

Here, the Apostle Paul tells the Church pastor Timothy to "continue" or "keep going," in what he has learned, both from the Apostle Paul himself AND from God's Holy Scriptures, and not to deviate from the course set for the kingdom.

To continue living and teaching according to what we have been taught and according to God's Holy Scripture, we **MUST KNOW** what the Church teaches and what is in God's inspired word, the Bible!

Spiritual Self-Examination Questions for Leaders:

- How well do I know the teachings of the *Living Church of God*?
- Do I know the **biblical reasons** behind our Church doctrines?
- Do I "own" our teachings? In other words, have I proven these teachings so clearly from the Bible that when the "winds of doctrine blow" I will not be shaken and will **HANG ON** to these teachings?
- When someone asks me, how clearly can I explain or defend what the Bible and God's Church teach?

III. Studying and Knowing Scripture and Church Doctrine

1 Peter 3:15—Be *always* ready to give a defense to everyone who asks, for the hope that lies within you.

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

Acts 17:11—The Bereans searched the scriptures **daily**—and so must leaders in God's Church today.

Do you do *meaningful, daily, Bible study*—for more than just 5 or 10 minutes? If not, work to adjust your daily schedule so that this goal *will* become a reality.

1 John 2:24—Let that which you heard from the beginning abide in you.

2 Thes 2:1-3—"...we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means..."

v. 15—Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2 Thes 3:6—But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which they received.

2 Tim 1:13—Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me.

Critical Questions to Ask Yourself:

- Am I familiar enough with Church doctrines and policies that I feel comfortable not only supporting and living by them, but also defending them when/if necessary?
- Have I read and am I familiar with all of the Church booklets and *Bible Study Course* lessons?
- Do I regularly read and review all of the articles published in the *Living Church News* and the *Tomorrow's World* magazine?
- Do I carefully read all of the *Brethren and Co-worker* letters?
- Am I keeping up with the *Tomorrow's World* telecast weekly?

IF we are not *well versed* in Church teachings, as well as how Church teachings fit with the Bible, we cannot be a strong leader in God's Church. Additionally, we cannot lead by example, if we are not doing our part to keep on top of the abundance of tools and materials that the Church produces.

Group Question: What lessons have you learned, that now help you to study the Bible and Church publications more regularly?