



Oceanside URC—Adult Sunday School

“Preserved by a Triune God”

Ephesians 1:3–14; Canons of Dort 5.8

The Life of Perseverance #7

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For the struggling and sinful child of God, knowing the Triune God brings the comfort of being preserved.

Thus it is not in consequence of their own merits or strength, but of God’s free mercy, that they neither totally fall from faith and grace nor continue and perish finally in their backslidings; which, with respect to themselves is not only possible, but would undoubtedly happen; but with respect to God, it is utterly impossible, since His counsel cannot be changed nor His promise fail; neither can the call according to His purpose be revoked, nor the merit, intercession, and preservation of Christ be rendered ineffectual, nor the sealing of the Holy Spirit be frustrated or obliterated. (Canons 5.8)

The Work of the Father (Eph. 1:3–6)

His Counsel (Ps. 33:11; Isa. 46:10; Isa. 54:10)

His Promise (1 John 2:25)

Rejection of Errors 1:

Who teach: That the perseverance of the true believers is not a fruit of election, or a gift of God gained by the death of Christ, but a condition of the new covenant which (as they declare) man before his decisive election and justification must fulfill through his free will.

For the Holy Scripture testifies that this follows out of election, and is given the elect in virtue of the death, the resurrection, and the intercession of Christ: But the election obtained it, and the rest were hardened (Rom. 11:7). Likewise: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ Jesus that died, yea rather, that was raised from the death, who is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (Rom. 8:32–35).

The Work of the Son (Eph. 1:7–12)

His Merit (Rom. 5:15–19; Heb. 9:12)

His Intercession (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1)

Rejection of Errors 9:

Who teach: That Christ has in no place prayed that believers should infallibly continue in faith.

For they contradict Christ Himself, who says: I made supplications for thee (Simon), that thy faith fail not (Luke 22:32), and the evangelist John, who declares that Christ has not prayed for the apostles only, but also for those who through their word would believe: Holy Father, keep them in

thy name, and I pray not that thou shouldest take them from the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil one (John 17:11, 15, 20).

His Preservation (John 10:28; 17:11, 15, 20)

The Work of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13–14)

His Sealing (Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:21–22)