

# Calvinism – Perseverance of the Saints

- *“The elect are not only redeemed by Christ and renewed by the Spirit; they are also KEPT in faith by the almighty power of God. All those who are spiritually united to Christ through regeneration are eternally secure in Him. Nothing can separate them from the eternal and unchangeable love of God. They have been predestined unto eternal glory and are therefore assured of heaven.”* (THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM, by Steel & Thomas, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, p. 56)

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- *“The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints does not maintain that all who PROFESS the Christian faith are certain of heaven. It is SAINTS – those who are set apart by the Spirit – who PERSEVERE to the end. It is BELIEVERS – those who are given true, living faith in Christ – who are SECURE and safe in Him. Many who profess to believe fall away, but they do not fall from grace for they were never in grace. True believers do fall into temptations, and they do commit grievous sins, but these sins do not cause them to lose their salvation or separate them from Christ.”* (THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM, by Steel & Thomas, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, p. 56)

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- *“The Westminster Confession of Faith gives the following statement of this doctrine: ‘They whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.’”*  
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# Calvinism – Perseverance of the Saints

- All of the tenets of the doctrine of Calvinism are intertwined, and this one is no different
- Two of them to consider specifically in relation to the doctrine of perseverance of the saints:
  - Predestination according to Calvinism
  - Imputed Righteousness according to Calvinism

# Calvinism – Predestination

- Calvinism: *“They have been predestined unto eternal glory and are therefore assured of heaven”*
  - Calvinistic Predestination is related to the Calvinistic idea of unconditional election – that God chose specific individuals to be saved, and this was decided before the individual and world he lives in were ever created

# Calvinism – Predestination

- The Bible teaches predestination, but not the predestination of Calvinism
- Bible predestination is where God pre-determined the character of the saved & how they would be saved, not the specific individuals who would be saved
- Which do the following teach? Personal Identity? No, they teach the character, the purpose, and the plan to save through Jesus Christ:
  - Eph 1:3-4
  - I Cor 2:7
  - Rom 8:29-30

*Calvinism: "...They have been predestined unto eternal glory and are therefore assured of heaven"*

# Calvinism – Imputed Righteousness

- Calvinism: *“Christ, acting on behalf of His people, perfectly kept God’s law and thereby worked out a perfect righteousness which is imputed or credited to them the moment they are brought to faith in Him. Through what He did, they are constituted righteous before God. They are also freed from all guilt and condemnation as the result of what Christ suffered for them.”* (THE FIVE POINTS, pp. 38-39)
- *“To declare that by Him alone we are accounted righteous, what else is this but to lodge our righteousness in Christ’s obedience, because the obedience of Christ is reckoned to us as if it were our own.”* (John Calvin, INSTITUTES OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION, p. 350)
- *“For we are said to be justified through faith, not in the sense, however, that we receive within us any righteousness, but because the righteousness of Christ is credited to us, entirely as if it were really ours, while our iniquity is not charged to us . . .”* (John Calvin, INSTRUCTION IN FAITH, The Westminster Press, 1949, pp. 40, 41).

# Calvinism – Imputed Righteousness

- The Bible speaks of righteousness being imputed, but not the imputed righteousness of Calvinism
- The Bible doctrine of righteousness being imputed can be found in the following Scriptures. Righteousness is credited to one's own account when by faith he submits to the righteousness of God and is forgiven.
  - Rom 4:3, 5
  - Rom 4:6-11

John Calvin: *"...the obedience of Christ is reckoned to us as if it were our own"*



# Do These Scriptures Teach “Perseverance of the Saints”?

- Jn 3:36, 5:24
  - Has everlasting life by promise
  - Gen 17:5 – by promise
  - Mt 26:28 – by promise
- Jn 10:28-29
  - How does the fact that no one can snatch the faithful away from God prove one cannot willingly leave God?
  - Heb 3:12

# Do These Scriptures Teach “Perseverance of the Saints”?

- Rom 8:1
  - “...there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” does not imply that it is impossible for one to leave Christ
  - Rom 8:1, 4, 13
- Rom 8:35-39
  - No outside force can separate us from the love of Christ, but we can separate ourselves from God
    - I Tim 1:19-20

# Do These Scriptures Teach “Perseverance of the Saints”?

- 1 John 3:9
  - The word “cannot” is not used in the sense of impossibility, but in the sense of “not permissible” or “not appropriate”
    - See similar usage in Mk 2:19

# The Bible Teaches the Security of Believers

- We see this truth in
  - Rom 8:35-39
  - I Pet 1:5
  - Jn 10:27-29
- But can a believer choose to quit obeying God?
  - Ezez 18:20-24
  - Lk 8:11-15
  - Jn 15:1-6
  - Heb 3:12-19; 4:1, 4:11

# The Bible Teaches Two Paths Possible

- Must continue believing and obeying
  - Lk 8:15 – “keep”, “bring forth fruit with patience”
    - Contrast to vs.13 – “for a while believe”
  - I Tim 4:16 – “continue”
    - Contrast to vs.1 – “depart from the faith”
- Two courses possible:
  - Col 1:21-23; 2 Tim 3:13-15
  - OR
  - Heb 10:38; Lk 12:37-40

# What Do The Scriptures Say?

- Calvinism: *“Many who profess to believe fall away, but they do not fall from grace for they were never in grace.”*
  - i.e. if you lose it, you never had it
- But New Testament Examples of Falling Away:
  - Ax 8:5-24
    - I Jn 1:7-10; Jas 5:16
  - Gal 5:3-4
  - I Tim 1:19-20
  - Ax 5:1-10
  - 2 Tim 2:16-18

# What Do The Scriptures Say?

- Warnings against falling away
  - I Cor 9:27
  - I Cor 10:12
  - Heb 6:4-6
  - Heb 10:26-31
  - 2 Pet 2:20-22
  - Jas 5:19-20
- How does the Christian have eternal life now?
  - I John 2:24-25
  - Titus 1:2
  - Mk 10:29-30

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