

## 1689 CONFESSION OF FAITH, CH. 17, INTRODUCTION

### I: THE *LAW AND PERSEVERANCE*.

### II: WHY PERSEVERANCE?

A: Perseverance vs Eternal Security.

B: Perseverance vs Preservation.

### III: PERSEVERANCE "UNTO SALVATION"-A TRINITARIAN WORK.

### IV: PERSEVERANCE A GOSPEL GRACE.

A: Objectively.

B: Subjectively.

### V: PERSEVERANCE IS NOT, PERSEVERANCE IS. (FROM AW PINK, ETERNAL SECURITY)

#### A. Perseverance does not mean:

1. That every **professing** Christian will reach Heaven.
2. Nor do we mean that **seeming** grace cannot be lost.
3. Nor do we mean that initial and preparatory grace is a guarantee of glorification.
4. Nor do we mean that true grace if left in our hands would not be lost.
5. Nor do we mean that true grace may not be hindered in its operations and suffer a relapse.
6. Nor do we mean that the comforts of true grace cannot be eclipsed. We may indeed lose the sense of it though not the substance.
7. Nor do we mean that the presence of indwelling grace renders it unnecessary that its possessor should persevere.

**B. Perseverance does mean:** It is to "continue following the Lord our God" (1 Samuel 2:14), to "walk in the paths of righteousness" (Psalm 23:5), to be "steadfast in the

covenant" (Psalm 78:37), to "endure unto the end" (Matthew 24:13), to "deny self and take up the cross daily" (Luke 9:23), to "abide in Christ" (John 15:4), to "cleave unto the Lord" (Acts 1L23), to "press toward the mark" (Philippians 3:14), to "continue in the faith grounded and settled" (Colossians 1:13), to "hold faith and a good conscience" (1 Timothy 1:19), to "hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Hebrews 3:6), to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1), to "stablish our hearts" (James 5:8), to "be faithful unto death" (Revelation 2:10).

1. Spiritual perseverance is the maintaining of a holy profession or a continuance in the word and doctrine of Christ.
2. The maintaining of holy affections and principles. It should be clearly understood that perseverance is not a distinct and particular grace, separate from all others, rather is it a virtue which crowns all virtues, a grace which sets a glory on every other grace.
3. The maintaining of holy conduct or good works.
4. Such maintaining of a holy profession, holy affections and holy action is necessary in order to salvation.
5. Enablement for this perseverance is wrought in the saints by God. Their deliverance from a total and final falling away is not owing to any power or sufficiency in themselves.
6. Christian perseverance is consistent with being sanctified but in part...Despite great discouragements their faith and grace never wholly fail. Sanctified but in part now, glorified in the future.
7. From all that has been before us it will thus be seen that perseverance can be predicated only of those who "know the grace of God in truth" (Colossians 1:6), who experience its supernatural operations in their own souls. Not a suppositious grace which may be held in reckless abandonment, but a spiritual grace which causes its possessor to walk cautiously."