

INTRODUCTION

1. Today we are looking at the 5th point in the Five Points of Calvinism or “The Doctrines of Grace.”
2. All five points are in direct opposition to what the followers of James Arminius taught.
3. Their five points were: free will, conditional election, universal atonement, obstructable grace, and falling from grace.
4. In our study I have given you the alternative to these points which are:
5. Total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and the perseverance of the saints.
6. In the last point that we are considering today, the followers of James Arminius taught that “a saved person could ‘fall from grace,’ thereby losing the salvation he had

once gained.”¹

7. “Since the act of faith is man’s will unto salvation, it stands to reason that if he fails to continue in faith, or commits some sin worthy of condemnation, then by his own will he may reject God and torn back to his old master.”²
8. This, of course, is riddled with many problems, not to mention it is not biblical.
9. Calvinism teaches that the elect cannot lose their salvation.
10. That’s where we come to our fifth point which can be divided into two subpoints:
11. The first has to do with our being preserved or kept by God after He saves us.
12. The second focuses on our persevering in holiness and obedience or sanctification.
13. So with this fifth point of Calvinism, and the fifth point of Arminianism, we have two diametrically opposing views.

¹ Duane E. Spencer, TULIP, The Five Points of Calvinism in the Light of Scripture, Copyright © 1979 by Baker Books a division of Baker Book House Company P.O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287

² Ibid., Spencer.

14. Again, one says you can lose your salvation, the other says you cannot because you are kept by the power of God unto salvation.
15. Steve Lawson says, “The Bible teaches that all the elect are kept by the power of God. None of the Father’s chosen ones will ever be lost. None for whom the Son died will ever perish. None who are regenerated by the Spirit will ever fall from grace. All the recipients of the saving grace of God will be ushered into glory, forever protected and preserved.”³
16. There are two points I want us to consider this morning:

LESSON

I. We Are Preserved or Kept By God

A. God Keeps Us

1. 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NASB) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not

³ Steven J. Lawson, Foundations of Grace, A Long Line of Godly Men, p.35 (Puritan & Reformed Publishers).

fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected (or kept) by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2. We are “protected” or “kept” (*phrouomenous*), (φρουομενους), a present participle implying action constantly going on. It is a military term, meaning “to guard or protect.”⁴ The idea is, that there was a faithful guardianship exercised over them to save them from danger, as a castle or garrison is watched to guard it against the approach of an enemy.⁵
3. “Our life is garrisoned by God and that he stands sentinel (as a soldier whose job is to stand and keep watch) over us all our days.”⁶
4. Philippians 1:6 (NASB) For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect (perfect tense - keep on perfecting) it until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁴ Wuest, Kenneth S. [Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. Print.

⁵ Albert Barnes, Barnes Notes on the Bible

⁶ Barclay, William, ed. [The Letters of James and Peter](#). Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press, 1976. Print. The Daily Study Bible Series.

5. Any work that God begins, He will surely finish.

B. Christ Keeps Us - John 6:37-40

39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

C. We Shall Never Perish

1. The Good Shepherd keeps His sheep - John 10:27-28 - “Never” means “Not, no, expressing direct and full negation, independently and absolutely.”⁷

2. If you believe you have eternal life, if not the wrath of God abides on you - John 3:36 (NASB) He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

3. If you believe you have eternal life and will not come into judgment - John 5:24 (NASB) “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out

⁷ Zodhiates, Spiros. [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) 2000 : n. pag. Print.

of death into life.

4. Jesus kept His own, not one perished except Judas - John 17:12 (NASB) While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

5. God's will is His sheep not perish - Matthew 18:12-14 (NASB) "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? 13 If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. 14 So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

6. Nothing can separate us from God because He keeps us - Romans 8:30-39

"God's power is His sovereign omnipotence that continuously protects His elect. If God is for believers, no one can successfully oppose them."⁸

⁸ John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans, Moody Press.

II. We Persevere in Faith, Holiness, and Obedience

A. If You Are Declared Righteous By God Then You Hold to His Way

1. Job 17:9 (NASB) “Nevertheless the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger.
2. Because they are given the righteousness of God they are drawn toward righteousness - Romans 6:22 (NKJV) But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

B. If You Are A True Disciple You Will Continue in His Word and in the Faith that’s in Jesus Christ

1. To those who followed Him He said in John 8:31-32 (NKJV) Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
2. Again He said in John 15:4-5 (NKJV) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit

of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

3. Those who are truly saved will continue in the faith, firmly established and steadfast and will not be moved away from the gospel - Colossians 1:21-23 (NASB) And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

4. Those who persevere are seen as Christ’s house - Hebrews 3:5-6 (NASB) Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our

confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

5. They are also partakers of Christ - Hebrews 3:14 (NASB) For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.

6. As you read the NT, you hear believers being exhorted to. And if they are truly believers, they will do this:
 - a) Stand firm in the faith (1 Cor.16:13)
 - b) Not grow weary (Gal.6:9)
 - c) Continue to work out your salvation (Phil.2:12)
 - d) Press on (Phil.3:14)
 - e) Be diligent (1 Tim.4:15)
 - f) Run with perseverance (Heb.12:1-3)
 - g) Persevere under trial (Jas.1:12)
 - h) Make your calling and election sure (2 Pet.1:10)
 - i) Obey His commands (1 Jn.2:3)
 - j) Continue in Him (1 Jn.2:18)
 - k) Keep yourselves in the love of God (Jude 21)

CONCLUSION

1. Total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, perseverance - this is the true gospel.
2. It's not free will, conditional election, universal atonement, obstructable grace, falling from grace.
3. If God is drawing you to Himself, He is making you alive to Him. At that moment He grants you the faith to believe in Jesus. It's irresistible. And He preserves you by giving you eternal life.
4. If all this has taken place then you will manifest faith, holiness and obedience in your life.
5. Examine yourself now as we prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper.
6. Let's pray.