

## **The Everlasting Fortress of Grace**

### **Perseverance of the Saints**

“This doctrine is inseparably associated with the other doctrines of grace which we have found taught in God’s word. So true is this, that they are universally accepted, or rejected together. The perseverance of the saints is a part of every Calvinistic confession. . . . All the evidence, therefore, of the truth of the doctrines already examined, may be presented in favour of this which is a necessary inference from them. In like manner, all the independent proof of this doctrine confirms the separate doctrines, and the system of doctrine, with which it is associated.”

#### I. The eternal purpose

1. Romans 8 28 -39 “nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
2. Philippians 1:6 - “Till the day of Christ”
3. John 6:36-40 - “All that the Father has given me . . . raise him up at the last day”
4. Ephesians 1:3-14 “Until the redemption of the purchased possession”

#### II. The Spirit’s Work of Sanctification

1. Regeneration - Ephesians 2:1-7 “that in the coming ages”;
2. Operation of the transformed nature - 1 John 3:1-10
3. Sanctification - Romans 8:5-11

#### III. Christ’s Death and Intercession for His people

1. Romans 8:33, 34
2. 1 John 2:1,2
3. John 10:24-30

#### IV. Work out your own Salvation

1. Deepening awareness of sin -Romans 7:22ff
2. Perseverance in truth and holiness
  - 2 Peter 2:10-11
  - Philippians 2:12-16 “in the day of Christ”
  - Colossians 1:21-23
2. Increase of Joy in the process
  - 1 Peter 1:5, 6, 8
  - 1 John 1:3, 4

#### V. Those who fall away

- Galatians 5:2-8  
1 John 2:18-23  
1 John 5:16-19  
Hebrews 6:1-6, 11

#### VI. Application

- Find comfort that the final victory rests not in our hands but in the purpose and power of God
- Find satisfaction that engagement of our faculties in this process means freedom from the destructive power of sin
- Be aware that growth in doctrinal understanding and joy in it is a mark of the preserving work of the Spirit