

Sunday School

Chapter 17: Perseverance of the Saints, Part 3 | 10/25/20

17:3: Perseverance of the Saints Through Sin

The reality of sin for true believers

They may fall into grievous sins and continue in them for a time, due to the temptation of Satan and the world, the strength of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their preservation.

- Falls into grievous sin aren't rare either
 - E.g. Peter (Matthew 26:70ff, Galatians 2)
- Even extended falls happen
 - 2 Samuel 11-12
- Causes
 - Temptation of Satan and the World
 - Romans 12:2, Galatians 5:17

How does God intend to preserve us?

- God preserves us through prayer
 - Ephesians 6:18, Luke 22:46
- God preserves us through His Word
 - James 1:21
- God preserves us through fellowship
 - To correct and restore sinners.
 - Matthew 18:15–20, Galatians 6:1
 - To stir up and keep from falling into judgment
 - Hebrews 10:24–27



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The damage of sin for true believers

In so doing, they incur God's displeasure and grieve His Holy Spirit; their graces and comforts become impaired; their hearts are hardened and their consciences wounded; they hurt and scandalize others and bring temporary judgments on themselves.

- Sin incurs God's displeasure and grieves the Holy Spirit
 - Isaiah 64:9, Ephesians 4:30

- Sin impairs grace and comfort
 - Psalm 51:10–12

- Sin hardens hearts and wounds consciences
 - Psalm 32:3–4

- Sin hurts and scandalizes others
 - Hebrews 12:5–6

Nevertheless, they will renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.

- Luke 22:32

Application

1. Consider what the confession says about the kinds of damage sin causes. Is there any area that you have not paid enough attention to?
2. Although falling into sin is common among Christians, that doesn't mean we want to experience such a fall. What is one important way God would want you to be guarding against such a fall? How will you pursue growing in that area?
3. We often forget that repentance is a great blessing from God. How can you give thanks for your repentance?
4. Take some time to praise God for persevering in faithfulness, even when you sin.

