

# Colossians 1:21-23

## “Perseverance OR Passivity???” Part 1

### Introduction

*Matthew 13:18-23 -*

*2 Timothy 4:10a - “...Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me...”*

*Hebrews 3:12-14 - “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end...”*

*Colossians 1:21-23 - “And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach - if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.”*

*1 John 2:19 - “They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.”*

*Philippians 2:12 - “...my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling...”*

Note: Persevering in the faith, following Christ, is part of working \_\_\_\_\_ (not working \_\_\_\_\_) our salvation.

*Philippians 2:13 - “...for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*

Note: God’s children CAN persevere because \_\_\_ is at work in them!

### I. How to Persevere and Win Your Race

1. \_\_\_\_\_ on Eternity.

*Hebrews 9:27 - “...it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”*

*John 5:25-27 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”*

*1 Corinthians 3:10-15 -*

*Psalms 73:1-28 -*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ God.

*Proverbs 1:17 - “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...”*

**Psalm 2:11-12** - *“Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling...*

- 1) Get out in \_\_\_\_\_ . **Romans 1:20** -
- 2) Study the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. **1 Timothy 1:17** -

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Worthless Worldly Wisdom.**

**Ecclesiastes 12:12** -

**Proverbs 16:25** - *“There is way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”*

**John 14:6** - *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

**2 Corinthians 10:5** - *“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...”*

**1 Corinthians 3:18-20** -

Note: Deception is everywhere! Worthless worldly wisdom is an epidemic and it's in the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **the Scriptures.**

**John 17:17** - *“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”*

**Isaiah 66:2** - *“But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”*

5. \_\_\_\_\_ **on Christ.**

**John 6:35** - *“I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”*

**John 15:5** - *“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

**Matthew 11:28-30** - *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

**John 15:11** - *“These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”*

1. Re-read Hebrews 3:12-14 and Colossians 1:21-23. Why is perseverance and continuing in the faith so important? What is at stake?
2. What does Philippians 2:12-13 teach us about our responsibility and about the work of God?
3. Why must we focus on eternity? What are some of the dangers we face if we do not focus on eternity?
4. What does it mean to “fear God” and why is that the beginning of wisdom?
5. Why is worthless worldly wisdom so deceptive and so tempting to believe? How do we overcome the lies and deception of worthless worldly wisdom?
6. What does it mean to “feast on Christ”? How can we practically do that daily? Are you doing that?