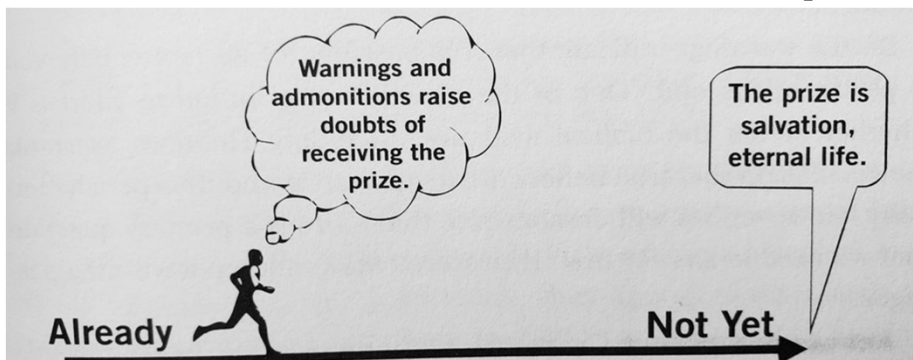


1

Perseverance of the Saints

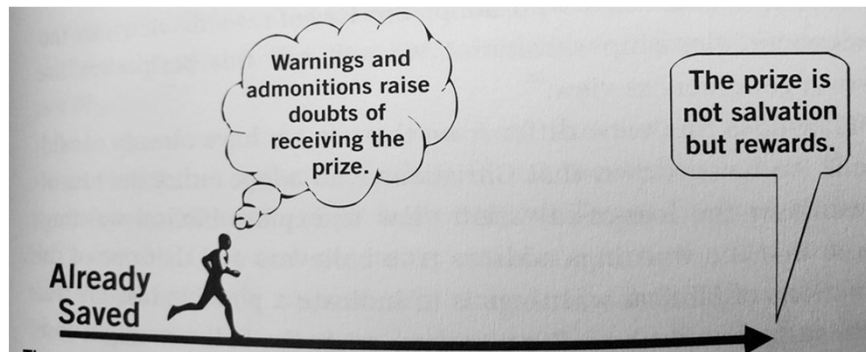
- Admonition and Warning Passages—Five Views (Matt. 10:32-33; Mk. 13:13 Cor. 6:9-10; Heb. 10:26-29)
- Conditional Salvation (I. Howard Marshall, John Wesley, Jacob Arminius)
 - Admonition and warning passages clarify that one can lose their salvation and that their salvation is conditional upon obedience.



2

Perseverance of the Saints

- Loss of Rewards (Robert Wilkin, Zane Hodges, Charles Stanley)
 - The admonition and warning passages clarify that believers can truly suffer eternal loss, but not eternal damnation. Failure to obey as a Christian may result in a costly loss of heavenly rewards, but no matter how one lives they cannot lose their salvation.



3

Perseverance of the Saints

- Charles Stanley: "Even if a believer, for all practical purposes becomes an unbeliever, his salvation is not in jeopardy... believers who lose or abandon their faith will retain their salvation, for God remains faithful"

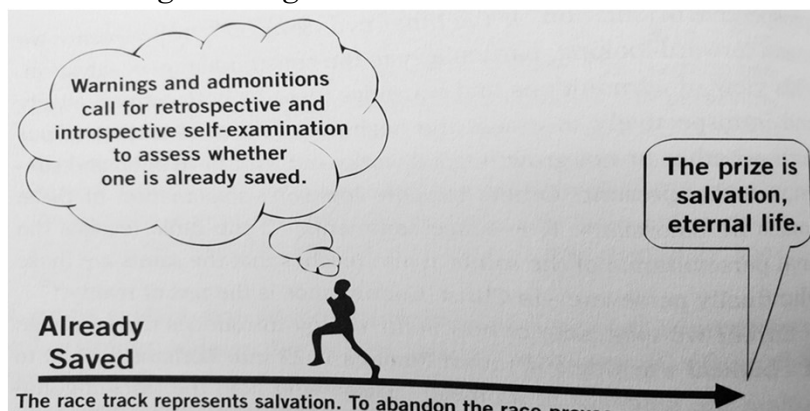
4

Perseverance of the Saints

- Test of Genuineness (MacArthur, Lewis Johnson, F.F. Bruce? Wayne Grudem?)
 - Admonition and warning passages are designed to distinguish true believers from false believers and call us to examine ourselves to see whether our own lives give evidence of genuine spiritual life in Christ. They also clarify that those who fall away or bear no fruit give evidence that they were never saved in the first place.

5

- S. Lewis Johnson: “But what about the ‘if’? we hear someone say. Is not the whole program in jeopardy? Does it not all depend upon us ultimately? Suppose our faith fails? Now, we must not dodge the ‘ifs’ of the Word. They are tests for professors. If faith fails, that is the evidence that the faith was not valid, saving faith. On the other hand, the genuine believer will persevere in faith, not by human strength, but by divine strengthening.”



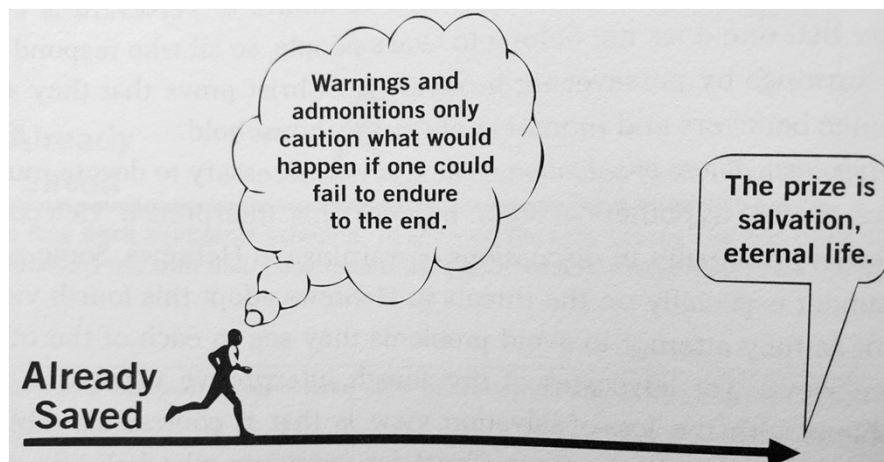
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Perseverance of the Saints

- Hypothetical Loss of Salvation (B.F. Wescott, Homer Kent)
 - Admonitions and warnings clarify that if believers do not continue in faithfulness and fruitfulness, they will not be saved, but that failing to continue in faithfulness and fruitfulness is impossible because of election and the Holy Spirit.
 - Homer Kent: “It might be tempting to weaken the final punishment [described in Heb. 10] to make it less than loss of salvation, but this expedient has not satisfied many in the light of the nature of the offense. A more reasonable explanation would seem to be that the passage warns true believers what the outcome would be if apostasy would occur.”

7

Perseverance of Saints



8

Perseverance of the Saints

- Pausing for evaluation
 - Conditional Salvation: fails to take seriously the enormous body of passages clearly implying that those are genuine Christ-followers cannot lose their salvation.
 - Loss of Rewards: although their certainly will be heavenly rewards, the warning passages clearly seem to threaten more than loss of rewards (i.e., “not inheriting the Kingdom of God”)
 - Test of Genuineness: although we will certainly “know them by their fruit” (Matt. 7:16), and those who abandon the faith were certainly never saved to begin with (1 Jn. 2:19), it’s difficult to understand how admonitions and warnings teach these truths. This view turns admonitions and warnings into formulas for retrospective and introspective analysis, not genuinely future-oriented imperatives and threats.

9

Mk. 13:13—Case Study

“And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

- Test of Genuineness View | Handling
 - This verse helps us understand that “if one is saved, they will endure to the end”
 - But that’s not what it says. It says, “If one endures to the end, they will be saved.”
 - One provides a *necessary implication* of being saved—enduring. One provides a *sufficient, causal condition* for making it to the end—by enduring.

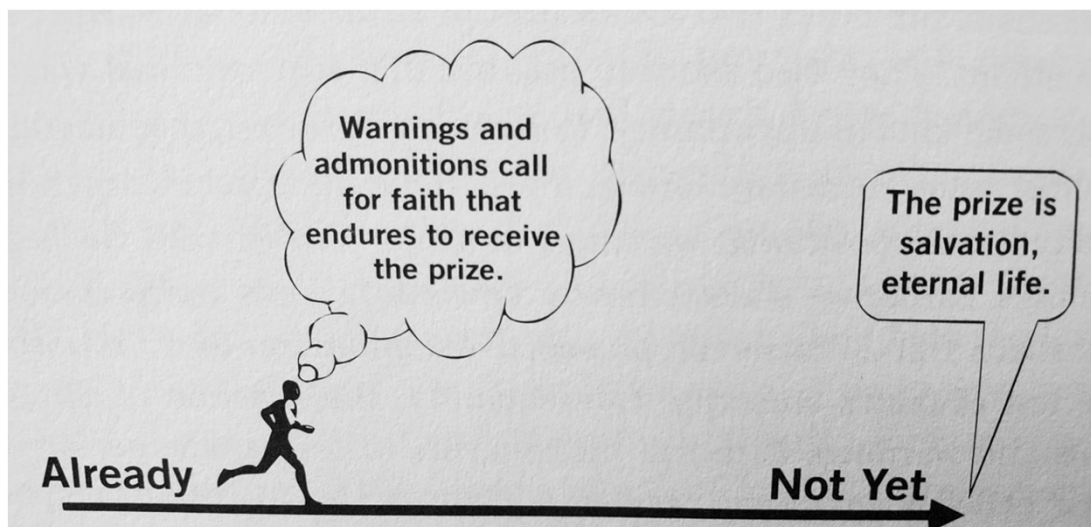
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Perseverance of the Saints

- **Hypothetical Loss of Salvation:** This view takes seriously both the future orientation of the admonitions and warnings and the security of the believer but doesn't provide any reason for why the biblical authors would warn Christians about something that is purely hypothetical.
- **Means of Salvation:** God uses the admonitions and warnings of Scripture as a mechanism and means to preserve the elect. Though the loss threatened in such passages is eternal damnation, true believers will be effectively called to final salvation by such warnings, and thus, never experience the horrible consequences of failing to do so. Warnings and admonitions encourage us and inform us of the means by which God has declared that we will reach final salvation: by enduring.

11

Means of Salvation View



12