

A Biblical Examination & Refutation of **Reformed Theology**

AKA: CALVINISM



Total Inability

Unconditional Election

Limited Atonement

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of The Saints

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AKA: CALVINISM

Lesson 6

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

A.K.A. Once Saved Always Saved
or "Eternal Security / Assurance"

What Makes This
Doctrine So Dangerous?



A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

THE POINTS ARE
INTER-DEPENDENT

The Five Points of Calvinism

Total Depravity
Unconditional Election
Limited Atonement
Irresistible Grace
Perseverance of the Saints



A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

CALVINISM: DOMINO THEOLOGY

T.U.L.I.P.



When One Falls
They All Fall

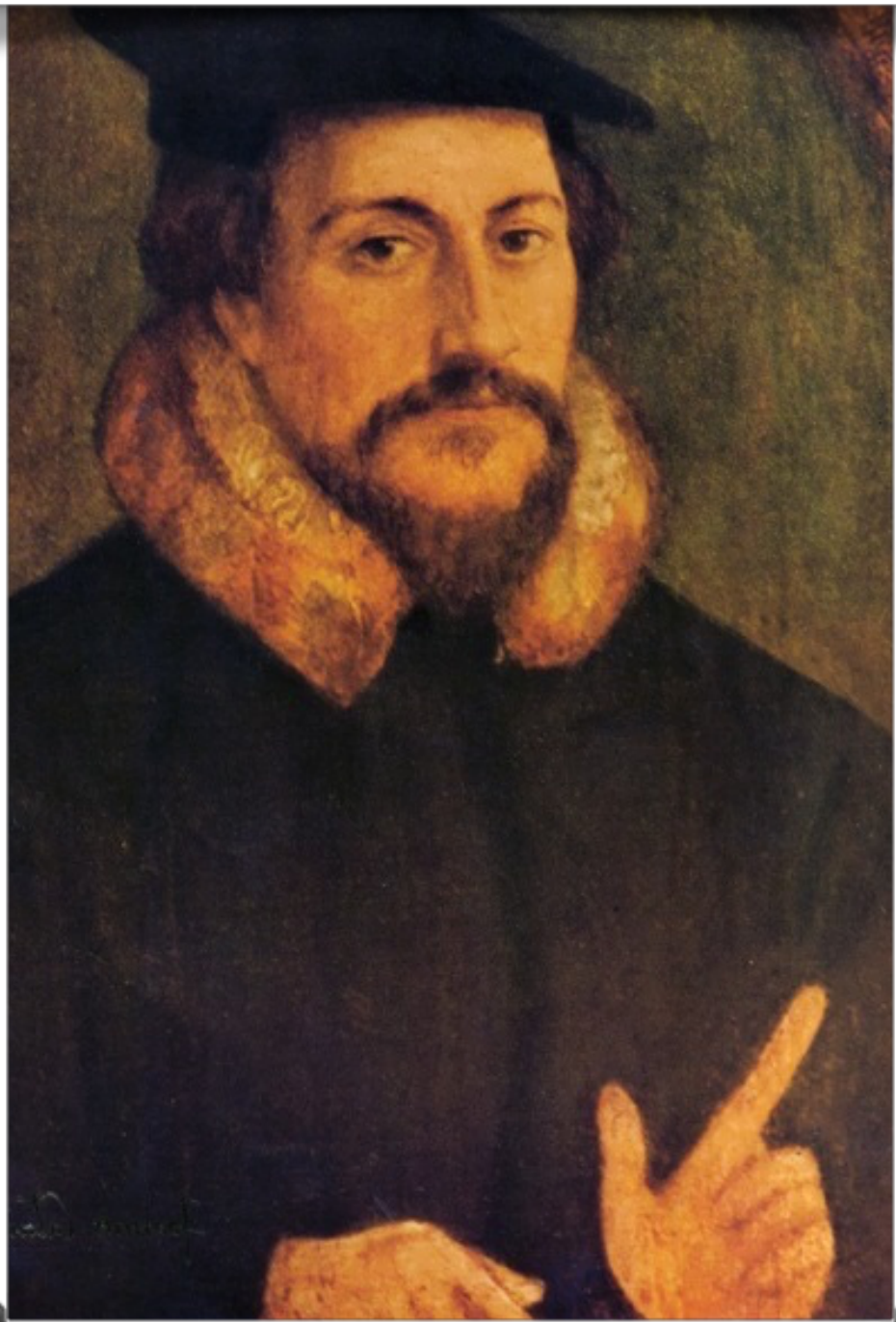
THE POINTS ARE
INTER-DEPENDENT

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

TO DEFINE



- The fifth and final tenet of Calvinism, Perseverance of the Saints, is also referred to as:
 - ▶ “once saved always saved;”
 - ▶ “the impossibility of apostasy;”
 - ▶ “eternal security;”

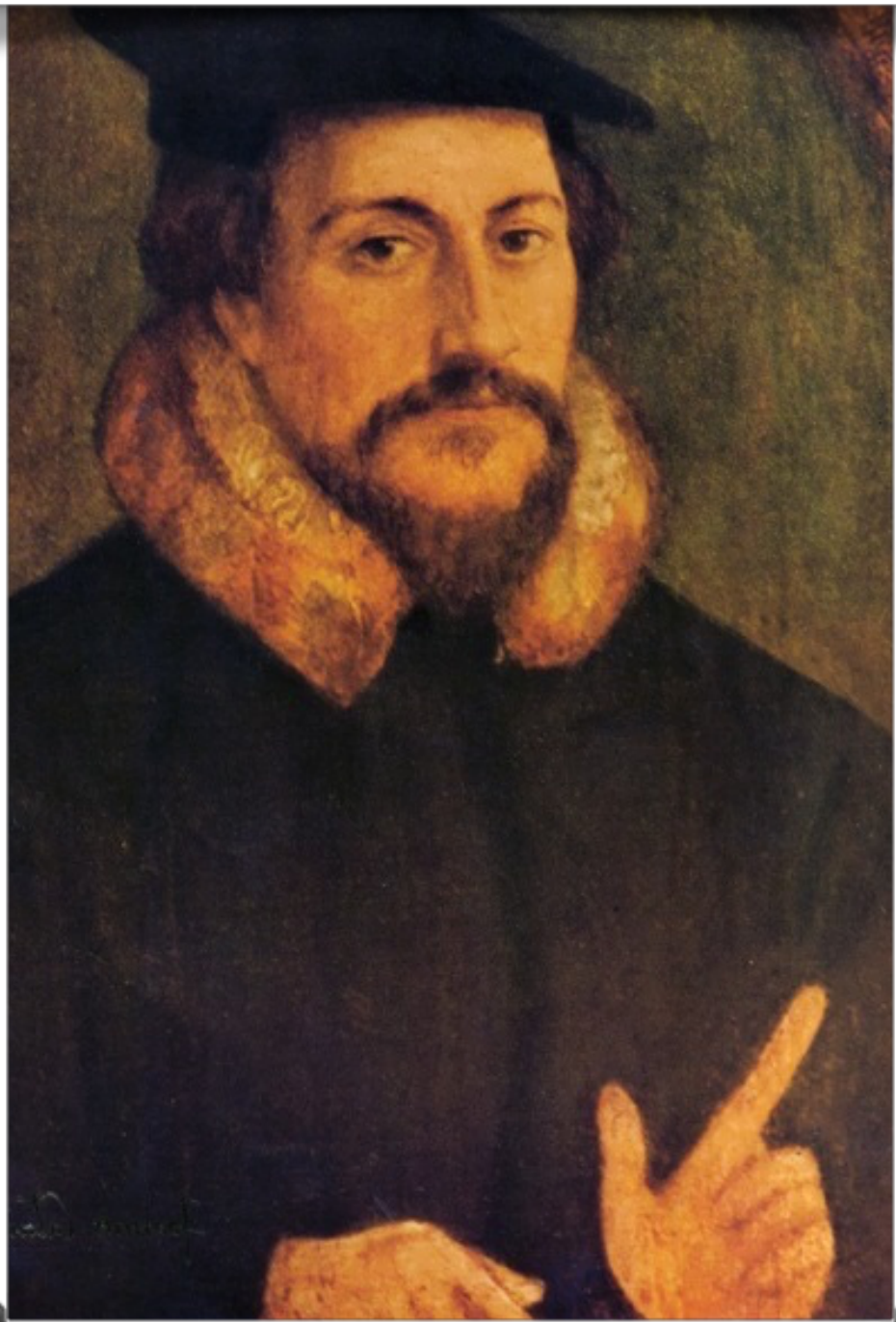
**Eternal
Security**

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

TO DEFINE



- The doctrine is predicated on the preceding tenets of Calvinism -
 - ▶ Man is totally incapable of choosing God - but God miraculously enables the elect
 - ▶ God predestined the saved and saves them. Salvation is all of God, from beginning to end.
 - ▶ How could one predestined by God, miraculously regenerated by God, and saved by God possibly be lost?

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

TO DEFINE

The Westminster Confession of Faith.

“They whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace: but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved. “This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, upon the efficacy of the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ, the abiding of the Spirit and of the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace; from all which ariseth, also, the certainty and infallibility thereof.” (Chap. XIX, Sect. 1)

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

TO DEFINE

David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas.

“The elect are not only redeemed by Christ and renewed by the Spirit; they are also kept in faith by the almighty power of God. All those who are spiritually united to Christ through regeneration are eternally secure in Him. Nothing can separate them from the eternal and unchangeable love of God. They have been predestinated unto eternal glory and are therefore assured of heaven. (Steele and Thomas, op. cit., p. 56)

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

TO DEFINE

David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas.

“The doctrine of perseverance of the saints does not maintain that all who profess the Christian faith are certain of heaven. It is saints—those who are set apart by the Spirit—who persevere to the end. It is believers—those who are given true, living faith in Christ—who are secure and safe in Him. Many who profess to believe fall away, but they do not fall from grace for they were never in grace. True believers do fall into temptations, and they do commit grievous sins, but these sins do not cause them to lose their salvation or separate them from Christ.” (Steele and Thomas, op. cit., p. 56)

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TO DEFINE

David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas.

“... the special inward call of the Spirit never fails to result in the conversion of those to whom it is made. This special call is not made to all sinners but is issued to the elect only! The Spirit is in no way dependent upon their help or cooperation for success in His work of bringing them to Christ. It is for this reason that Calvinists speak of the Spirit’s call and of God’s grace in saving sinners as being ‘efficacious,’ ‘invincible,’ or ‘irresistible.’ For the grace which the Holy Spirit extends to the elect cannot be thwarted or refused, it never fails to bring them to true faith in Christ!” (David N. Steele, Curtis C. Thomas, op. cit., pp. 48-49).

A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

TO DEFINE

Sam Morris, a Baptist preacher.

“All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit, from idolatry to murder, will not make his soul in any more danger. ... The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul.”

(Do a Christian's Sins Damn His Soul?)

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

TO DEFINE



“His second question is
*‘Is an elect and
regenerated Christian
saved while
committing a
homosexual act?’*

“Yes he is”

*(Steven Garrett - Garrett /
Gentry debate - 6:54 of first
affirmative speech Friday night)*

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

The Faithful Child of God Is Secure!!!

**We Accept Every Passage
Affirming The Security of The
Faithful Child of God!**

**However, NO passage used to
support the doctrine of O.S.A.S.
teaches that it is impossible for a
believer to become an UNBELIEVER?**



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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



John 3:16,36 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ... ³⁶

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.


A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

John 3:16,36 & 5:24

- 
- ▶ **The argument:** The believer has (present possession) eternal life. Therefore, since the Christian has eternal life, he can never lose it.
 - ▶ How can a Christian forfeit that which is eternally his?


A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

John 3:16,36 & 5:24

- 
- ▶ **The Answer:** What the Christian currently has is the promise, which is certain - (1 Jn 5:11-13; Titus 1:2). The Christian hopes for and will receive this LIFE “in the age to come.” (Mk 10:29,30; Rom 8:18).
 - ▶ It is the life that is eternal, not the possession of it. Reception of eternal life is conditional — Compare 1 Cor. 10:1-13

A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



John 10:28–29 (NKJV)

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.


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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

John 10:28–29 (NKJV)

- 
- ▶ **The argument:** No one can snatch any of Christ's sheep from out of the Father's hand. Therefore, no one who has been saved can ever be lost.
 - ▶ **The answer:** It is true that no one is able to pluck the saved out of the hand of God, but a person can leave God's hand.

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Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



John 10:28–29 (NKJV)

- ▶ Becoming a “sheep” & being in the hand of God is conditional. It takes hearing Christ (v. 27), believing Christ (v. 26) and following Christ. (v. 27)
- ▶ Remaining a “sheep” is also conditional. If a person remains a follower of Christ he “shall never perish” (v. 28) but sheep can go astray & be devoured by wolves. (Luke 15:4-7; Acts 20:28-30)

A Biblical Examination of: **Reformed Theology**

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV)

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.


A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV)

- 
- ▶ **The argument:** Nothing can separate the elect from the love of God. Therefore, if they cannot be separated from the love of God, they can never be lost.
 - ▶ **The answer:** The passage assures those who love God and are faithful to Him will indeed be glorified as promised. Nothing in this world can thwart God's promises! — However - we can forfeit them!

A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV)



Glorification Conditioned Upon Our Faithfulness (Romans 8:1-17)

- We must walk according to the Law of the Spirit – (8:1,2)
- We must set our mind on the things of the Spirit – (8:5)
- We must put to death the deeds of the body – (8:12-14)



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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV)



Faithful Assured of Glorification – Due To God's Faithfulness (Romans 8:28-39)

- All things necessary to accomplish God's purpose of glorifying those who love Him have been provided – (8:15-28)
- He will glorify the faithful – (8:29-39)
- But what of the unfaithful? (8:12,13)



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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT



Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

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.
cf. 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22;


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PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

- 
- ▶ **The argument:** We are sealed and secured by the Holy Spirit, therefore we have a guarantee we cannot be lost.
 - ▶ **The answer:** The word “sealed” does include the idea of security, but not unbreakable security. (cf. Mat. 27:66). The main idea is IN CHRIST we have been “marked” or “identified” as belonging to God -(cf. *Rom. 8:14-17; 2 Tim 2:19*)


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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

PROPOSED PROOF TEXT

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)



► Things were “sealed” with hot wax imprinted with a signet ring or stamp to identify the authority, authenticity or ownership of the thing sealed. The seal secured the object in the sense that IF any tampering occurred, it could be known. The security provided by the seal was NOT unconditionally absolute. Mat. 27:66

A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



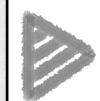
- ▶ **John 15:1-6** - Those who do not abide in Christ will wither, die, and be cut off and cast into the fire to be burned.
- ▶ **Romans 11:22** This text is a warning to Gentile Christians who were in God's "goodness." If they failed to continue in God's goodness, they would be "cut off."

A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



Romans 14:15 & 1 Corinthians 8:11

- Both of these passages warn Christians not to cause their brethren to sin in matters of judgment. Those “for whom Christ died,” Calvinists would call them the elect, can be destroyed (Rom. 14:15) or perish. (1 Cor. 8:11)

A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



- ▶ **1 Corinthians 9:27** — Paul said, that even after preaching to others, he could be “disqualified,” i.e., he could be lost even though he was a Christian.
- ▶ **1 Corinthians 10:13** — God’s chosen people, whom He delivered from Egypt died in the wilderness - they are “OUR EXAMPLE...”

A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



- ▶ **Galatians 5:1-4** — Christians must “stand in their current freedom” and not turn back to bondage or Christ will profit them nothing, for they will be cut off from Christ.
- ▶ **2 Peter 2:20-22** — If a Christian turns back to the world and is overcome, Peter says it would have been better for them not to have “known” the way of righteousness ...

A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



A child of God can
become an unbeliever
and depart from the
living God and not
enter God's rest –
(Hebrews 3; 4; 6; 10)

Hebrews 3:14–4:3 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, ¹⁵ while it is said: “*Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.*” ¹⁶ For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses? ¹⁷ Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? ¹⁹ So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

¹ Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. ³ For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: “*So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest,’*” although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 10:26–31 (NKJV)

²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. And again, "*The Lord will judge His people.*" ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ¹ Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. ³ For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "*So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'*" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

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Hebrews 10:35–39 (NKJV)

³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷ *“For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. ³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”* ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Assurance To The Faithful

The Faithful Child
of God Is Secure

**Not one
single
FAITHFUL
child of
God will
be
LOST!!**

John
6:35-40

John
10:27-30

Romans
8:28-39



A Biblical Examination of:

Reformed Theology

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

CANNOT BE TRUE BECAUSE THE BIBLE TEACHES:



- ▶ A child of God who does not abide in Christ will be lost (John 15; Romans 11)
- ▶ One having been justified can again be entangled in sin so as to be lost — (1 Corinthians 10; Galatians & 2 Peter)
- ▶ A child of God can become an unbeliever and depart from God (Hebrews 3; 6; 10).

A Biblical Examination of:

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PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

GOD OF CALVINISM

Partial

Unjust

Unfair

Unholy

Responsible -
All Evil / Lost Men

GOD OF THE BIBLE

Impartial

Just

Fair

Holy

Responsible -
Good / Salvation

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When One Falls
They All Fall

THE POINTS ARE
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Lesson 6

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

A.K.A. Once Saved Always Saved

Charts by Don McClain

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Hebrews 10:35–39 (NKJV)

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