

## **Biblical Theology**

### **Unit 5: Doctrine of Salvation – Lesson 8: Perseverance**

#### **Prevailing Orthodox Views**

##### **1. Reformed View (Calvinism)**

- Perseverance of the Saints: You cannot lose your salvation. Because the Father has elected, the Son has redeemed, and the Holy Spirit has applied salvation, those thus saved are eternally secure.
  - AKA: Eternal Security; Held by God; Once Saved Always Saved
- All those who are truly born again will be kept by God's power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again.
  - **John 6:39** - *I shall lose none of all those he has given me*
  - **John 10:27-28** - *they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.*
  - **Ephesians 1:13-14** - *guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption*

##### **2. Non-Reformed View (Arminian/Wesleyan)**

- Believers can trust the assurance and security of salvation through Christ via the Holy Spirit, but may willingly neglect and/or turn aside from their salvation.
  - **Hebrews 3:14** - *For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*
  - **2 Peter 2:20-22** - *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.*

#### **God's Endurance**

##### **1. God the Father has the desire and ability to faithfully preserve our salvation.**

- Our salvation is secure in God's will, purpose, power, and faithfulness.
  - **John 6:39** - *I shall lose none of all those he has given me*
  - **Jude 24-25** - *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling*
  - **1 Peter 1:5** - *guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed*
  - **1 Corinthians 1:4;8** - *who will sustain you to the end*
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** - *be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus*
  - **Romans 8:38-39** - *nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us*

##### **2. Jesus is the safeguard of our salvation through his intercession and unity with us.**

- Our salvation is secure in Christ's protection, intercession, and union with us.
  - **John 10:27-28** - *no one will snatch them out of my hand.*
  - **John 17:11-12** - *I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*
  - **Romans 6:5** - *we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
  - **Colossians 3:3** - *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

##### **3. The Holy Spirit seals our salvation through an abiding presence in our lives.**

- Our salvation is secure and validated in the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit.
  - **John 14:16** - *he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,*
  - **Ephesians 1:13-14** - *sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

#### **Man's Endurance**

##### **1. Man is called to persist in salvation by enduring.**

- Believers are responsible to endure in the midst of hardship and resistance.
  - **2 Timothy 2:10-12** - *if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;*
  - **Hebrews 10:35-36** - *you have need of endurance*
  - **Matthew 24:9-13** - *But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

2. **Man is called to persist in salvation by continuing in faith.**
  - Believers are responsible to live out salvation daily.
    - **1 John 2:24-25** - *If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.*
    - **John 15:3-6** - *If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away*
    - **Colossians 1:21-23** - *if indeed you continue in the faith,*
    - **Romans 11:20-22** - *provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.*
  
3. **Man is called to remain confident in their salvation by standing firm.**
  - Believers are responsible to stand firm and unwavering in faith.
    - **Hebrews 3:14** - *if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*
    - **2 Peter 1:10-11** - *be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election*
    - **2 Peter 2:1** - *even denying the Master who bought them,*
  
4. **Man is called to persist in salvation by remaining faithful to God.**
  - Believers are responsible for their end of their relationship with God.
    - **Revelation 2:20** - *that you tolerate that woman Jezebel*
    - **Revelation 2:4-5** - *you have abandoned the love you had at first.*
    - **Hebrews 3:11-13** - *that none of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

### Conclusions

- **Sometimes those who claim to be saved never were saved.**
- Sometimes man rejects his salvation.
  - **Hebrews 3:11-13**
  - **1 Timothy 4:1** - *in later times some will depart from the faith*
  - **2 Peter 2:20-22** - *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.*
    - **No biblical pattern to apostates returning.**
- Man cannot lose his salvation.
- A responsible, bible believing Calvinist does not teach lazy, licentious, security.
- A responsible, bible believing Arminian does not teach oscillating destiny of believers.
- Christians can be secure in our destiny.
  - **1 John 5:11-13** - *And this is the testimony that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*

### Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to understand the doctrine of perseverance? What are the pitfalls of extreme views of eternal security and apostasy?
2. What bible verses might you use to encourage someone who believes they can live however they want because they're saved?
3. What bible verses might you use to encourage a Christian who believes that everytime they sin, they are destined to hell.
4. What does biblical perseverance look like in your own life?