



“Keep to It”

“Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.” 2 John 1:8

A. John’s encouragement to continue...

“How happy I was to meet some of your children and find them living according to the truth, just as the Father commanded.” Vs 4

1. John’s encouragement is consistent with his words in the Gospel of John.

“Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, ‘You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings.’” John 8:31

2. Jesus’ words to His disciples encouraged them to remain...or abide in Him.

“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.” John 15:9

Remaining is evidenced by:

- a. Believing in Jesus
- b. Receiving His Spirit
- c. Producing fruit
- d. Living a vital life
- e. Walking in obedience

3. John’s encouragement is consistent with Scripture.

“So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.” 1 John 2:24

“But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.” 2 Timothy 3:14

“But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don’t drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God’s servant to proclaim it.” Colossians 1:23

“Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.” 1 Timothy 4:16

4. So...keep to it!

“Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.” Hebrews 13:1

- a. Love is commanded!
- b. Love is modeled!

“Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.

Love doesn’t strut,

Doesn’t have a swelled head,

Doesn’t force itself on others,

Isn’t always ‘me first,’

Doesn’t fly off the handle,

Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn’t revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 The Message

B. John emphasizes the importance of the truth...

“I am writing to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in the truth- as does everyone else who knows the truth- because the truth lives in us and will be with us forever.” Vs 1b

1. Jesus is truth.

“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6

2. Jesus gave us the Spirit of truth by the Holy Spirit.

“But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about Me.” John 15:26

3. The Holy Spirit will guide us to truth.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.” John 16:13

4. Jesus prayed for us to know His Word as truth.
“Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth.” John 17:17

5. His truth will set us free.

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

6. We worship in truth...and spirit.

“For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

C. John warns against deceivers...

“I say this because many deceivers have gone out into the world. They deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist.” Vs 7

1. Times have not changed...there are still deceivers amidst us.

“Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.” 1 John 4:1

2. Even though we love, there are times for boundaries in our lives.

“If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don’t invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement.” Vs 10

3. John continues his warning against false teachers in Revelation.

“But I have a few complaints against you. You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin. In a similar way, you have some Nicolaitans among you who follow the same teaching. Repent of your sin, or I will come to you suddenly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” Revelation 2:14-16

4. When you fail to take a stand against false teachers, you become a partner in evil and judgment awaits.

“Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work.” Vs 11

D. Keep to it...

“Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.” Vs 8

1. Keep in His Word daily.

“The very practice of reading [the Bible] will have a purifying effect upon your mind and heart. Let nothing take the place of this daily exercise.”

-Billy Graham

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right,”

2 Timothy 3:16

2. Keep your focus on Jesus and those who are consistently following His word.

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.” Hebrews 12:2a

“And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1

3. Always stay alert to false teaching. All truth should be consistent throughout Scripture.

“But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves.” 2 Peter 2:1

4. Allow the Spirit to guide, along with those whose lives demonstrate a godly lifestyle.

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.”

Romans 8:14

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13

5. Continue to walk in obedience and the Spirit will continue to guide.

“Grace, mercy, and peace, which come from God the Father and from Jesus Christ—the Son of the Father—will continue to be with us who live in truth and love.” Vs 3

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202

Next Week: Love God/Love People

“Choose Your Examples Well” 3 John