

## CLASS 5 PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

### I/ Summary of TULIP

<u>T</u> otal Depravity:	We have received a bleak diagnosis
<u>U</u> nconditional Election:	The Father planned for the success of the gospel
<u>L</u> imited Atonement:	The son secured the salvation of His people
<u>I</u> rresistible Grace:	The Holy Spirit supernaturally calls the elect
<u>P</u> erseverance of the Saints:	God brings all his children to Heaven

### II/ Perseverance of the Saints

#### A. The definition

*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. This perseverance of the saints depends, not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ; the abiding of the Spirit and of the seed of God within them; and the nature of the covenant of grace; from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof. –Westminster Confession of Faith 17.1,2*

B. The evidence

- i. John 6:35-40
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ii. John 10:27-30
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- iii. Romans 8:31-39
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- iv. 1 Peter 1:3-5
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- v. Ephesians 1:11-14

“God is not like a little boy who likes his teddy bear today but tomorrow he throws it in the corner. He is not like a girl who raves over her hair-do today but tomorrow tries another kind. No, God is not capricious, fickle, or erratic. He knows the beginning from the end. He perseveres in His love. He is stable and unchanging. The perseverance of the saints depends on the perseverance of God.” –Edwin H. Palmer

C. Objections and helpful illustrations

i. What about sin?

ii. What about apostasy?

*Nevertheless they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalancy of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their perseverance, fall into grievous sins; and for a time continue therein: whereby they incur God's displeasure, and grieve His Holy Spirit; come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts; have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves. –Westminster Confession of Faith 17.3*

### III/ Applications

A. Perseverance with the saints

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

–Hebrews 3:12–14

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

– Hebrews 10:23–25

B. “Be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election” (2 Peter 1:10)

6 Marks of a True Christian from 1 John

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

vi.

## C. Assurance of salvation

*Although hypocrites, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions: of being in the favor of God and estate of salvation; which hope of theirs shall perish: yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in a state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God: which hope shall never make them ashamed.*

*This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion, grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith, founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made, the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God; which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.*

*This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith but that a true believer may wait long and conflict with many difficulties before he be partaker of it: yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation, in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto. And therefore it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure; that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance: so far is it from inclining men to looseness.*

*True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it; by falling into some special sin, which woundeth the conscience, and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation; by God's withdrawing the light of his countenance and suffering even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light: yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may in due time be revived, and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.*

– Westminster Confession of Faith 18

