been assured of!**

When we see the deterioration of our society around us happening just as Paul described, it is easy to get discouraged and wonder, “*What’s the use?*”

When we see how Believers in Christ are becoming more and more despised and people are more blatant and open in their opposition toward us, it is also easy to get discouraged and wonder, “*Why fight it?*”

When evil men and seducers are getting worse around us all the time, the easy thing to do is throw up our hands and quit!

But we shouldn't look for the easy way out, should we?  
God still has a purpose for us! God's plan has not changed!  
God still accomplishes great things through those who stay with it!  
God promises us the victory, but we must be obedient to Him!

Tonight, I want us to see **some things given in the New Testament that we are to CONTINUE in** if we are to be Godly Believers!

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**I. WE MUST CONTINUE IN GOD’S WORD!**

*John 8:31-32—“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye **continue in my word**, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

**“Continue”** there means **“to abide, to dwell, to endure, to tarry with occupation.”**

If we continue in God’s Word, that is what makes us Christ’s disciple!

If we continue in God’s Word, we will know the truth!

If we continue in God’s Word, the truth will make us free!

**II. WE MUST CONTINUE IN GOD’S LOVE!**

*John 15:9-11—“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **continue ye in my love**. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”*

That “*agape*” love means seeking the highest good for another!

If we are obedient to God, we will continue in His LOVE and we will abide in His love!

*Matthew 22:36-38—“36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.”*

If we continue in His LOVE we will know the fulness of His JOY!

**WE MUST CONTINUE IN GOD’S WORD...GOD’S LOVE...**

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III. WE MUST CONTINUE IN GOD'S GRACE!

*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.”*

**“Grace” means “unmerited benefit, favor, joyful liberality, good pleasure.”**

**We need to continue in God's GRACE because He is the God of all grace!**

*1 Peter 5:10—“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”*

**Continuing in God's grace means being under His influence and protection and relying on His sufficiency to supply our every need!**

*2 Corinthians 3:5—“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;”*

*John 15:5—“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*

IV. WE MUST CONTINUE IN THE FAITH!

*Acts 14:22-23—“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. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”*

**Faith is believing God and trusting Him!**

**We know that without FAITH it is impossible to please our GOD! (Hebrews 11:6)**

**But to continue in THE FAITH is more than just believing God! These Believers were commissioned to go out and they were charged to CONTINUE in THE FAITH!**

A. **“The Faith” Refers To The Doctrine Of Christ!**

1. **“The Faith” Is Said To Be “By Him” (Christ)! (Acts 3:16)**

*“Faith” means persuasion, that is, moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself:*

2. **“The Faith” Is Said To Be “In Christ”! (Acts 24:24-25; Philippians 3:9)**

B. **“The Faith” Refers To The Gospel Of Christ!**

*Acts 6:7—“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”*

1. **“The Faith” Is What Paul Preached! (Galatians 1:23)**

2. **“The Faith” Is How We Are Saved! (Galatians 2:16; 3:22-26)**

3. **“The Faith” Is Where We Received Our New Life! (Galatians 2:20)**

4. **“The Faith” Is Described As Being “Of The Gospel.” (Philippians 1:27)**

C. **“The Faith” Refers To The Word Of God! (Acts 13:6-8)**

1. **“The Faith” Is Linked With The Apostles Doctrine! (Acts 16:4-5)**

*1 Timothy 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.”*

*2 Timothy 3:14—“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;”*

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2. **Abraham Is Said To Have Had “The Faith.”**  
(Romans 4:3, 11, 16)

D. **What Are The Fundamentals Of “The Faith?”**

*I’m not going to spend a lot of time here because we looked at what makes up the Fundamentals Of The Faith when we recently went through the Book of Jude:*

By “*fundamentals*” we mean that which forms a foundation or basis; the basics; the essentials.

*Psalm 11:3—“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*

1. **The Verbal Inspiration Of The Scriptures.**  
(2 Peter 1:19-21)

*2 Timothy 3:16--“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

2. **The Vileness Of Mankind. (Romans 3:10-12, 23)**  
*Ecclesiastes 7:20—“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”*

*Isaiah 64:6—“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*

3. **The Virgin Birth Of The Saviour.**  
(Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)

*Isaiah 7:14—“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

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4. **The Virtuous Life Of The Saviour.**  
(Matthew 27:4, 19, 23, 24; Luke 23:41, 47; John 8:46, 18:38; 19:4, 6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26-27; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 2:1; 3:5)
5. **The Vital Deity Of The Saviour.**  
(Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1; 5:17-18; 8:58-59; 10:30-33)
6. **The Vicarious Suffering Of The Saviour.**  
(Isaiah 53:5-8, 11-12; Matthew 20:28; Romans 3:24-26; 5:6-10, 15-21; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 9:12-15; 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 3:18)
7. **The Valuable Blood Atonement Of The Saviour.**  
(Acts 20:28; Romans 3:25, 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12-14).
8. **The Victorious Resurrection Of The Saviour.**  
(Matthew 28:1-7, 18; Luke 24:44-48; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
9. **The Visible (And Imminent) Return Of The Saviour.**  
(Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18)

**Conclusion**

With evil men and seducers getting worse and worse, we must **CONTINUE!**

We must be like Daniel who was part of God’s remnant that was carried away into captivity by the evil Babylonian empire! What did Daniel do? Did he quit? No! **THE BIBLE SAYS HE CONTINUED! (Daniel 1:21)**

He continued through Nebuchadnezzar’s reign...he continued through Belshazzar’s reign...he through Darius’ (the Mede) reign...he continued even until the first year of Cyrus’ (the Persian) reign!