

THINGS WE MUST CONTINUE IN

Ac.14:21,22

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Any and every journey or goal in life begins with the first step, whether it is to the grocery store, the ball park, or to heaven.
2. No journey or goal in life is completed until the last step is taken. Therefore, we must keep in mind at all times that to reach our ultimate goal in life it is never enough simply to start on that journey; we must continue our efforts toward our goal.
3. This is ever more important in our goal to reach heaven. Starting on the journey is necessary. But so also is our continued determination to finally reach heaven, the object of our desire.
4. We must begin the journey; we must also continue in that journey to its end, which biblically speaking means we must walk in or practice specific things in order to accomplish our goal.

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE BIBLE CLEARLY REVEALS HOW WE BEGIN OUR JOURNEY IN ORDER TO REACH HEAVEN AS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IN LIFE.

1. We begin by faith in Jesus Christ in obedience to the 1st principles of the gospel of Christ which is God's power to save sinners and prepare them for heaven.
2. Rom.1:16,17; Mk.16:15,16; 1Cor.1:21; 15:1,2.
3. Ac.2:21,36-41; Ac.9:5,6; 22:8-16.
4. 2Th.1:6-10; Rom.1:5; 16:25,26; 6:16-18.
5. This is how we are chosen of God unto salvation to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, or elect according to the foreknowledge of God in Christ, 2Th.2:13,14; 1Pet.1:1-5; Eph.1:1-7.
6. At that point we have only begun. Our journey must continue in faith. We cannot afford to put our hand to the plow and then look back, Lk.9:62.

B. IN ORDER TO COMPLETE OUR JOURNEY AND REACH OUR ULTIMATE GOAL, THE N.T. OFTEN SPEAKS OF THINGS BELIEVERS MUST CONTINUE IN AND OFTEN URGES US TO EVER DO SO.

1. We must continue in the faith, or the doctrine of Christ, Ac.14:21,22 (Examine briefly). See Col.1:21-23; Gal.1:23; 2:16; 1Tim.4:16; Heb.11:6. See 1Jno.5:1,4.
2. Believers must continue “steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking bread, and in prayers,” Ac.2:42. Cf. Mt.16:18,19; 18:18; Jno.20:22,23; Mt.28:18-20; 2Cor.5:17-20.
3. Believers must continue in the grace and or the goodness of God, Ac.13:43; Rom.11:22.
 - a. How? Rom.5:1,2; Tit.2:11-14; 3:4-8.
 - b. Cf. Rom.6:1,2,12,13,19-23.
4. Believers must continue in the word of Jesus, Jno.8:31,32; 12:48-50; Deut.18:18,19; Ac.3:19-23; Jno.17:7,8,18,20,21; Jno.12:48-50; 1Jno.2:24,25; Heb.5:8,9; 2Jno.9-11; 2Tim.3:12-17. Cf. Jno.17:3; 1Jno.2:3-6.
5. Believers must continue in the love of Jesus, Jno.15:9.
 - a. How do we do that? Jno.15:10; 14:15,21,23,24; 1Jno.5:3.
6. For believers to be blessed they must look into and continue in the perfect law of liberty, being doers of the word, Jas.1:18-25.
7. Believers must continue in prayer, Rom.12:12; Eph.6:10-18; Col.4:2; 1Th.5:17; Ac.2:42.
8. Believers must continue in well doing, Rom.2:2,6,10; Gal.6:7-9; 1Pet.4:17-19; 2Cor.6:17-7:1. Cf. Jno.5:28,29.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Let us ever cultivate the attitude and practice of the Apostle Paul he expressed in Phil.3:13-16.
2. Let us heed the admonition of Heb.3:14; 10:35-39.
3. Let us ever do as Peter directed in 2Pet.1:5-15 in order to make our “calling and election sure.”
4. It is still salvation by grace through faith; it’s conditional, but un-earned Cf. Lk.17:10.
5. Remember 1Cor.10:13; Jas.1:12.