

*Perseverance of the Saints*

August 19, 2012

Main Point:

When you are spiritually discouraged, press on knowing that God is preserving you to the end.

1. As a saint, you are being preserved to the end by God.
2. Nevertheless, by God's grace, you must persevere to the end.
3. Even though, you will be discouraged and tempted to quit at times, God is still preserving you.
4. Press on knowing that God is preserving you to the end.

**Definition:** The perseverance of the saints is the teaching of Scripture that those who are genuine believers in Christ will, by the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, persevere in faith and in bearing spiritual fruit until they go to be with the Lord, and thus will certainly be saved.

**John Wesley** “Those who live by faith in the Son of God; those who are sanctified by the blood of the covenant, may nevertheless so fall from God as to perish everlastingly.”

**WCF 17.2** This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father (Eph. 1:4); upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:11-15; Heb. 7:25); the abiding of the Spirit (1 John 2:27), and of the seed of God within them (1 John 3:9); and the nature of the covenant of grace (Jer. 32:40): from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.

**Jeremiah 32:40** <sup>40</sup> `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. (NKJV)

**Scottish woman from 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century** “If I were to be lost, He [Jesus] would lose more than I; I would lose my salvation, but He would lose His glory, because one of His sheep would be lost.”

**John 10:27-29** <sup>27</sup> "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup> "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> "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. (NKJV)

**Romans 6:1-2a** <sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> Certainly not! (NKJV)

**Colossians 1:21-23** <sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven ... (NKJV)

**John Dagg** “It is a wretched and fatal perversion if men conclude that, having been once converted, they will be saved, whatever may be their course of life.”

**Matthew 7:17-19** <sup>17</sup> "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (NKJV)

**Hebrews 2:1** Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. (NKJV)

**1 Timothy 1:19-20** <sup>19</sup> having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, <sup>20</sup> of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander ... (NKJV)

**Charles Hodge** “So God’s telling the elect that if they apostatize they shall perish, prevents their apostasy. And in like manner, the Bible teaching that those for whom Christ died shall perish if they violate their conscience, prevents their transgressing, or brings them to repentance. God’s purposes embrace the means as well as the end. If the means fail, the end will fail. He secures the end by securing the means.”

**1 John 2:19** <sup>19</sup> 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 they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. (NKJV)

**1 Peter 1:6-7** <sup>6</sup> ... you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

**Joel Beeke** “The faithful, covenant-keeping God keeps alive in the hearts of His elect the spark of holy love, which He Himself has kindled, despite their waywardness, slothfulness, and disobedience.”

**Philippians 3:12-14** <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

**Thomas Goodwin** “[Assurance] makes a man work for God ten times more than before ... [It] causes the heart to be more thankful, and more fruitfully and cheerfully obedient.”