

WCF 17 - Of the Perseverance of the Saints

And 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."
John 10:28-30

I. Definition - 17.1

A. Stated: *They, whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.*

B. Distinction in Terms

1. Preservation:

2. Perseverance:

C. Defended

1. Exegesis

a. Philippians 1:6

b. 1Peter 1:3-5

c. John 17:22-24

2. Logic of the Doctrine

II. Foundation - 17.2

A. Human Will?

1. The Error of this Position

2. Objections

a. Violation of the Will:

b. Motivation to Ungodliness:

B. Eternal God

1. The Father's Decree

2. The Son's Mediation

3. The Spirit's Work

C. The Covenant of Grace

III. Opposition - 17.3

A. Occasions

B. Effects

Applications

1. For Yourselfes
2. For the Backslider
3. In dealing with the Backslider

When God calls a man, He does not repent of it. God does not, as many friends do, love one day, and hate another; or as princes, who make their subjects favourites, and afterwards throw them into prison. This is the blessedness of a saint; his condition admits of no alteration. God's call is founded on His decree, and His decree is immutable. Acts of grace cannot be reversed. God blots out his people's sins, but not their names.

~ Thomas Watson ~