



Oceanside URC—Adult Sunday School

“Are You Assured?”

Romans 8; Canons of Dort 5.9–10

The Life of Perseverance #8

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Assurance is a normal expectation and experience for the Christian.

Its Possibility

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. (Canons of Dort 5.9)

Its Production

This assurance, however, is not produced by any peculiar revelation contrary to or independent of the Word of God, but springs from faith in God’s promises, which He has most abundantly revealed in His Word for our comfort; from the testimony of the Holy Spirit, witnessing with our spirit that we are children and heirs of God (Rom. 8:16); and lastly, from a serious and holy desire to preserve a good conscience and to perform good works. And if the elect of God were deprived of this solid comfort that they shall finally obtain the victory, and of this infallible pledge of eternal glory, they would be of all men the most miserable. (Canons of Dort 5.10)

Not by Revelation [Rome’s Doctrine]

Who teach: That without a special revelation we can have no certainty of future perseverance in this life.

For by this doctrine the sure comfort of the true believers is taken away in this life, and the doubts of the papist are again introduced into the Church, while the Holy Scriptures constantly deduce this assurance, not from a special and extraordinary revelation, but from the marks proper to the children of God and from the very constant promises of God. So especially the apostle Paul: No creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:39). And John declares: And he that keepeth his commandments abideth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he gave us (1 John 3:24). (Canons of Dort, Rejection of Errors 5.5)

God’s Promise (1 John 3:16 cf. John 3:16, 18, 5:24-25, 6:40, 47, 51, 54, 56, 58)

Witness of the Spirit (1 John 3:24 cf. 1 John 2:20, 27; Rom. 8:9, 14-17; Gal. 4:6-7)

Good Works (1 John 3:16–19, 24, 2:3, 5, 3:10, 4:7)