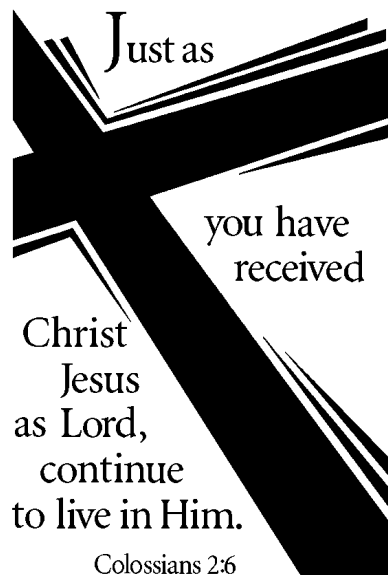


For HIS Glory
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PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE HOLY

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In this and every issue, our only purpose is to honor Jesus Christ.

The Doctrines of Grace ~ 10

Their Fifth Point - Perseverance of the Saints (1)

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The five points of the Doctrines of Grace are generally identified by the acrostic **TULIP**:

Total Depravity Unconditional Election Limited Atonement
Irresistible Grace Perseverance of the Saints

We will here observe the doctrine of the fifth point.

I. Perseverance of the Saints defined. This doctrine teaches that all who have been chosen to salvation by God the Father, been redeemed for salvation by Jesus Christ, and had salvation applied to them by the Holy Spirit will never, again, be lost, but will, instead, persevere in holiness.

II. Perseverance of the Saints contrasted. The perseverance of the saints is denied by Pelagians and Arminians, and all others who believe a saint may lose or forfeit his salvation—or “be saved today, but lost tomorrow.”

III. Perseverance of the Saints proven. The *perseverance* of the saints is inseparably linked to the *preservation* of the saints. Saints are *preserved* in salvation by the faithfulness of God. Saints, in turn, *persevere* in salvation by their faithfulness to God. Both parts of this truth of God are set forth by God Himself in Jeremiah 32:40—“And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.” We therefore here will observe both truths respectively.

1. The preservation of the saints is certain because:

i. God promises to be always with the saints (Isa. 43:1f)—“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.”

ii. God promises His kindness and covenant will never depart he saints (Isa. 54:10)—“For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed.”

iii. God is not willing that any of His saints should perish (Matt. 18:12-14)—“... Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”

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iv. God gives unto believers never-ending life so that they, as saints, will never perish (John 3:16)—“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (see also 3:36; 5:24; 6:40, 47; 17:2; 1 John 2:25; 5:11-13, 20).

v. Christ promises that He will neither cast away nor lose any whom the Father has given to Him (John 6:37-39)—“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out...This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”

vi. Christ assures His sheep that no one can snatch them out of the hand of His Father and Himself (John 10:28-30)—“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.”

vii. Christ prayed that His Father would keep saints as He had kept them (John 17:11f)—“Keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled” (see also v. 15).

viii. Saints are justified and reconciled and, therefore, forever saved from God’s wrath (Rom. 5:9f)—“Much more, then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

ix. Saints can never be condemned (Rom. 8:1)—“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (see also vv.31-34).

x. Saints were glorified from eternity in God’s decree (Rom. 8:29f)—“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

xi. Saints can never be separated from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:35-39)—“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(To be concluded next month—Lord willing.)

WHEN YOUR HUT IS BURNING

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions. But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened—everything was lost.

He was stunned with grief and anger. “God, how could You do this to me?” he cried. Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. “How did you know I was here?” asked the weary man of his rescuers. “We saw your smoke signal,” they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. But we shouldn’t lose heart—God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God. (Submitted by Scott Jeffrey, Magnolia, Texas)

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28 NKJV).

**“SIN IS THE SUICIDAL
EXCHANGE OF THE
GLORY OF GOD FOR
THE BROKEN CISTERNS
OF CREATED THINGS.”**

—JONATHAN EDWARDS (1703-1758)

**JESUS CHRIST
is the ONLY way to GOD
the FATHER!
Not Moses. Not Mary.
Not Mohammed.
Not a future Messiah.
JESUS CHRIST is the ONLY way!**

JOHN 14:6