

A Case Against Calvinism – Lesson 9

Tulip: Perseverance of the Saints

John 6:37

Introduction: The plain truth of Scripture is that those who are saved are eternally saved and that is eternally secured.

The Bible not only simply states this fact but emphatically states it. **John 3:16**, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” **1 John 5:13**, “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*”

Many think that of all the points of TULIP that the Perseverance of the Saints, would be the one that with which we would agree. Yet as we take a closer look at it we will realize that there are some drastic differences in what we believe and what the Calvinist believes.

Biblical assurance of salvation does not depend upon one’s performance, but upon the Gospel truth that Christ died for the sins of the world, and upon His promise that whosoever believes in Him receives the free and unconditional gift of eternal life. According to Calvinism assurance is in God’s having predestined him to eternal life as one of the elect. Leonard Coppes says, “God’s answer to doubt...the only proper fount of assurance of salvation...of getting to heaven is the doctrine of predestination.”

For a Calvinist, the question is not whether one has believed the gospel but whether one, from eternity past, was predestined by God to be among the elect. This is an elusive question, as many a Calvinist has discovered to his dismay. They are faced with an impossibility of their own making.

I. The Calvinist definition of Perseverance.

- The Calvinist believes that God will not allow any of the elect to fail to persevere in living life consistent with the salvation He has sovereignly given them.
- The Westminster Confession states, “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 preserve therein to the end, and be eternally saved. This perseverance of the saints depends upon not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election.”

II. The Bible and perseverance of the saints.

A. John 3:16

B. Romans 8:35-39

C. Titus 1:1-2

D. 1 John 5:13

III. Problems Calvinist encounter with Perseverance of the Saints.

A. They do not have a real sense of assurance.

B. They have a works-based assurance.

C. Uncomfortable with Jesus.

D. Division among Calvinist.