



Oceanside URC—Adult Sunday School

“A Certain Salvation? Certainly!”

1 Peter 1:5; Canons of Dort 5.3, Rejection of Errors 3

The Life of Perseverance #3

Rev. Danny Hyde, Pastor

Converts will not persevere because of themselves, but because they are being preserved by God.

The Uncertainty of Our Strength

“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.” [Canons of Dort 5.3]

“The true doctrine having been explained, the Synod rejects the errors of those:

*Who teach: **That the true believers and regenerate not only can fall from justifying faith and likewise from grace and salvation wholly and to the end, but indeed often do fall from this and are lost forever.***

For this conception makes powerless the grace, justification, regeneration, and continued preservation by Christ, contrary to the expressed words of the apostle Paul: That, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through Him (Rom. 5:8, 9). And contrary to the apostle John: Whosoever is begotten of God doeth no sin, because his seed abideth in him; and he can not sin, because he is begotten of God (1 John 3:9). And also contrary to the words of Jesus Christ: I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who hath given them to me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (John 10:28, 29) [Canons of Dort 5, Rejection of Errors 3]

The Certainty of the Salvation

The Certainty of the Saved

Herman Witsius said that those God preserves can be described with five words:

Elect—not to an external communion within a national covenant as all Israel was (Deut. 8:6), but these are elected to an internal glory as Paul describes election in Ephesians 1:4–5;

Redeemed—not only for common blessings of a family, but these are redeemed from the bondage of sin as members of God’s adopted family;

Regenerated—not only do they resemble having a spiritual life as the church in Sardis, “You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead” (Rev. 3:1), but these actually have spiritual life according to Paul’s words: “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death” (Rom. 8:2);

Faithful—not only assent to the truth, even as the demons assent to the one God’s existence (Jas. 2:19), but these have a true, “sincere faith” (1 Tim. 1:5);

Sanctified—not only a federal holiness as our children have (1 Cor. 7:14) or an external holiness (2 Peter 2:20; John 15; Heb. 10), but these have a true and thorough holiness (Eph. 4:24).

[Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenants Between God and Man: Comprehending a Complete Body of Divinity*, trans. William Crookshank, 2 vols. (London: R. Baynes, 1822; Escondido: The den Dulk Foundation, distributed by Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, Co., Phillipsburg: NJ, reprinted 1990), 2:55–56.]

The Certainty of the Savior

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Conclusion