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Lazarus and the TULIP, Part 5

Selected Scriptures

V. Perseverance of the Saints

A. How to understand this doctrine (Phil. 1:6; 1 Jn. 2:19; Matt. 15:8; 7:23)

Perseverance of the saints teaches that those who are born again will _____ trusting in Christ and bearing the fruit of the Spirit throughout their lifetime. And God, by His own power through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, _____ or preserves the believer forever.

1. Perseverance is _____ a work of God in you and not a treadmill you run on (Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Jn. 5:11-13; Col. 2:13; Eph. 2:8-9)
2. Perseverance is not easy believism, but it is _____ salvation (Titus 2:11-14)
3. Perseverance does not prevent suffering, but brings you _____ suffering (1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Cor. 4:8-10; Rom. 8:35-39)

B. How it is taught in the Gospel of John

1. Whoever believes in Jesus will not _____ but will have eternal life (Jn. 3:16, 36)
2. Whoever _____ of the living water will never thirst again (Jn. 4:13-14; 7:38)
3. Whoever believes in Jesus has _____ from death to life (Jn. 5:24)
4. Whoever _____ the bread of life will never hunger again (Jn. 6:35, 40, 51, 58)
5. Whoever _____ Christ and keeps His Word will never die (Jn. 8:12, 52; 10:27-30)
6. Whoever believes in Jesus has a _____ prepared for them (Jn. 14:1-3)
7. Whoever loves Christ and abides in Him will not _____ away (Jn. 16:1; 17:11-12)

C. How it is illustrated in the resurrection of Lazarus (Jn. 12:1-2, 9-11, 16-19)

1. Lazarus continued his _____ with Jesus (vv.1-2)
2. Lazarus continued to be a _____ for Christ (vv. 9-11)
3. Lazarus continued to make a _____ in how the world saw Jesus (vv. 16-19)

TAKE HOME

- These doctrines ought to effect our world view
- These doctrines ought to effect our worship
- These doctrines ought to effect our witness

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. According to Martin Luther, what was the main point he was trying to make in the Reformation? Why do most Christians believe in the perseverance of the saints? Is it fair to adopt this doctrine if you deny total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, and irresistible grace? Why or why not?

2. What are the two truths emphasized in the definition of perseverance of the saints? How does Phil. 1:6, and Jn. 2:19 help us understand this a little better?

3. Which one of the clarifications of perseverance of the saints was most helpful for you? Have you ever struggled with assurance of your salvation? How does this doctrine help? What verses instruct us on this matter?

4. What is the difference of the possible emphasis of “once saved, always saved” vs. “perseverance of the saints”? Read Titus 2:11-14. How does this text bring clarity to this?

5. Which one of the passages of John encourages you the most about the perseverance of the saints? Why?

6. As we looked at John 12:1-2, 9-11, and 16-19, how do we see that Lazarus really is a good picture of the perseverance of the saints?

7. As we have come to an end of our study of the Doctrines of Grace, how will the take home points effect the way you view God, salvation, and the world? What would be one change brought about in you through this study? How will this affect the way you live day to day?

“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 to the end, and be eternally saved.”

- The Westminster Confession of Faith (Chap. 17, Sec. 1)