

Emmaus Essentials
The London Baptist Confession of 1689
Chapter 17 - Of the Perseverance of the Saints
For Distribution on 04/14/2014

Chapter Outline

Taken from *ST 535 Baptist Symbolics Chapter Outlines* by Dr. Renihan

Introduction

I. Paragraph 1 - Perseverance Asserted

Those whom God hath accepted in the beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, and given the precious faith of his elect unto, can neither totally nor finally fall from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved, seeing the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, whence he still begets and nourisheth in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit unto immortality; and though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon; notwithstanding, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from them, yet he is still the same, and they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraven upon the palm of his hands, and their names having been written in the book of life from all eternity.

(John 10:28, 29; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 John 2:19; Psalms 89:31, 32; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Malachi 3:6)

- A. Perseverance is rooted in the Pactum Salutis and Ordo Salutis.
 - 1. Eternity:
 - 2. Effectual Calling
 - 3. Definitive Sanctification
 - 4. Belief in their own personal life history.
- B. Perseverance defined negatively:
 - 1. Cannot totally fall away.
 - a) Believers cannot sin away their salvation.
 - 2. Cannot finally fall away.
 - a) At the end of their lives they will not be found in a condition of falling away.
 - 3. Now notice, that the wording is "fall from the state of grace."
 - a) Think of the 4 states of man.
- C. Perseverance expressed positively
- D. The reasons for perseverance:
 - 1. God's acts cannot be reversed
 - 2. Because he continues his work by producing many graces of the Spirit in them in this life.
- E. The Factors necessitating perseverance:
 - 1. The world
 - a) "...many storms and floods arise and beat against them"
 - 2. The flesh
 - a) "...unbelief"
 - b) Believers do struggle with unbelief
 - (1) Doubt
 - (2) Forgetfulness
 - 3. The devil.
 - a) "...temptations of Satan"
 - 4. "All of these may individually or together impede the sensible sight of the light and love of God."

5. "Yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon..."
- F. The Facts of perseverance in the face of this threefold opposition:
 1. God is always the same - Immutability of God
 2. His people are kept by his mighty power
 3. Their names are engraved on his hands
 4. Their names have been written in the book of life.

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:28, ESV)

"My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." (John 10:29, ESV)

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6, ESV)

"But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, 'Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.'" (2 Timothy 2:19, ESV)

"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." (1 John 2:19, ESV)

"If they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, 'then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes...'" (Psalm 89:32, ESV)

"But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world." (1 Corinthians 11:32, ESV)

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." (Malachi 3:6, ESV)

"But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:27, ESV)

II. Paragraph 2 - The three fold basis of Perseverance

This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ and union with him, the oath of God, the abiding of his Spirit, and the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace; from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.

(Romans 8:30, Romans 9:11, 16; Romans 5:9, 10; John 14:19; Hebrews 6:17, 18; 1 John 3:9; Jeremiah 32:40)

- A. Negatively
 1. It is "not upon their freewill"
- A. Positively:
 1. The immutability of the decree of election
 - a) Think of Chapter 3 of the confession.
 - b) The decree itself is immutable. God's decree is not contingent.
 - c) It flows from the unchanging character of God.
 - (1) What it was when were his enemies, it is now that we are his children.

- (2) If he received us while enemies, why would he reject us while his children.
- 2. The work of Christ in accomplishing and applying redemption
 - a) The intercession and merit of Jesus Christ
 - (1) God is satisfied with the work of the Son
 - (2) He intercedes for us even now
 - b) Union with Christ
 - c) The oath of God
 - (1) Can God lie?
 - (2) God's oath is that he will accept all who come to him in faith in the Son.
 - (a) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, ESV)
 - d) The abiding of his Spirit and the seed of God within them
- 3. The nature of the covenant of Grace
 - a) If you believe that you can loose your salvation, then you believe that you must earn it, and therefore undermine grace.

"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 8:30, ESV)

"though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls —" (Romans 9:11, ESV)

"So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy." (Romans 9:16, ESV)

"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God." (Romans 5:9, ESV)

"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." (Romans 5:10, ESV)

"Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19, ESV)

"So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us." (Hebrews 6:17-18, ESV)

"No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God." (1 John 3:9, ESV)

"I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me." (Jeremiah 32:40, ESV)

III. Paragraph 3 - The Certainty of Perseverance

And though they may, through the temptation of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins, and for a time continue therein, whereby they incur God's displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit, come to have their graces and comforts impaired, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded, hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon

themselves, yet shall they renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.

(Matthew 26:70, 72, 74; Isaiah 64:5, 9; Ephesians 4:30; Psalms 51:10, 12; Psalms 32:3, 4; 2 Samuel 12:14; Luke 22:32, 61, 62)

- A. Some relation from paragraph 1
- B. The Obstacles
 - 1. The devil
 - 2. The world
 - 3. The flesh
 - a) Strength of indwelling sin
 - b) Neglect of means of their preservation (means of grace)
 - (1) You do need the church!
- C. The temporal problems:
 - 1. Fall into grievous sins (as did David)
 - 2. Continue in them
 - 3. Incur God's displeasure
 - 4. Grieve the Spirit
 - 5. Growth impaired and hearts hardened
 - 6. Consciences wounded
 - 7. Harm and scandalize others
 - 8. Suffer temporal judgments
- D. The certain result

“But he denied it before them all, saying, ‘I do not know what you mean.’” (Matthew 26:70, ESV)

“And again he denied it with an oath: ‘I do not know the man.’” (Matthew 26:72, ESV)

“Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, ‘I do not know the man.’ And immediately the rooster crowed.” (Matthew 26:74, ESV)

“You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?” (Isaiah 64:5, ESV)

“Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.” (Isaiah 64:9, ESV)

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30, ESV)

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10, ESV)

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:12, ESV)

“For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.” (Psalm 32:3, ESV)

“For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah” (Psalm 32:4, ESV)

“Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die.” (2 Samuel 12:14, ESV)

“But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:32, ESV)

“And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” (Luke 22:61, ESV)

“And he went out and wept bitterly.” (Luke 22:62, ESV)

Conclusion

“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.” (1 John 2:19, ESV)

“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.” (2 Peter 1:10, ESV)