

# **Systematic Theology: The Doctrine of Salvation**

## **Kept by the Power of God: The Doctrine of Preservation**

### **A True or False Quiz**

#### **Understanding Multi-Perspectives and Functions**

One of the mistakes we make in reading our Bibles and doing theology is that (1) we do not adequately consider the multiple perspectives that the Scriptures address; (2) we tend to flat-line everything with systematic theology and thus erase the functions.

#### **I Definitions**

To be saved is to be preserved in the faith to the end. ... Perseverance is absolutely necessary to the complete saving of the soul...He that goeth to sea with a purpose to arrive at Spain, cannot arrive there if he be drowned by the way; wherefore perseverance is absolutely necessary to the saving of the soul. (John Bunyan, *Saved by Grace* as in *Complete Works*, vol. I, Banner of Truth: Edinburgh, p. 329)

The perseverance of the saints means that all those who are truly born agains will be kept by God's power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again. (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 788).  
1689 Baptist Confession of Faith, Chapter 17

#### **II. Biblical Support**

Jer. 32:38-40

Jn. 6:37-40

Jn. 10:27-30

Rom. 8:29-30, 38-39

Phil. 1:6

1 Pet. 1:5

Jude 24

#### **III. Theological Arguments**

The nature of God's decree, God's love and God's covenant

The nature of Christ's accomplished work

The nature of Christ's applied work

The nature of Christ's mediation

The work of the Holy Spirit

The nature of eternal life

What would it take for a true believer to actually lose what God has done for them in Christ by the Spirit?

*Those whom God hath accepted in the beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, and given the precious faith of his elect unto, can neither totally nor finally fall from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved, seeing the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, whence he still begets and nourisheth in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit unto immortality; and though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon; notwithstanding, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from them, yet he is still the same, and they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraven upon the palm of his hands, and their names having been written in the book of life from all eternity.*

*( [John 10:28, 29](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [2 Timothy 2:19](#); [1 John 2:19](#); [Psalms 89:31, 32](#); [1 Corinthians 11:32](#); [Malachi 3:6](#) )*

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, upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ and union with him, the oath of God, the abiding of his Spirit, and the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace; from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.*

*( [Romans 8:30](#) [Romans 9:11, 16](#); [Romans 5:9, 10](#); [John 14:19](#); [Hebrews 6:17, 18](#); [1 John 3:9](#); [Jeremiah 32:40](#) )*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ *And though they may, through the temptation of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins, and for a time continue therein, whereby they incur God's displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit, come to have their graces and comforts impaired, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded, hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves, yet shall they renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.*

*( [Matthew 26:70, 72, 74](#); [Isaiah 64:5, 9](#); [Ephesians 4:30](#); [Psalms 51:10, 12](#); [Psalms 32:3, 4](#); [2 Samuel 12:14](#); [Luke 22:32, 61, 62](#) )*