

Series: John
Title: If Ye Continue
Text: John 8: 30-31
Date: Aug 22, 2021
Place: SGBC, NJ

John 8: 30: As he spake these words, many believed on him. 31: Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; 32: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Christ is THE TRUTH. There is only one Truth. He said, “*You shall know THE Truth and the Truth shall make you free.*” Then in verse 36 he tells us who the Truth is that sets us free, “*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*”

John 14: 6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, THE TRUTH, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Christ—by his word—makes us free, “*as he spake these words.*” Christ gives spiritual life that we did not have before by his word. He draws us to cast all care on Christ, “*as he spake these words many believed on him.*” Some were not truly born of Christ’s word. But it is by Christ, by Christ’s word, by the Spirit of God that true believers are born of God. Christ makes us free by his Spirit and his Righteousness. Those Christ has made disciples indeed are free indeed. The result is they continue in Christ’s word. He said, “*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.*”

Subject: If Ye Continue

Proposition: Christ is not saying perseverance in faith makes us his disciples—but *the result* of Christ making us his disciples, making us free indeed, is that we shall continue to the end.

Those born of God and given faith to believe on Christ are made disciples indeed. They shall be kept in faith by God. Therefore we shall persevere unto the end resting in Christ alone by faith in him.

FAITH BELIEVES CHRIST IS ALL

Christ makes his own hear his word. We must hear Christ. We must be born-again by the incorruptible seed, which is the word of the Lord.

1 Peter 1: 23: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

When a new man is born of the incorruptible seed within a sinner then Christ has freed us from the dominion of our sin-nature by giving us spiritual life. We could not give ourselves spiritual life. No sinner can free himself from his sin-nature. But by creating a new man with, Christ frees us from our sin-nature giving us faith to believe on Christ.

Hebrews 11:6: Without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Without faith in Christ it is impossible to please God. Christ frees us to believe on Christ by giving us faith, making us willing to come to Christ believing on him by the power of our Lord.

What does true faith believe? We must *believe that HE IS*. The born-again believer, given faith by the gift of God’s grace, comes to God by faith in Christ believing Christ is the Son of God. We must believe that HE IS. Faith believes Christ is the great I AM.

Also, faith believes *that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him*. When made a true disciple of Christ, faith comes to Christ believing that Christ is the giver of Salvation. Faith believes Christ freed us from death by giving us life and salvation by his blood. Faith believes Christ is the rewarder of those that diligently seek him because Christ is the giver of Righteousness. He freed us from the curse and

condemnation of the law by giving or rewarding us free Righteousness, apart from our works. Faith believes Christ made us free from sin's curse and condemnation. Paul wrote "he that is dead is freed from sin." The word "freed" means justified from sin. All God's elect died in Christ on the cross freeing us from the curse and condemnation of sin.

Faith comes to Christ believing Christ is the giver (rewarder) who freed us from our sin-nature. He gave us the Spirit of Holiness by forming Christ the Life within us. He freed us from a guilty conscience by the blood of Christ purging our conscious from dead works to serve the living God.

Faith comes to Christ believing he is the giver of faith to walk by faith in Christ. "*The just shall live by faith.*" It is of Christ who gives faith and sustains faith all our days. He continues to keep us free by continually revealing himself in our hearts. Christ is the giver of this continued walk by faith unto the end.

Faith comes to Christ believe he is the giver of access to his throne of grace. We are free to come to his throne of grace to find grace to help in every time of need by Christ our High Priest.

Faith comes to Christ believing Christ is the giver of safety, of refuge. We are freed from the fear of ever being cast out. Faith must believe that he is, that Christ is All]. And faith believes that he is the rewarder [the giver of all aspects of salvation] to them that diligently seek him. Christ said,

John 3: 21: He that doeth truth cometh to the light that his deeds might be manifest that they are wrought in God.

Isaiah 26:12: LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

The believer's liberty is Christ HIMSELF. "*If the Son shall make you free ye shall be free indeed.*" Christ makes his child know himself and when we know HIM, "*ye shall know THE TRUTH and THE TRUTH shall make you free.*"

THE RESULT OF BEING MADE FREE

The result of Christ making us free, making us his disciple indeed, is that we continue living by faith in Christ. We continue in his word—the doctrine of Christ—unto the end. The "if" is not a condition that makes us disciples. He declares "if" we continue then it is because we have been made disciples indeed, the truth has made us free indeed.

Colossians 1: 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22: In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: 23: 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; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Christ makes us willing to never stop coming to Christ, persevering in faith unto the end. Christ said, "*if ye continue in my word, [it is because ye] are ye my disciples indeed.*" Perseverance in faith does not make us Christ's disciples; it is the result of Christ making us his disciples by making us free indeed. The proof of Christ making us his disciples is that we shall continue to the end. That is what the "if" means.

Hebrews 3: 5: And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6: But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Hebrews 10:38: Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39: But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Perseverance in the word is by the Unction—the Anointing of the Spirit who keeps us continuing in Christ's word beginning to end.

1 John 2: 18: Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. [in our text, our Lord was dealing with some who were anti-christ. John was there in John 6 when many who claimed to be his disciples went away and walked no more with Christ.] 19: They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would...have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20: But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22: Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23: Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (*but*) *he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also*. 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. 25: And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life. 26: These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. 27: But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 28: And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Our strength to persevere is the preserving power of God.

1 Peter 1:5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jeremiah 32:40: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

God's saints shall persevere because God promises by his word to never forsake us.

Psalms 94: 14: For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

Psalms 125: 1: They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. [why?] 2: As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever. (Ps 125:1-2)

Psalms 121:8: The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

By Christ we begin in faith—freed from our dead nature by his life-giving word. By Christ we continue in faith—preserved in and by Christ Jesus. Our gracious Redeemer continues to free us from all error and sin and anything that would turn us out of the way. By Christ we are kept to the end. It is Christ's covenant promise to the Father to save each one the Father entrusted to him in divine election. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shall not fail!

John 6: 39: And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40: And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day

John 10: 27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

This shall be said of all who Christ has made his true disciples. Those the Lord has made free in his person and by his work shall each have this one thing in common.

Hebrews 11:13: THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH...

The old testament saints all died in faith. So shall all those saved since Christ came.

Hebrews 11: 13: These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Jeremiah 32: 40: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

1 Corinthians 1: 8: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Philippians 1: 6: Being confident of this very thing, that HE which hath begun a good work in you WILL PERFORM *IT* UNTIL the day of Jesus Christ:

This is what our Savior meant when he said, “If ye continue in my word, are ye my disciples indeed.”

Amen!