

What is Sanctification? Lesson 5 – Perseverance in the Faith – Part 2

Introduction:

- 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.
- The doctrine of perseverance _____ us as Christians that our salvation is kept by the power of God.
- The doctrine of perseverance is also a _____ to those who are considering turning from Christ and the Gospel.
- 1. People who finally fall away from Christ can _____ to be true Christians during their lives.

A. It can be difficult to know for certain which people in the church do not have true _____.

- Since we are not God, we can’t completely know the true condition of another person’s _____.

1 Sam 16.7b For the LORD sees not as man sees: ***man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.***”

- We can only try to discern a person’s spiritual condition from _____ evidence.

B. Judas _____ the disciples so well, that none of the disciples suspected him as the one who would betray Jesus.

Matt 26.21-22 And as they were eating, he said, “Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me.” 22 And they were sorrowful and began to say to one another, “***Is it I, Lord?***”

Luke 22.22-23 For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed! 23 And they ***began to question one another, which of them it could be*** who was going to do this.

John 13.21b–22 “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” 22 The disciples looked at one another, **uncertain of whom he spoke**.

John 6.64 But there are some of you who do not believe. (For **Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe**, and who it was who would betray him.)

- Judas was an unbeliever from the _____!

John 6.70-71 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet **one of you is a devil**.” 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

John 17.12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the **son of destruction**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

- C. The apostle Paul warns us to _____ of false Christians in the church.

Gal 2.4 Yet because of **false brothers** secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery.

2 Cor 11.26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, **danger from false brothers**;

- Satan’s servants _____ themselves as God’s servants, and even serve in ministry!

2 Cor 11.14-15 For such men are **false** apostles, **deceitful** workmen, **disguising themselves** as apostles of Christ. 15 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

- Sometimes Satan attacks the church from the outside, through persecution, but oftentimes he attacks the church from _____, through false Christians.

Acts 20.28–31b Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure **fierce wolves** will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and **from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things**, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 **Therefore be alert**,

- Jesus told us that there will be _____ who will be exposed in the end as false Christians.

Matt 7.22–23 *On that day **many** will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you**; depart from me, you **workers of lawlessness**.’*

D. The parable of the four soils teaches us _____ about those who do not persevere in the faith.

Matt.4.5-6 *Other seed fell on **rocky ground**, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it **sprang up**, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it **withered away**.*

Matt.4.16-17 *And these are the ones sown on rocky ground, the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately **receive it with joy**. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but **endure for a while**; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately **they fall away**.*

- These people _____ to convert to Christ, but since the Gospel is not truly rooted in their hearts by faith, they do not persevere, but fall away.
- Many people only have an _____ response to the Gospel, or an _____ understanding of the Gospel, but do not actually trust in Christ.

E. The parable of the vine teaches us discernment about those who do not bear spiritual _____.

John 15.1-2 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that **does not bear fruit** he takes away, and every branch that **does bear fruit** he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

John 15.6 *If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, **thrown into the fire, and burned**.*

- True believers are the ones who actually bear spiritual _____.
- The other branches that do not bear fruit _____ to be genuine branches.
- There are many who claim to be Christians, and who appear to be Christians, but since they produce no genuine fruit in their lives, they show that their faith is _____.

F. We need to be aware that some will convince us that they are true Christians for a time, but the Lord will eventually _____ the truth about them.

- Those that fall away from following Christ reveal that they were _____ true Christians to begin with.

1 John 2.19 *They went out from us, **but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. **But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.***

John 6.64 *“But there are **some of you who do not believe.**” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)*

John 6.66 *After this many of his disciples **turned back and no longer walked with him.***

- Some false Christians will not be exposed until the Day of _____.

Matt 13.24–26 *He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and **sowed weeds among the wheat** and went away. 26 So when **the plants came up and bore grain**, then the **weeds appeared also.***

Matt 13.30 *Let both **grow together until the harvest**, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, **Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned**, but gather the wheat into my barn.*

Matt 13.38-39 *The field is the world, and the **good seed is the sons of the kingdom**. The **weeds are the sons of the evil one**, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil.*

G. The best way to _____ the church from the dangers of false Christians is to be _____ about the message of the Gospel and what the Gospel demands of us.

- We must be firmly committed to the truth of the Gospel _____.

2 Tim 3.13–15 *while evil people and **impostors** will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 **But as for you, continue in what you have learned** and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with **the sacred writings**, which are **able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.***

2 Cor 13.5 ***Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.** Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*

- There are 3 questions we can ask ourselves to gain _____ of our own salvation:
 - Am I currently _____ in Christ for my salvation or in my own good works?
 - Is there evidence of the _____ work of the Holy Spirit in my life?
 - Do I see a consistent pattern of _____ in my Christian life?
- We must be firmly committed to the truth of the Gospel for the sake of _____.

1 Tim 4.16 *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

- If we are weak or unclear about the message or the demands of the Gospel, then we increase the odds that we will help create _____ false Christians.
- Both in our public preaching and our private conversations, we should _____ those who appear to be false Christians to exercise true saving faith in Christ.

2 Tim 2.24–26 *And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*

Conclusion:

- The doctrine of perseverance should bring us great encouragement and _____.
- It provides a _____ to those who are straying from Christ.
- It provides great _____ to those who are truly in Christ.

1 Pet 1.5 *who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

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.*