

The True Perseverance of the Saints

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Introduction:

1. One of the pillars of the false doctrine of Calvinism is called: "Perseverance of the Saints."
 - a. T – Total Hereditary Depravity
 - b. U – Unconditional Election
 - c. L – Limited Atonement
 - d. I – Irresistible Grace
 - e. P – Perseverance of the Saints
2. This doctrine is more commonly known as "once saved, always saved" or "the impossibility of apostasy."
3. Obviously, this erroneous doctrine is without Bible support (cf. Galatians 5:4; 2 Peter 2:20-22).
4. However, the Bible commands the perseverance of the saints – that is, God demands that the Christian remain faithful, obedient, and active in his service.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58

I. The Meaning of Perseverance

- A. The word for 'steadfast' means, "To sit; thus, to be settled or firm" (cf. Colossians 1:23).
- B. The word for 'immoveable' means, "Not able to be removed; metaphorically, firmly present."
- C. Yet these words do not refer to a lack of action, for one must always abound in the work of the Lord.
 1. It means to be at all times overflowing abundantly with the Lord's work.
 2. In fact, the word for 'labor' refers to "intense labor united with trouble and toil; a beating of the breast with grief, sorrow, or weariness."
- D. This involves steadfastness in:
 1. Obedience (Luke 9:51)
 2. Faithfulness (Hebrews 4:14)
 3. Prayer (Ephesians 6:18)
 4. Courage (1 Corinthians 16:13)
- E. The Christian must not give up, give in, or give out!

II. The Must of Perseverance

- A. The statement is made in the form of a command – an obligation, not an option.
- B. They were to persevere because they were beloved (4:14, 17; 10:14; 16:22).
- C. They were to persevere because they were brethren (1:2; 6:11; 16:20).
- D. They were to persevere despite division (1:10-11; 3:1; 8:12; 11:33).

III. The Motivation of Perseverance

- A. The Gospel was motivation for perseverance (15:1-2).
 - 1. Forgiveness by the death of Jesus (15:3)
 - 2. Hope by the resurrection of Jesus (15:4)
- B. God's grace was motivation for perseverance (15:10; cf. 1 Timothy 1:12).
- C. The resurrection was motivation for perseverance (15:19-20, 42-44).
- D. The return of Jesus was motivation for perseverance (15:22-26).
- E. Victory through Jesus was motivation for perseverance (15:54-57).
- F. The profit of labor was motivation for perseverance (15:58; Galatians 6:9-10; Philippians 2:30; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 6:10; 13:15-16).

Conclusion:

- 1. The faithful will be rewarded by the Lord (Matthew 10:40-42; 25:34-40; Revelation 2:10).
- 2. This is the true perseverance of the saints!