

## Perseverance and Preservation of the Saints

**Definition:** All those whom God elected unto salvation before time began<sup>1</sup>, predestined to be conformed into the image of His Son<sup>2</sup>, effectually called<sup>3</sup> out of darkness into His marvelous light and unto eternal life, justified because of the life and death of Christ on their behalf, He, God, will preserve unto eternity.<sup>4</sup> And because of this preservation of God, all the above mentioned saints will persevere until the end. This perseverance is not dependent on the will of the saints but upon the immutable decree of election<sup>5</sup>, God's unchanging love<sup>6</sup>, the work of Jesus Christ our Lord<sup>7</sup>, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit<sup>8</sup>. This doctrine teaches that once a person is saved he cannot totally fall away and lose his salvation but will surely return.

Preservation and perseverance are all GRACE<sup>9</sup>. Once one believes one is given eternal life, and by definition eternal life is eternal and can never end.<sup>10</sup>

This doctrine does not preclude saints falling into grievous sin for a period of time, through the temptation of the world and Satan, and the neglect of the God-given means for their perseverance (His Word, prayer, and His Church<sup>11</sup>). During this time, the saint will experience God's displeasure by incurring God's discipline<sup>12</sup> and grieve the Holy Spirit.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See position paper on "Election".

<sup>2</sup> See position paper on "Predestination".

<sup>3</sup> See position paper on "Effectual Call".

<sup>4</sup> Romans 8:29-30; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 138:8

<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Romans 8:29; John 10:27-30; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 11:5-6; 2 Timothy 1:8-9

<sup>6</sup> Romans 8:33-39; Jeremiah 31:3

<sup>7</sup> John 6:37-40; Hebrews 10:10, 14; 13:20-21; 7:25; 9:12-15; Romans 7:14; 8:34; 1 John 4:10; Ephesians 2:6.

<sup>8</sup> Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5

<sup>9</sup> Romans 6:14; 11:6, 29.

<sup>10</sup> John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:40, 47; 10:27-30; 11:26; 1 John 5:11-13

<sup>11</sup> John 6:27; Philippians 2:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Hebrews 12:5-11; Proverbs 3:11-12; 1 Corinthians 11:30-32

<sup>13</sup> Ephesians 4:30

This doctrine is not true for all who call themselves Christians but those who are elect, predestined, called, justified, and glorified by God, and one ought to use all diligence to make their calling and election sure.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> 2 Peter 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:5