

## Perseverance of the Saints

“P” - the final point in our TULIP—The Perseverance of the lowly, naughty, wormy Sinners—Whoops! Sorry! Who will persevere? The Saints of God—those who have placed their faith and trust in God the Son, who gave His life for sin that humanity can have a relationship with our Creator Father.

What the [Arminians](#) teach is that anyone can be saved, then “fall from grace” and lose their salvation. Since it is man’s free will that “chooses” to be saved, then man’s free will can reject God at any time, thus losing their salvation.

It can be said another way, if salvation is the result of self-determination, then man has the responsibility to keep their salvation through their continuing faith and obedience. Verses the [Arminians](#) make reference to are:

**Galatians 5:4 For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace. (NLT)**

Context - Context - Context. The reference is to the lack of power in the law. Paul was warning the Galatians that if you are still trying to create your acceptance by God through the works of the law, then you have turned from the very thing God saved you from in the first place... the work of Christ. We can’t add anything to the Cross.

The writer of Hebrews left the [Arminians](#) two passages that are used over and over by so many teachers to question the security of the believer.

**Hebrews 6:4-6 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. (NAS)**

The [Arminian](#) says....look at the words — “Tasting, Sharing.... They say...These are true Christians... And we, like them, can lose our salvation. I don’t think salvation is the question in this Hebrews 6 passage. Let’s look at the passage... the writer does not say “us” who were once enlightened or “you” who were once enlightened but “those” who were once enlightened. In contrast he says later “Beloved, **we** are persuaded better things of you. Lets look in more detail... those who have once been enlightened have an intellectual understanding of God’s redemptive actions. Knowledge is a pre-requisite to faith but knowledge does not mean saving faith is there.

Here we see the difference between intellectual knowledge and a true heart belief. D.L. Moody preached, there are 18 inches between heaven & hell. One is “thinking” and the other is “knowing.” One can taste the heavenly gift and God’s blessings without any heart trust or commitment. “Tasting” does not include swallowing and digesting—we can get a surface “taste” of something, and turn from it... even hate the taste of it. The woman at the well wasn’t asked to “taste.”

**John 4:10-14 (sel) Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; the water I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

Judas tasted of Christ, his friendship, his miracles, and saw God's power, during the time he spent with the Lord. But he never came to trust in and depend upon what Jesus was teaching, and his actions exposed what he truly believed.

In Matthew 13 we find the parable of the sower. **The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Matthew 13:19-23**

We all know of people, even in our churches today, who taste the things of God but produce thorns in their daily life.

**2 Timothy 3:5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!**

The spies at Kadesh-Barnea... got a taste of the land... brought back some fruit... but never crossed the Jordan into the promised land. Faith resulting in transformative change are the gateway to life. **Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.**

In accepting the **Arminian** view that a believer can "fall away" and be lost again, it seems you must also believe... according to the Hebrews 6 passage that it is clearly "impossible" to ever be saved again.

If you can be saved and lost—and saved and lost more than once—what do you do with Christ's statement at the judgement of unbelievers....

**Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you.**

Jesus also said... **John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.**

Now, what did the **Reformers** believe? They reached the logical conclusion that...

- since salvation is of the Lord (He initiates & does it all)
- then His saints will surely persevere

**Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.**

And... what did the Reformers base their views on?

**Jude 24** And now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence innocent of sin and with great joy.

**Ezekiel 36:25** select ....you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away... I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you... And I will put my Spirit in you...

**2 Timothy 1:12** ....I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

**Psalm 37:28** For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever...

**John 6:39** (Jesus speaking) And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them to eternal life at the last day.

Friends—we had nothing to do with getting saved and we have nothing to do with staying saved. It is finished!

Salvation is solely by the grace and will of God our Father and has nothing to do with our sometimes vacillating and weak will.

Judas betrayed Christ then went out and committed suicide.

Peter betrayed Christ then repented and was restored in their relationship.

Jesus said to Judas, **“What you have to do, do quickly.”**

Jesus said to Peter, **“I have prayed for you, that your faith will not fail...”**

Here is what the Westminster Confession says:

*“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.”*

A quote from RC Sproul on the perseverance of the saints....

*“An analogy of God’s work of preservation may be seen in the image of a father holding onto his small child’s hand as they walk together. In the Arminian view the safety of the child rests in the strength of the child’s grip on the father’s hand. If the child lets go he will perish. In the Calvinist view the safety of the child rests in the strength of the father’s grip on the child. If the child’s grip fails, the father’s grip holds firm. The arm of the Lord does not wax short.”*

*Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord.*