



## Oceanside URC—Adult Sunday School

“Can I Fall into Heinous Sins?”

Matthew 26:30–46; Canons of Dort 5.4, Rejection of Errors  
4, 7

*The Life of Perseverance #4*

**Rev. Danny Hyde, Pastor**

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*While a true believer cannot fall from grace, a true believer can fall into heinous sins.*

### **The Real Potential in Ourselves**

*The Remnants of Sin*

“Although the weakness of the flesh cannot prevail against the power of God, who confirms and preserves true believers in a state of grace, yet converts are not always so influenced and actuated by the Spirit of God as not in some particular instances sinfully to deviate from the guidance of divine grace, so as to be seduced by and to comply with the lusts of the flesh.” [Canons 5.4]

“We really own it to be possible, that a true believer may gradually sink to so torpid a state, in which the activity of that excellent life may seem almost to cease, and himself to be like tress almost killed by a long a severe winter.”

[Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenants Between God and Man: Comprehending a Complete Body of Divinity*, trans. William Crookshank, 2 vols. (London: R. Baynes, 1822; Escondido: The den Dulk Foundation, distributed by Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, Co., Phillipsburg: NJ, reprinted 1990), 2:57.]

*The Example of the Saints*

### **The Righteous Permission in God**

“When [watching and prayer] are neglected, they are not only liable to be drawn into great and heinous sins by the flesh, the world, and Satan, but sometimes by the righteous permission of God actually are drawn into these evils.” [Canons 5.4]

### **The Remedy Prescribed in Scripture**

“...they must, therefore, be constant in watching and prayer, that they may not be led into temptation.” [Canons 5.4]

*Watching* (Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:6; 1 Peter 5:8)

*Praying* (Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:6, 17)

### **Conclusion**