

# Encouragement of God's Word

[Colossians 2:6-7](#)

"Continue in Christ" – June 6, 2021



## Introduction

Have you ever started something and not finished it? We often start something and fail to continue with it. Praise God, He is not like us. He never starts something without finishing it. That's why He calls us to do the same. We must strive to continue in the faith. We need to be encouraged and instructed on how to keep going and thankfully God gives us what we need in His word.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- I. The call to continue with Jesus.
- II. The Jesus we continue with.
- III. The ways to continue with Jesus.

## Read & Discuss

Read [2:6-7](#)

In the call to follow Jesus we can't just start the right way, we have to finish the right way. There is no credit given for the person who starts a race and abandons it before it's over. Paul often warns and spurs followers of Christ on when referencing those who have fallen away. This is not a new problem, but a very human one. Do you feel like you may be drifting away from the faith? Is your love for Christ growing steadily or becoming colder ever so slightly? The good news is, Christ empowers us to continue the race. We should pray for one another as Paul did in [Colossians 1:9](#) that we would be "filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord". Are you asking God for His help as you walk in a manner worthy of His great name? Are you praying for others in our church body to continue the race well? Take some time this week and pray for and encourage a brother or sister in your church. Encourage one another!

As Christians we are called to repent and believe continuously as we go throughout our lives. We are to be marked by humility. We know we deserved God's wrath, but He showed us grace upon grace. The only true discipleship is a continuous discipleship. Church, we can't let our guard down. Walking with Jesus is walking in the light and anything else is walking in the darkness. Are you walking in the light? Are there areas in your life that you prefer to keep out of the light? Read [1 John 1:5-7](#). Yet, the good news is that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us and not just forgive us, but cleanse us from all unrighteousness ([1 John 1:9](#)). Praise God we serve one who doesn't hold anything against us when we come to Him, but opens His arms wide to us as a loving father would his son.

Are you aware there is ongoing opposition to you following Jesus? Is your guard up? God wants us to be aware and to be on guard. This can come in all different forms. Paul warns

the church in [2:4](#) that this can also come as plausible or sound arguments. He says, these things can seem to make sense to us. Our faith can be deluded by things that seem “reasonable” but are not in step with who Christ is. We need to be aware that we are surrounded by themes of this world that try to seduce us from Jesus. These come from all sides of the fence. What are some things you see pulling your attention away from knowing Jesus more and loving Him with all of your heart, soul and mind and loving your neighbor as yourself? If you have a hard time seeing it, maybe its because it seems “plausible” to you. Ask a friend in the church to be honest with you if they ever see something creeping up in your life that is taking away your affection for Christ and His mission. If we walk in something besides Jesus, we are saying there is something better than Jesus which couldn't be further from the truth.

This onslaught of temptation and seduction can seem overwhelming, but as we try to walk in step with Christ, we have help in Him. The same Jesus who purchased, who created all things, and sustains all things is the same Jesus who keeps us until the end if we come to Him. Are you making it a habit of going to Jesus with your needs? What does your prayer life look like? Christ should govern how we “walk” and we know how to walk because He has given us His word. Are you putting yourself out there and experiencing the fellowship of the saints or are you living your life in isolation of other believers? The way we walk should never be governed by how we feel, or what we think, or what someone says, but by what the Bible says. This assumes we know the Bible. This takes work. We have to be diligent and make a plan to know His word. Are you reading your Bible regularly? These may seem like basic questions, but often times the basics are most crucial to persevering and continuing in the faith. Christ's word should govern every move that we make and He has given us his help and the tools to continue in one another, in His word, and by His spirit.

As Christians we should be rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith, just as we are taught, abounding in thanksgiving. What about you? Are you marked by thanksgiving? As someone close to you this week if they see your life as marked by thanksgiving in Christ. We should be overflowing in contentment in Christ. We should never be marked by hearts that are grasping after the fleeting “treasures” of this world, but be marked by people who are overwhelmed and overjoyed by the majesty of our Saviour.

**Additional Reading:** [Revelation 2:4](#), [1 Timothy 1:19](#), [Galatians 1:16](#), [Psalm 84](#), [Psalm 1](#), [Luke 8:13](#), [Jude 1:20-21](#)

### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

**\*Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Psalm 73](#) “Why Do Good Things Happen to Bad People?”