

From Childhood

Introduction

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

2 Timothy 3:14-15 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1. All children need to really look at and examine this text of scripture.
 - A. It's school time. There's lots to do: homework, sports, extra activities. Must also "do" Bible Lessons too and not neglect them.
 - 1) This is a good text for all children. Young people need to look at these simple points.

Must Continue

1. There is a "must" which means there is no other way to be right with God.
2. "Continue" suggests at times to "be strong," "endure," but in context along with that we can see a "beginning" or a "starting point" for Timothy with regards to some things Paul says.

"Continue" in the Things You've Learned

- 1. The word "learned" means to "increase in knowledge."**
 - A. Just how much have young people "learned?"**
 - B. Our goal is to:**
 - 1) Instill Morals.**
 - 2) Protect Against False Doctrine.**
 - 3) Teach About Christ's Church which is not a human denomination.**
 - C. With regards to "morals" we expect the young to see the difference between what the Bible teaches and what young people often do.**
 - 1) Language; telling the Truth; Sex. We want the young to keep their standards high. To act "wise" for their age. To be able and willing to "warn" and "rebuke" peers. Choose friends wisely.**

“Continue” in the Things You’ve Been Assured of

1. The word “assured” comes from the word “faith” and means “to trust.”
2. Timothy had seen and experienced many things that had given him this “guarantee” that the Gospel would save him and others who obeyed.
 - A. Sometimes this “assurance” or “guarantee” is likened to a “title deed” you can carry in your hand after you buy or purchase something. Some of the things that helped Timothy are mentioned here and some elsewhere:

1) There’s God’s Word.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2) His Family “who believed.” (Acts 16:1 – when Paul chose Timothy)

Acts 16:1-3 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him.....

3) The Church. When Paul took Timothy he was well known by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium, (Acts 16:2).

- 4) **There was Paul himself. Paul was someone older in Timothy's life besides family who believed and who he could look up to and respect. When he was afraid, weak, needed encouragement, he'd have Paul as an example.**
- 5) **Timothy was a preacher and when he needed not to be ashamed of the Truth he'd have Paul.**

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore **do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord**, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

- 6) **You can see that there would be times when he'd "look back" to his childhood and from childhood there had been:**
 - a) **The Scriptures.**
 - b) **Family Who Believed.**
 - c) **The Church.**
 - d) **And as a young man there was Paul in his life. Someone besides family who believed whom he could depend upon and imitate.**

2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words **which you have heard from me**, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:10-11 But **you have carefully followed my doctrine**, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra-- what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

- 1) **It's good for the young to have someone they can look up to and try to imitate.**

Knowing from Whom You Learned Them

1. Of course there was Paul just as we read in 2 Timothy 1:13.

2. But before Paul who was there?

2 Timothy 1:5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

A. He had a grandmother, Lois and mother, Eunice. Lois and Eunice perhaps were early converts to the faith.

1) What kind of faith did they have? "Genuine." They weren't the kind of church member who dropped in and out according to whatever temptation or lust or trial might come their way.

From Childhood You Have Known the Scriptures

1. That shows you can know them as a child.

2. Most young people do know some scriptures.

A. The young know about God, the Creator.

B. The young know about the World, His creation.

C. The young know about Christ, His Son.

D. The young know about the Bible, His Word.

E. The young know about Morals.

F. The young know about the Church. The One Body with Christ as its head. That it is not a human denomination.

Which Are Able to Make You Wise for Salvation

1. The word “wise” means cunning much like the Devil was when he tempted Eve.
2. But this is wise in the sense of:

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Psalms 119:98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

Through Faith Which Is in Christ Jesus

1. Timothy was a Christian; Young people that are not yet Christians, must know that the church is working to help them become Christians.
2. Let's review those things necessary in order for one to KNOW THE SCRIPTURES which will lead one to become a Christian. We will look at some things that are needed to “Do” and “Not Do.”

2 Timothy 2:15

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Ephesians 3:3-4 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

A. To learn the Bible or the class lesson, it has to be read.

- 1) Compare the time one spends watching TV or games, or recreational things to reading the Bible and doing Bible lessons.

a) Learn to “search” for the answer.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

- B. Come to class equipped. Bring your Bible, Lesson Book, Notebook to church.**
- C. Know the difference between “attendance” and “attentive” i.e. being there with the proper attitude.**
- D. DO NOT leave your lesson book behind – then it is never done.**
- E. DO put the book at home where YOU can find it.**
- G. DO the lesson at least one or two days in advance.**
- H. DO go over the lesson with parents if possible.**

Conclusion

- 1. Yes, Paul told Timothy “You must continue...”**
- 2. Young People are encouraged to “continue” in those things that will make for a “strong,” “zealous” Christian!**
- 3. Parents need to encourage their children to be strong and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and let them first see the strength and knowledge coming from their heros, we parents!**

Place

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Richard Thetford, February 1997 – Reworked December 2025 (Based on an email by Bob Lovelace)