

Persist

“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers” (1 Timothy 4:16).

The word of the day is “persist.” But let’s not just make it a word for today, but one for every day! To persist means to continue in something even when facing great opposition. It is getting knocked down seven times but still getting up to try again (Proverbs 24:16). Persistence is striking out three times in a row but still swinging for the fences in your fourth at-bat... Persistence can be found in the widow who finally won her case with the judge and caused him to say: “I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming” (Luke 18:5). Persistence was demonstrated when Blind Bartimaeus was told to tone it down a notch when Jesus walked by but rather yelled out even more and said: “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” (Mark 10:47). And persistence is what you and I need in our faith as we live and have our being in this fallen world.

If we are going to be people who persist, we must overcome the tides of the throwaway society that we live in... Whether it be a marriage, a job, or sadly even a life, the current culture seems to encourage quitting when the going gets tough. As I look back at my personal life there have been a handful of things I have given up on that I wish I hadn’t of... And so please know that I am by no means perfect at living out this concept of “persistence...” But I do know that persisting usually has better benefits than quitting... And so, as heaven-bound pilgrims marching through a weary land we must persist!

Paul instructed Timothy to persist in his teaching and even more so in his holy living. As Christians, we must through the mercies of God strive to “keep a close watch” on our everyday lifestyle. The reason for this is not only for our spiritual growth in the Lord Jesus but for those who may be watching our lives... To persist in godly speech, conduct, character, and seeking to develop holy habits we not only take strides in the faith, but we help those around us take steps in the faith as well... And this is all the more a reason to be persistent in godliness!

Now before you go grit your teeth and pull up your bootstraps and be a mighty person who persists... Please know that you are going to need help! You are going to need the power of Christ at work within you. You are going to need Christian brothers and sisters surrounding you and encouraging you along the way. There will be days that you will want to drop the word “persist” out of your vocabulary. You are going to face opposition from others... The devil will bring defiance against you... There will be times of great weakness and the temptation to be like the world... But don’t quit, PERSIST! Look to Jesus! Lean upon His everlasting arms! Rest in His grace and let Him carry you across the finish line!

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis