



Reformation Theology
 a study of
 The 5 Solas of the Reformation
 &
 The 5 Points of Calvinism
 September 3, 2017
Perseverance of the Saints

Course Overview

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

5 Solas of the Reformation- Objections will mostly deal with where the reformers differed from the Roman Catholic Church.

5 Points of Calvinism- Objections come from Arminian theology and broader culture.

Perseverance of the Saints

- Goals:
 - Define the doctrine
 - Definition
 - Implications
 - Misunderstandings
 - Scriptural Support (Exegetical Basis)
 - Theological basis
 - Answer objections
 - Application to Christian life (So What?)

Perseverance of the Saints Defined

Definition:

God's special redemptive grace will keep genuine converts faithful to Christ until the end

- 1. Concerns God's special redemptive grace, not his common grace.
- 2. Distinguishes between genuine converts and false converts.
- 3. States that these genuine converts will never ultimately loose their faith in Christ.
- 4. The reason such persons persevere in faith is because of God's special redemptive grace.

Implications

- 1. If a person is truly converted to Christ, they will surely gain eternal life.
- 2. If a person utterly renounces their faith in Christ, they were never truly converted.
- 3. If a person perseveres in faith to the end, it is ultimately due to divine grace alone.
 - a. Our perseverance is no grounds for boasting.
 - b. Our perseverance depends on God's election - not the reverse.

Implications

- 4. No matter how hard the trials believers face in life, God's grace will sustain them.
- 5. Human freedom is compatible with comprehensive divine sovereignty.

Misunderstandings

1. If you just pray the sinner's prayer, you'll go to heaven no matter what.
2. A believer can be finally saved even if they never grow in sanctification.
3. If you ever deny Christ, that shows that you were never a genuine believer.

Misunderstandings

4. A genuine Christian can never suffer severe doubts or fall into grievous sin.
5. The Christian life will be easy, because we're always sustained by God's grace.

Scriptural Support

John 6:22-65 (especially 37-40, 44, 54)

³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:37-40, 44, 54

⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:35-39

Volunteer to read

1 John 2:19

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

Summary Argument/Theological basis

1. If God is sovereign over the ends, he must also be sovereign over the means.
 - a. God is sovereign over the ends (doctrine of providence)
 - b. Therefore, God must also be sovereign over the means.
 - c. Therefore, God must have the power to ensure that his purposes do not fail.

2. God's purpose is that his chosen people will be saved.
3. Therefore, God has the power to ensure that his chosen people will be saved.
4. Therefore, God has the power to ensure that his chosen people will never finally fall away, but will persevere in faith and good works.

Objections

1. God doesn't take away our free will after we're born again.
2. Hebrews 6:4-6 makes clear that some people can permanently fall away.
3. The doctrine of perseverance encourages complacency and antinomianism.
4. The doctrine of perseverance minimizes the many warning passages.

Application

- PS exalts the sovereignty of God in all things.
- PS reassures us that God’s redemptive purposes never fail.
- PS reinforces the gospel truth that we are saved by grace from start to finish.
- PS implies that genuine saving faith in Christ will be evidenced by a transformed life.

Application

- PS means that it makes good sense to pray for Christians who are struggling with their faith.
- PS offers a sure foundation for our assurance of salvation.
- PS implies that we should strive to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:3-11).
