

# Colossians 1:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

## Analysis

**If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.** The conditional "if ye continue" (ei ge epimenete, εἴ γε ἐπιμένετε) doesn't introduce doubt but tests authenticity. Genuine believers persevere; apparent believers who apostatize reveal they never truly belonged (1 John 2:19). Perseverance evidences salvation; it doesn't earn salvation.

"Grounded and settled" uses architectural metaphors: *tethemeliōmenoi* (τεθεμελιωμένοι, "founded on foundation") and *hedraioi* (έδραιοι, "firmly seated"). Mature faith rests on solid foundation—Christ and apostolic teaching—not shifting sand of subjective experience or philosophical novelty. "Not moved away from the hope" (mē metakinoumenoi apo tēs elpidos, μὴ μετακινούμενοι ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος) warns against doctrinal drift promoted by false teachers.

Paul appeals to the gospel's universality—"preached to every creature which is under heaven"—validating its authenticity through widespread acceptance. Localized heresies claiming special revelation cannot match the gospel's universal spread accomplished in one generation without modern communication. Paul's personal testimony ("whereof I Paul am made a minister") adds apostolic weight: this isn't secondhand tradition but divinely revealed truth.

## Historical Context

---

By AD 60, the gospel had reached throughout the Roman Empire and beyond—from Spain to India according to tradition. This explosive expansion in hostile circumstances testified to divine power, not human ingenuity. Paul contrasts this universal, publicly proclaimed gospel with the heretics' secret knowledge available only to spiritual elites. Truth spreads; error requires obscurity.

## Related Passages

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

---

1. What evidence exists in your life that you're continuing in faith rather than drifting from the gospel's hope?
2. On what foundation is your faith built—Scripture and apostolic teaching, or subjective experiences and contemporary innovations?
3. How do you evaluate new teachings—by popularity and appeal, or by conformity to the gospel you first received?

## Interlinear Text

---

εἴγε ἐπιμένετε τὸν πίστει τεθεμελιωμένοι καὶ  
If ye continue and which in the faith grounded and  
G1489 G1961 G3588 G4102 G2311 G2532

έδραῖοι καὶ μὴ μετακινούμενοι ἀπὸ τὸν ἐλπίδος  
settled and be not moved away from and which the hope  
G1476 G2532 G3361 G3334 G575 G3588 G1680

τὸν εὐαγγελίου οὗ ἡκούσατε τὸν κηρυχθέντος  
and which of the gospel whereof ye have heard and which was preached  
G3588 G2098 G3739 G191 G3588 G2784

ἐν πάσῃ τὸν κτίσει τὸν ὑπὸ τὸν  
to every and which creature and which which is under and which  
G1722 G3956 G3588 G2937 G3588 G5259 G3588

οὐρανόν οὗ ἐγενόμην ἐγὼ Παῦλος διάκονος  
heaven whereof am made I Paul a minister  
G3772 G3739 G1096 G1473 G3972 G1249

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Hebrews 3:14** (Creation): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

**Hebrews 3:6** (Hope): But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

**Hebrews 10:38** (Faith): Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

**Galatians 6:9** (Parallel theme): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**Ephesians 3:17** (Faith): That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

**Acts 14:22** (Faith): Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

**Romans 10:18** (Parallel theme): But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

**Hebrews 6:19** (Hope): Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

**1 Thessalonians 3:5** (Faith): For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

**Ephesians 1:18** (Hope): The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)