

What is Sanctification? Lesson 4 – Perseverance in the Faith – Part 1

Introduction:

- Is there anything that will _____ that we will remain Christians until the end of our lives?
- Is there something that can keep us from _____ from Christ?
- Is it possible to _____ our salvation?
- Perseverance means to _____ to do something even if it is difficult.
- The Biblical doctrine of the perseverance teaches:
 - All those who are truly born again will be _____ by God's power forever.
 - All those who are truly born again will _____ persevere as Christians until the end of their lives.
 - Only those who persevere until the end have been _____ born again.

1. All those who are truly born again will be _____ by God's power forever.

A. Those who are born again will be kept safe forever by God _____!

***1 Pet 1.3–5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 **who by God's power are being guarded** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

- Christians are being preserved by God's _____, not our own power!
- There's nothing that can overpower God's power and _____ us from His love.

***Rom 8.38–39** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God** in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- In order to sever us from Christ, something would have to overcome and _____ God Himself.

- Christians will persevere because of God's eternal _____.

Phil 1.6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 1.8 ..who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- God will do this because He is _____, even when we are unfaithful.

1 Cor 1.9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Tim 2.13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

1 Thess 5.23-24 Now may the God of peace himself **sanctify you completely**, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be **kept blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.**

2 Thess 3.3 But the Lord is faithful. He will **establish** you and **guard** you against the evil one.

2 Tim 1.12b I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that **he is able to guard until that Day** what has been entrusted to me.

2 Tim 4.18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and **bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom**. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Rom 8.30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, **and those whom he justified he also glorified**.

- God always _____ what He begins.

Phil 1.6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.

B. As our Great Shepherd, Jesus is committed to _____ His people forever, because He does the will of the Father.

John 6.39 And this is **the will of him** who sent me, **that I should lose nothing** of all that he has given me, but **raise it up** on the last day.

- If any of them were ever lost, then Jesus has _____ to carry out the Father's will.

John 6.40 *For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.*

- God's promise is that everyone who believes on Jesus is given _____ life!
- Everyone who believes on Jesus will _____ be raised up on the last day.

John 10.27-28 *My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and not one will snatch them out of my hand.*

- Notice 4 important truths declared by Jesus in that text:
 - Those who are God's sheep will _____ the Great Shepherd.
 - Jesus gives _____ to His sheep.
 - God's sheep will _____ perish.
 - _____ can snatch the sheep from the Father's hand.

John 10.29 *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

C. As our Great High Priest, Jesus is committed to _____ for His people forever.

- On the night before He died, Jesus prayed for every true Christian to be preserved _____.

John 17.6 *I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.*

John 17.9 *I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*

John 17.20 *I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word...*

John 17.24 *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

- Jesus _____ to pray for us in Heaven.

Rom 8.34 *Who is to condemn? **Christ Jesus** is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, **who indeed is interceding for us.***

Heb 7.25 *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since **he always lives to make intercession for them.***

- Those who belong to Christ will be _____ in their faith forever, because Jesus never stops praying for them.

D. As the Lamb who was slain for us, Jesus' sacrifice assures us that there is no longer any reason for the Christian to fear _____.

Rom 8.1 *There is now therefore **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

- By His death of the cross, Jesus _____ all of God's wrath toward us for our sins.

Rom 3.25 *whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine **forbearance** he had passed over former sins.*

1 John 4.10 *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be **the propitiation for our sins.***

1 Thess 5.9 *For God has **not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

- The _____ penalty for all of our sins has been paid by Jesus' death, even the sins we commit after we become a Christian!

John 19.30 *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished,**" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

- Since God has declared us completely _____ in Christ, there is no possible way for us to ever be condemned.

Rom 8.33–34 *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? **It is God who justifies.** 34 **Who is to condemn?** Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

E. The Holy Spirit has been given to us to indwell as the _____ that our salvation is eternal.

Eph 1.13-14 *In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, 14 who is the **guarantee of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it.*

2 Cor 1.22 *And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his **seal** on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a **guarantee**.*

- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the _____ that God will not fail to keep His promise to give us an inheritance in Heaven.
- God's gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a _____ gift, not a temporary one.

Eph 4.30 *And do not grieve **the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption**.*

2. All those who are truly born again will _____ persevere as Christians until the end of their lives.

John 8.31-32 *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "**If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples**, and you know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 15.7-8 *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples**.*

- A. Obedience to God's Word is not the basis for saving faith, but the _____ of saving faith.

1 John 2.24-25 *Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. **If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father**. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.*

2 John 9 *Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. **Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son**.*

- B. The faith of true Christians will be _____ with trials and persecution in order to demonstrate the genuineness of their faith.

1 Pet 1.6-7 *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by **various trials**, 7 so that the **tested genuineness of your faith**—more precious than gold that perishes though it is **tested by fire**—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

- God uses trials to expose the lack of genuine faith in false Christians, and to _____ the genuine faith of true Christians.

Prov 17.3 *The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the LORD tests hearts.*

Job 23.10 *But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.*

Psa 66.10 *For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.*

- Trials are not designed by God to destroy our faith, but to _____ our faith.

James 1.3 *for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*

Rom 5.3–4 *3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,*

- We are not preserved because we persevere, we persevere because we are being _____ by God.

Phil 1.6 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

Jude 1.24 *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,*

- Endurance does not keep you saved; endurance is the _____ that you have truly been saved.

Heb 3.6a *And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.*

Heb 3.14 *For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*

- God doesn't want us to worry that we'll fall away from our faith in Him, He wants us to stand firm on His strong promise that He will be _____ to keep us to the end.

Heb 10.23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

- The reason we are warned against falling away from Christ is because turning away from following Christ is evidence of _____ faith.

Matt 7.21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Conclusion:

- The doctrine of perseverance should give us great _____ for two reasons:
 - It gives us _____ that God will keep us saved by His power.
 - Continuing in the Christian life is _____ of being born again.

Eph 2.10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, **that we should walk in them**.