

Perseverance of the Saints

1689 LBC Chapter 17/1 “Those whom God hath accepted in the beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, and given the precious faith of his elect unto, can neither totally nor finally fall from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved, seeing the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, whence he still begets and nourisheth in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit unto immortality; and though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon; notwithstanding, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from them, yet he is still the same, and they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraven upon the palm of his hands, and their names having been written in the book of life from all eternity.”

1. You M_____ Persevere

a. Necessary fruit of True B_____

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Bunyan said, “Friend, it is a sad thing to sit down before we are in heaven, and to grow weary before we come to the place of rest; and if this should be thy case, I am sure thou dost not so run as to obtain.” (Heavenly Footman, Wrks 3:392)

b. Necessary fruit of True D_____

John 8:30-32

c. Necessary for Future S_____

Matthew 24:12-13

d. Necessary for Future G_____

Colossians 1:21-23

John Murray (RAA, 154) says, “It is not true that the believer is secure however much he may fall into sin and unfaithfulness. Why is this not true? It is not true because it sets up an impossible combination. It is true that a believer sins; he may fall into grievous sin and backslide for lengthy periods. But it is also true that a believer cannot abandon himself to sin; he cannot come under the dominion of sin; he cannot be guilty of certain kinds of unfaithfulness.

Objections—

Jonathan Edwards “The want (lack) of perseverance is as much an evidence of want of true conversion, as the want of conversion is a sign of want of election.”

2. You W_____ Most Assuredly Persevere

LBC 1689 17/3 And though they may, through the temptation of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins, and for a time continue therein, whereby they incur God's displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit, come to have their graces and comforts impaired, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded, hurt and scandalize others, and bring

temporal judgments upon themselves, yet shall they renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.

Eight reasons:

e. The P_____ of God

Philippians 1:6

Jeremiah 32:40

Thomas Watson, "God does not marry his people unto himself and then divorce them; he hate putting away (Mal 2:16). God's love ties the marriage-knot so fast that neither death nor hell can break it asunder (Divinity, 281).

John 3:16

John 3:36

f. The P_____ of God

John 10:28-29

1 Peter 1:4-5

Thomas Watson, "It is not your holding God, but his holding us, that preserves us. When a boat is tied to a rock, it is secure; so, when we are fast tied to the Rock of Age, we are impregnable."

g. The P_____ of God

John 6:37-40

Romans 8:30

h. The P_____ of God's Love

Romans 5:8-10

Romans 8:35-39

i. The P_____ Work of Jesus

Hebrews 10:10-14

Hebrews 7:25

Luke 22:32

j. The P_____ of Spirit

k. The N_____ of Grace

l. The P_____ of Scripture

John 6:70-71

1 Timothy 1:18-20 /2 Timothy 2:16-19

John Murray, "The Scripture itself, therefore, leads us to the conclusion that it is possible to have very uplifting, ennobling, reforming, and exhilarating experience of the power and truth of the gospel, to come into such close contact with the supernatural forces which are operative in God's kingdom of grace that these forces produce effects in us which to human observation are hardly distinguishable from those produced by God's regenerating and sanctifying grace and yet be not partakers of Christ and heirs of eternal life. A doctrine of perseverance that fails to take account of such a possibility and of its actuality in certain cases is a distorted one and ministers to a laxity which is quite contrary to the interests of perseverance. Indeed it is not the doctrine of perseverance at all."

1 John 2:19

Hebrews 3:14

2 Peter 2:20-22

Objections to Perseverance:

- a. Why Give the Warning Passages If Believers Will Persevere/are Secure?
- b. This Doctrine Cuts Off Human Responsibility
- c. This Doctrine Leads to Antinomianism