

Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

Salvation, Part 5: Perseverance of the Saints Lesson 9

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
July 29, 2018*

Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

- ▶ Truth is the means for the work of God within us (John 17:17)
- ▶ The Bible – Exclusive, Inerrant, Infallible
- ▶ The Trinity – The One True God
- ▶ Creation – God the Creator – His power and wisdom
- ▶ Salvation – the work of the three Persons of the one True God

Doctrine of Salvation

T	<u>Total depravity</u>	– the sinner
U	Unconditional election	– The Father
L	Limited atonement	– The Son
I	<u>Irresistible grace</u>	– The Holy Spirit
P	Perseverance of the saints	– the saint

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Total Depravity

- ▶ An impossible situation
- ▶ Dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)
- ▶ Under condemnation (John 3:36)
- ▶ Incapable of understanding spiritual realities (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- ▶ Unable to open the book or read (Isaiah 19:10-12)
- ▶ A pile of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-4)
- ▶ Unable to obey or please God (Romans 8:6-8)
- ▶ An inherited condition – from Adam (Romans 5:12)

Unconditional Election

- ▶ Chosen before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)
- ▶ Chosen from the beginning for salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)
- ▶ Predestined for glory (Romans 8:28-30)
- ▶ Plan A, not Plan B

Limited Atonement

- ▶ Particular or Definite – for a particular population who will be saved
 - Limited by the will of God as to who would be delivered from sin
 - Universal Atonement is limited by the will of man
- ▶ Died to sanctify those for whom He died (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- ▶ Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep (John 10:11, 15-16; 25-30)

Irresistible Grace

- ▶ The work of the Holy Spirit to bring the sheep to salvation
 - Power of God – ineffective resistance – efficacious – inevitable for the elect
- ▶ Teaching illustrations
 - New birth (John 3:3-8)
 - Creation (2 Corinthians 4:6)
 - Make something from nothing (Romans 4:17)
 - Regeneration (Titus 3:5)
 - Quicken – make alive (Ephesians 2:1-8)
- ▶ Initiated by the “call” of God – effective call v. general call

Is There Eternal Security?

“Is it possible for sincere Christians, truly regenerated persons, to be finally separated from Jesus, to lose the favour of God their Father, and be eternally shut out from His smile and Home?” William O’Neill (1861)

- ▶ Preservation of the Saints – preserved by God
- ▶ Perseverance of the Saints – continue to live by faith

The Preservation of the Saints

▶ John 10:26-30

- Faith only present in “My sheep”
- My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me
- I give My sheep eternal life . . . never perish . . . none can snatch them from My hand
- My Father, greater than all . . . none can snatch them from His hand
- I and the Father are one

▶ Philippians 2:12-13

- Brethren exhorted to work out their salvation with fear and trembling
- God is at work in you to will and to do His good pleasure
- Philippians 1:6 – God will continue His good work until the end

▶ Jude 24-25

- He is able to keep us from falling and present us faultless before His presence
- Glory, majesty, dominion, authority to God before time, now, and forever

The Preservation of the Saints

- ▶ Psalm 125:1-2
 - Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion
 - Cannot be moved forever
- ▶ Jeremiah 32:36-42
 - A new heart and one way that they may fear Me forever
 - An everlasting Covenant – to not turn away from them to do them good
 - So that they will not turn away from Me
- ▶ Romans 11:26-29
 - This is My Covenant with them when I take away their sins
 - The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable (Romans 11:29)
 - God is immutable (Malachi 3:6)
- ▶ Romans 8:31-39
 - God is for us – so none can bring a charge against us
 - Christ died for us and intercedes for us . . . according to the will of the Father
 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus

The Perseverance of the Saints

- ▶ Colossians 1:21-23
 - Reconciled and destined to be presented before Him holy and blameless . . .
 - “IF” indeed you continue in the faith . . . and not moved away
- ▶ Hebrews 3:6, 14
 - Christ was faithful as a Son over His house
 - “IF” we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope until the end
- ▶ 1 John – the certainty of transformation by salvation
 - 1:5-6 – God is Light – no fellowship if we walk in darkness
 - 2:3-5 – Evidence: obedience to His commandments – by this we know . . .
 - 2:9-10 – Evidence: love for believers
 - 2:15-17 – Evidence: not having love for the world
 - 2:29 – Evidence: everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him
- ▶ The mark of a true believer: perseverance

Warning from Scripture

- ▶ Matthew 13:1-23 – parable of the Sower and the Seed
- ▶ Matthew 15:8 – profession without a new heart
- ▶ Matthew 21:19 – the fruitless fig tree cursed
- ▶ Matthew 7:15-23 – you will know them by their fruit
- ▶ 1 John 2:19 – went out because *they were not of us*
- ▶ Hebrews 6:4-6 – once tasted . . . have fallen away . . . impossible to renew
- ▶ Illustrations in Scripture: Judah, Demas, “many of His disciples” (John 6:66)

The Divine Work of Salvation

- ▶ The certain power and faithfulness of the Triune God
- ▶ Hebrews 13:20-21 – God working in us what is well pleasing to Him
- ▶ Self examination – look for God’s work in you (2 Corinthians 13:1-5)
 - The fruit of a new heart – faith in Christ
 - Love for Christ (Deuteronomy 6:5; 1 Peter 1:8)
 - Love for the Word – the means of Christian fruit (John 17:17)
 - Sensitivity to sin – the things that are in the world (1 John 2:15-17)
- ▶ Romans 8:16 – The Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are the sons of God
- ▶ Admonish one another
- ▶ Pray for yourself and one another