

REDEEMED Series Road Map

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| 5. Atonement | 12. Repentance | 19. Perseverance |
| 6. *Limited Atonement | 13. Justification | 20. Glorification |
| 7. Effectual Calling | 14. Adoption | * = <i>Doctrines of Grace (T.U.L.I.P.)</i> |

Redeemed #56 – Perseverance Part 1

Book Recommendation: W. Robert Godfrey, *Saving the Reformation: The Pastoral Theology of the Canons of Dort*, (Reformation Trust, 2019)

1Cor. 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Section 1: Perseverance of the Saints

1 - TULIP

T – Total Depravity

- The entirety of our being is corrupted with sin & incapable of choosing God or righteousness in our natural unsaved state

U – Unconditional Election

- God chose his people before time, they are called the Elect & are those whom he gives eternal life

L – Limited Atonement

- Jesus died for the Elect & the atonement is only applied to the Elect

I – Irresistible Grace

- When God calls the Elect, God's grace is irresistible, they can't deny Him, they come & are saved, given eternal life

P – Perseverance of the Saints

- God will preserve his Elect to the very end & they will receive full salvation in glory in Age to Come

Reformation Debate

The Remonstrance included 5 points of Arminianism can be summarized as:

1. Free will (man has autonomy and free agency)
2. Conditional election (condition on faith)
3. Universal atonement (Jesus died for every human ever)
4. Obstructable grace (because of man's free will, he can resist God's call)
5. Fall from grace (you can lose your salvation)

Previous messages about 5points, (Found on the CBC Sermon Audio page)

- Message #8 – Total Depravity part 3
- Message #3 - Unconditional Election part 2
- Message #12 – Limited Atonement part 1
- Message #16 – Irresistible Grace
- Today...Message #56 – Perseverance of the Saints

2 – Perseverance of the Saints

The Arminian Protest

Robert Godfrey Quote:

The doctrine of perseverance embraced by the Reformed was perhaps their most unique doctrine. The uniqueness lay in their teaching that the believer could know that he would persevere by the grace of God. Robert Bellarmine, the great Jesuit theologian of this period, declared that this was the worst heresy of the Reformed. While the Remonstrance of 1610 had claimed uncertainty about this doctrine, it is clear that by the time of the synod, many Arminians had utterly rejected this teaching. (Robert Godfrey, *Saving the Reformation*, p153)

Article 5 of Remonstrance:

That those who are incorporated into Christ by true faith, and have thereby become partakers of his life-giving Spirit, have thereby full power to strive against Satan, sin, the world, and their own flesh, and to win the victory; it being well understood that it is ever through the assisting grace of the Holy Ghost; and that Jesus Christ assists them through his Spirit in all temptations, extends to them his hand, and if only they are ready for the conflict, and desire his help, and are not inactive, keeps them from falling, so that they, by no craft or power of Satan, can be misled nor plucked out of Christ's hands, according to the Word of Christ, John 10:28: "Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." But whether they are capable, through negligence, of forsaking again the first beginning of their life in Christ, of again returning to this present evil world, of turning away from the holy doctrine which was delivered them, of losing a good conscience, of becoming devoid of grace, that must be more particularly determined out of the Holy Scripture, before we ourselves can teach it with the full persuasion of our mind.

Quotes from John Calvin:

All of our progress and perseverance are from God.

Perseverance is God's singular gift.

It is impossible that we could stand one moment in the contest such enemies as Satan, sin, and the world, did we not receive from God the grace which secures our perseverance. (Graham Miller, *Calvin's Wisdom*, p241-242)

Preacher & Theologian Joel Beeke

The fifth article of the Remonstrance says that Christ secures his people "if only they are prepared to fight themselves, and beseech His help, and do not desert Him themselves." Though the Remonstrance stated in 1610 that it is unclear whether believers can finally abandon Christ, shortly afterward, in 1621, Arminians affirmed that a believer can lose his salvation. (Beeke & Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology Vol. 1*, p123)

Canons of Dort

5th Main Point, Article 3: God's Preservation of the Converted

By reason of these remains of indwelling sin, and also because of the temptations of the world and of Satan, those who are converted could not persevere in that grace if left to their own strength. But God is faithful, who, having conferred grace, mercifully confirms and powerfully preserves them therein, even to the end.

5th Main Point, Article 8: The Certainty of This Preservation

Thus it is not in consequence of their own merits or strength, but of God's free mercy, that they neither totally fall from faith and grace nor continue and perish finally in their backslidings; which, with respect to themselves is not only possible, but would undoubtedly happen; but with respect to God, it is utterly impossible, since His counsel cannot be changed nor His promise fail; neither can the call according to His purpose be revoked, nor the merit, intercession, and preservation of Christ be rendered ineffectual, nor the sealing of the Holy Spirit be frustrated or obliterated.

5th Main Point, Article 9: The Assurance of This Preservation

Of this preservation of the elect to salvation and of their perseverance in the faith, true believers themselves may and do obtain assurance according to the measure of their faith, whereby they surely believe that they are and ever will continue true and living members of the Church, and that they have the forgiveness of sins and life eternal.

3 – Can We Lose Our Salvation?

1Cor. 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Matt. 12:31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. **32** And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Mark 3:28 “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, **29** but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” —

Luke 12:10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

John 16:7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. **8** And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; **11** concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.