

# The Doctrine of Salvation

A Study of the Ordo Salutis

July 1 – Oct. 21, 2018

# The Ordo Salutis

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# Endurance to the End

- Can those who savingly trust Christ for salvation later willfully abandon or by committing sin lose their salvation?
- No. “All those who are truly born of the Spirit and united to Christ by faith are kept secure in Him by God’s power and thus will persevere in faith until they go to be with Christ in death.” – MacArthur, pg. 644
- Perseverance or Preservation?
- Perseverance refers to our endurance in the faith, preservation refers to the power of God in keeping us saved.
- Matthew 24:13 - But he who endures to the end shall be saved.
- We are not saved because we endure, we endure because we are saved.

# A Work of the Holy Spirit

- That continuous operation of the Holy Spirit in the believer, by which the work of divine grace that is begun in the heart, is continued and brought to completion. It is because God never forsakes His work that believers continue to stand to the very end. – Berkhof, pg. 527
- For, in the first place, God preserves in those saints when they fall the imperishable seed from which they have been born again, lest it perish or be dislodged. Secondly, by his Word and Spirit God certainly and effectively renews them to repentance so that they have a heartfelt and godly sorrow for the sins they have committed; seek and obtain, through faith and with a contrite heart, forgiveness in the blood of the Mediator; experience again the grace of a reconciled God; through faith adore God's mercies; and from then on more eagerly work out their own salvation with fear and trembling. – Canons of Dort, V, Art. 6

# A Work of the Holy Spirit

- So it is not by their own merits or strength but by God's undeserved mercy that they neither forfeit faith and grace totally nor remain in their downfalls to the end and are lost. With respect to themselves this not only easily could happen, but also undoubtedly would happen; but with respect to God it cannot possibly happen. God's plan cannot be changed; God's promise cannot fail; the calling according to God's purpose cannot be revoked; the merit of Christ as well as his interceding and preserving cannot be nullified; and the sealing of the Holy Spirit can neither be invalidated nor wiped out. - Canons of Dort, V, Art. 8

# The Preserving Power of God

The eternal security of the true believer is grounded in:

1. The unchanging, saving, covenant love of God for His elect people.

God has appointed Christ as the Mediator between Him and the elect, giving the elect to His Son (John 6:37, 39; 10:29; 17:2, 6, 9, 24). God has predestined the elect to be conformed to the Son's image (Rom. 8:29). It is impossible for those predestined to Christlikeness to fail to attain that end (Rom. 8:30). The Father simply will not fail to carry out the fullness of His electing purpose, so that none for whom Christ died will be subject to condemnation (Rom. 8:1, 31-34).

2. The merits of Christ's saving work and His intercession.

Christ's death, resurrection, and present intercession constitute the basis on which no charge against His people will stand (Rom. 8:33-34).

# The Preserving Power of God

The eternal security of the true believer is grounded in:

3. The full propitiation made for our sin by Christ on the cross (1 Peter 2:24; Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10).
4. Christ not only offered an infinitely worthy sacrifice on behalf of His people, but also continuously intercedes for them (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).
5. The sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5).

“All who have the Holy Spirit within them, all who are truly born again, have God’s unchanging promise and guarantee that the inheritance of eternal life will certainly be theirs. God’s own faithfulness is pledged to bring it about.” – Grudem, pg. 791

# The Preserving Power of God

- Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- Romans 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# The Preserving Power of God

- John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
- The will of the Father cannot be overturned by men.
- Psalm 33:10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.
- Psalm 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

# The Preserving Power of God

- Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'
- Daniel 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"
- John 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

# The Preserving Power of God

- Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.
- Romans 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,
- Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
- 1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

# The Preserving Power of God

- Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- 2 Corinthians 5:5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

# The Persevering Faith of the Believer

- God's sovereignty in salvation does not remove our responsibility to repent and believe. His work in sanctification does not remove our need to work hard and strive and pursue holiness and righteousness. Likewise, His sovereign preservation is not contrary to our need to persevere.
- God's power keeps us by means of faith.
- 1 Peter 1:5 kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

# The Persevering Faith of the Believer

- We are called to persevere because we will face opposition.
- Matt. 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.
- Matt. 24:12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.
- John 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”
- Col. 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

# The Persevering Faith of the Believer

- Once saved always saved? – yes and no!
- Some appear to accept the truth of the gospel but never bear fruit (Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23).
- Some even perform miracles in His name but will be sent away (Matt. 7:21-23). – I never knew you, not I knew you once but then....
- The evidence of the fruit of the Spirit is necessary for assurance and security.
- If they leave, and don't come back, they were never “of us” in the first place – 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

# The Persevering Faith of the Believer

- Can you have assurance? Examine yourselves.
- 2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.
- 2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;
- 1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

# Evidences of Spiritual Life

- Do you enjoy fellowship with God? (1 John 1:3; 5:1; 2 Cor. 1:9)
- Do you experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life? In other words, are you desiring and working to produce the fruit of the Spirit? (1 John 4:13; 1 John 2:27; 1 Cor. 1:10, 12; Gal. 5:22-23)
- Do you see your prayers answered? (1 John 5:13; 3:22).
- Do you eagerly long for Christ's return? (Phil. 3:20; 1 Cor. 16:22; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:1-3).
- Do you have spiritual discernment? (1 John 4:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:16; 1 John 2:12-19; 4:5-6).
- Do you have an awareness of the holiness of God and also of your sinfulness before Him? (1 John 1:5, 8-10; 2 Cor. 7:10).

# Evidences of Spiritual Life

- Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your daily life? (1 John 3:8-9; Rom. 6:14-18).
- Do you see an increasing pattern of righteousness and obedience in your life? (1 John 2:3; John 8:31).
- Do you see a growing rejection of worldliness? (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 1 John 5:19).
- Do you see a growing rejection by the world? (1 John 3:13; John 3:19-20; 1 John 3:2).
- Do you suffer for the sake of righteousness? (Matt. 5:10-12; John 15:18-21; Phil. 1:29; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:12-14).
- Finally, do you see a continued and growing love for the church, fellow Christians? (1 John 2:9-11; 3:10, 16-19; 1 Thess. 4:9; John 13:35).