



Reformed Theology—part 6
Perseverance of the Saints
From Sermon 11.29.20

Read *Romans 8:38-39*

Review from Sunday's sermon: The doctrine of Perseverance states: once saved/always saved. God does/did all the work in the salvation process—He does all the work in maintaining it. That, in no way, excuses or dismisses our need and command to grow, be discipled and serve. It does not mean genuine Christians are free from the consequences of sin [pain, loss, discipline, excommunication]. It does mean that a true believer will always repent and return and they never lost their salvation.

1. Have you ever struggled with assurance of salvation? Personal Answers. What adds to that battle? Various answers. But, include: Our own old sin natures. Comparing ourselves to others. The enemy lies to us.

2. What were key questions to be asked, if loss of salvation is possible? Which sins cause loss and how much of any sin causes damnation? On what chapter and verse are you basing doctrine? A doctrine that important should be clearly spelled out in the Word of God.

[Note: Arminians use several more obscure passages to justify a “loss doctrine”. See *Hebrews 6:4-6*. Although a challenging passage, we do not believe it is referring to genuine believers. By sheer numbers, we have numerous more passages stating salvation is secure—and the Word cannot contradict itself. Additionally, if *Hebrews 6* is stating we can lose our salvation—then, it is also stating it cannot be regained.]

3. What truth about sin only compounds the issue of assurance? Jesus only raised the bar concerning sin. He never lowered it. See *Matthew 5:21-22 & 27-28* = sin not an action/behavior issue, but a heart/mind issue. Is salvation lost then, when the believer sins in his or her heart or mind...or, only in the action? What verse are you using for your position?

4. What is the peace is forfeited in a doctrine where salvation may be lost? Assurance of salvation. You cannot die with any assurance. In Arminianism, you will almost assuredly die with unconfessed/unpaid sin. You can only hope for the best that you die immediately after being “resaved” or that God will grant you mercy for your final sins. Discuss

5. What Scriptures show us the Trinity secures our salvation?

- *John 10:28-30*: God the Father holds us in His Hand [which is also covering Christ's!]
- *Hebrews 7:24-25*: What ministry is Jesus currently performing that secures salvation? He is our Great High Priest, always making intercession for the saints.
- *Ephesians 1:13-14*: The Holy Spirit is the seal/the king's imprint on us. Also, He's our down payment/guarantee.

6. What have you learned from our series in Reformed Theology? Various personal answers. Possible answers: this is not new doctrine, as some contend. It's not new to us today, to John Calvin or the Reformers. It was not invented by Luther and Calvin's historic influencer—Saint Augustine. Paul did not introduce these five foundational doctrines. They've been in Scripture from the beginning and Jesus confirmed them all.