



Oceanside URC—Adult Sunday School

“Are You ‘Excited?’”

1 John 3:1–3; Canons of Dort 5.12, Rejection of Errors 6

The Life of Perseverance #10

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Because of doubt and temptation believers do not necessarily always feel assured.

False Excitement

This certainty of perseverance, however, is so far from exciting in believers a spirit of pride, or of rendering them carnally secure...(5.12)

The Charge of the Arminians

The Caution of the Flesh (Gal. 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16; Jude 4)

True Excitement

*...that on the contrary it is the real source of humility, filial reverence, true piety, patience in every tribulation, fervent prayers, constancy in suffering and in confessing the truth, and of solid rejoicing in God; so that the consideration of this benefit should serve as an incentive [Latin, **stimulus**] to the serious and constant practice of gratitude and good works, as appears from the testimonies of Scripture and the examples of the saints (5.12).*

Who teach: That the doctrine of the certainty of perseverance and of salvation from its own character and nature is a cause of indolence and is injurious to godliness, good morals, prayers, and other holy exercises, but that on the contrary it is praiseworthy to doubt.

For these show that they do not know the power of divine grace and the working of the indwelling Holy Spirit. And they contradict the apostle John, who teaches the opposite with express words in his first epistle: Beloved, now are we children of God, and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is. And every one that hath this hope set on him purifieth himself, even as he is pure (1 John 3:2, 3). Furthermore, these are contradicted by the example of the saints, both of the Old and the New Testament, who though they were assured of their perseverance and salvation, were nevertheless constant in prayers and other exercises of godliness.