

1 John 2:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. John exhorts believers to hold fast to apostolic teaching. "Let that therefore abide in you" (hymeis ho ēkousate ap' archēs, en hymin menetō)—the imperative "let...abide" (menetō) commands active retention of truth. "Which ye have heard from the beginning" (ho ēkousate ap' archēs) refers to original apostolic gospel proclaimed when they first believed. "From the beginning" (ap' archēs) establishes this truth's authority—not innovation but original revelation through Christ and His apostles.

"If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you" (ean en hymin meinē ho ap' archēs ēkousate)—the conditional assumes fulfillment (third-class condition suggesting strong likelihood). "Shall remain" (meinē) indicates ongoing, settled abiding. The truth must not merely be heard but internalized, retained, believed, and practiced. It must shape thinking, affections, and conduct.

"Ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father" (kai hymēis en tō huiō kai en tō patri meneite)—the future "shall continue" indicates certain result. Abiding in apostolic truth ensures continuing in relationship with Father and Son. Meneite (continue, abide, remain) promises settled, permanent relationship. This is mutual abiding: believers abide in truth, truth abides in them, and both abide in the

Father and Son. Perseverance in truth secures perseverance in relationship with God.

Historical Context

The appeal to "from the beginning" (ap' archēs) anchored authority in apostolic witness against innovative teachings. The Gnostics claimed progressive revelation, secret traditions, and mystical insights unavailable in original apostolic teaching. John counters: the truth you first heard contains everything necessary. Additional revelation contradicting apostolic gospel is false, however sophisticated or spiritually impressive.

The early church developed the concept of apostolic tradition—faithfully handing down what was received from apostles. Irenaeus combated Gnosticism by appealing to churches founded by apostles, maintaining original teaching. The *regula fidei* (rule of faith) summarized apostolic teaching, providing standard against which innovation was measured. What was believed "from the beginning" defined orthodoxy; departures defined heresy.

The Reformation principle of *sola scriptura* applied John's exhortation: Scripture alone (the apostolic witness in written form) is final authority. Medieval tradition adding to or contradicting apostolic teaching was rejected. The Reformers called the church back to "what you heard from the beginning"—the gospel of grace through faith in Christ alone. Ongoing renewal requires returning to apostolic foundation, letting that abide and shape all else.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can you ensure that apostolic truth (Scripture) truly abides in you rather than merely being externally acknowledged?
2. What practices help apostolic truth remain active and formative in your thinking and living?
3. How do you discern between legitimate application of apostolic truth to new contexts versus innovative teaching contradicting original gospel?

Interlinear Text

ὑμεῖς οὖν ὅ ἡκούσατε ἀπ' ἀρχῆς ἐν
ye that therefore that which have heard from the beginning in
G5210 G3767 G3739 G191 G575 G746 G1722

ὑμῖν μενεῖτε ἐὰν ἐν ὑμῖν μενεῖτε ὅ ἀπ'
you Let If in you Let that which from
G5213 G3306 G1437 G1722 G5213 G3306 G3739 G575

ἀρχῆς ἡκούσατε καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐν τῷ υἱῷ καὶ ἐν
the beginning have heard also ye in G3588 the Son also in
G746 G191 G2532 G5210 G1722 G5207 G2532 G1722

τῷ πατρὶ μενεῖτε
G3588 the Father Let
G3962 G3306

Additional Cross-References

John 14:23 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

1 John 4:13 (Parallel theme): Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

1 John 4:16 (Parallel theme): And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Revelation 3:3 (Parallel theme): Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

1 John 2:7 (Parallel theme): Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

1 John 1:3 (Parallel theme): That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

John 15:7 (Parallel theme): If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Revelation 3:11 (Parallel theme): Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Colossians 3:16 (Parallel theme): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 119:11 (Parallel theme): Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.