

• Calvanism explained.

- If you want it;
 you haven't got it;
 - If you want it, you can't get it;
 - If you get it, you can't lose it

• If you lose it, you never had it."

• (Zachary - Smith Debate, title page)

The Westminster Confession of Faith. "They whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, <u>can neither totally</u> nor finally fall away from the state of grace: but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved. 4

Billy Graham assures his listeners:

" The Christian life is a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. And best of all, it is a relationship that will last for all eternity. You CANNOT end this relationship. **Once you have accepted Christ** you are his forevermore." 5

Sam Morris, a Baptist preacher.

- \cdot "All the prayers a man may pray,
 - · all the Bibles he may read,
- · all the churches he may belong to,
 - · all the services he may attend,
 - · all the sermons he may practice,
 - · all the debts he may pay,

Sam Morris, a Baptist preacher.

- · all the ordinances he may observe,
 - · all the laws he may keep,
 - all the benevolent acts he may perform
- will not make his soul one whit safer;

 and all the sins he may commit, from idolatry to murder, will not make his soul in any more danger. ...

> • <u>The way a man lives</u> <u>has nothing whatever to do</u> with the salvation of his soul."

(Do a Christian's Sins Damn His Soul?)

• Bill Foster, Baptist preacher in Louisville, KY made this comment: • "If I killed my wife and mother and debauched a thousand women I couldn't go to hell in fact, I couldn't go to hell if I wanted to."

(The Weekly Worker, March 12, 1959).[®]

David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas.

 "<u>The elect are not only redeemed by Christ</u> and renewed by the Spirit;

> • <u>they are also kept in faith</u> by the almighty power of God.

 All those who are spiritually united to Christ through regeneration
 <u>are eternally secure in Him.</u>

 Nothing can separate them from the eternal and unchangeable love of God.

 They have been predestinated unto eternal glory

and are therefore assured of heaven.

The doctrine of perseverance of the saints does not maintain that all who profess the Christian faith are certain of heaven.

It is saints who are <u>set apart by the Spirit</u> who persevere to the end. Believers who are given true, living faith in Christ are secure and safe in Him.

Many who profess to believe fall away, but they do not fall from grace for they were never in grace.

True believers do fall into temptations, and they do commit grievous sins, <u>but these sins do not</u> <u>cause them to lose</u> <u>their salvation or</u> <u>separate them from Christ</u>." (Steele and Thomas, op. cit., p. 56)

• The thief on the cross

is an illustration of this truth.

- He taught nobody the Bible.
 - He joined nobody's church.

• He wasn't baptized.

- He did not observe the Lord's Supper.
 - He paid no debts.
 - He rectified no wrongs.
 - He led nobody else to Christ.

- He turned over no "new leaves."
- He did not "straighten up his life."
- He did not "change his way of living."
 - He trusted Christ; he died.
 - But Christ assured him;
 "<u>This day shalt thou be</u> with me in paradise."

Sam Morris [Do a Christian's Sins Damn His Soul?].

• The doctrine of <u>Perseverance of the Saints</u> is based upon the false assumption <u>that the elect sinner is clothed</u> <u>in the personal righteousness</u> <u>of Jesus Christ.</u>

 Therefore, when God looks at him, <u>He does not see</u> <u>the sins of the elect one</u>, rather He sees the perfection of Jesus.

 Calvinists believe the guilt of Adam's sin was imputed to the whole human race and that all are sinners by virtue of the fact that being descendants of Adam they inherited the guilt of his sin.

 The remedy Calvinists offer for imputed sin is <u>a second imputation.</u> Thus, one does <u>not</u> have to be concerned with doing righteousness if he is one whom God has elected to save. To *impute* is "to credit to a person or a cause ... to credit by transferral."

(Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, p. 421).

 The perfect life of Christ is imputed to the elect sinner. In viewing that individual, God only sees the personal righteousness of Jesus, not the sins of the sinner. This allows the elect one to continue to sin because Christ lived a sinless life in his stead and the innocence of Christ now clothes him.

He is relieved of
 <u>any responsibility</u>
 for living a godly life.

 He does not even have to correct his wrongs
 because he will

not be judged by his own actions but by the perfect life Jesus lived.

<u>On August 5, 2009,</u> George Sodini, 48, of Scott Township, PA, opened fire on an exercise class of women in a Pittsburgh gym, killing three people and himself.

He wrote in his blog just before this atrocity: "I need to remain focused and absorbed COMPLETELY. Last time I tried this, in January, I chickened out. Let's see how this new approach works.

• <u>Maybe soon,</u>

I will see God and Jesus.

• At least that is what I was told.

Eternal life does
 <u>NOT</u> depend on works.
 If it did, we will all be in hell.

· Christ paid for EVERY sin,

so how can I or you be judged BY GOD for sin when the penalty was <u>ALREADY</u> paid."

• The word "<u>impute</u>"

is found some 7 times in the King James Version of the New Testament. (Rom 4:6-24, 2 Cor 5:19, Gal 3:6)

 Not a one of these passages teaches that Christ's personal righteousness ever becomes the righteousness of another.

 <u>The Bible clearly states</u> that one who is considered righteous by heaven is one who practices righteousness 1 John 3:7 Dear children, don't let anyone lead you into the wrong way. Christ always did what was right. So to be good like Christ, you must do what is right. (ERV)

A sinner becomes righteous by pardon made possible by the atoning death of Jesus, not by imputation of His perfect life. (Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:8-9) The atoning death of Jesus provides for the sinner's pardon if he will face up to his responsibility to repent and then obey God's law of pardon. (Acts 2:38;1 John 1:7-9).

<u>John 10:28-29</u>

28 and I give unto them eternal life; <u>and they shall never perish</u>, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.

29 My Father, who hath given them unto me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

The argument:

No one can snatch any of Christ's sheep from out of the Father's hand.

Therefore, no one who has been saved can ever be lost.

The answer.

It is true that no one is able to pluck the saved out of the hand of God unless the person is willing to go.

Becoming a "sheep" and being placed in the hand of God is conditional. John 10:26-27 It takes hearing Christ (v. 27), believing Christ (v. 26) and **following** Christ (v. 27)

Remaining a "sheep" is likewise conditional. As long as a person remains a faithful follower of Christ he "shall never perish" (v. 28) But remember, <u>a sheep can go astray.</u>

When a person places himself in God's care and humbly submits to His will, no other person or being can tear him from this position. But this passage does not teach that he is not able to remove himself from the hand of God by sinning (Isaiah 59:1-2)

Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 Even as it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

<u>37</u> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall
 be able to separate us from the love of God, which is
 in Christ Jesus our Lord. 31

• The argument: **Nothing** can separate the elect from the love of God. · Therefore, if they cannot be separated from the love of God, they can never be lost.

The answer.

It is true that all the things named in this passage <u>cannot separate one</u> <u>from the love of Christ,</u>

The passage is not speaking of the love Christ has for us <u>but of the love we have for Him.</u> (Romans 8: 28) "<u>To them that love God</u>" 33

<u>1 John 3:6-9</u>

6 Whosoever abides in him sins not: whosoever sins has not seen him, neither knows him.

7 My little children, let no man lead you astray: he that does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous:

<u>8</u> he that sins is of the devil; for the devil sins from the beginning. To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

<u>9</u> <u>Whosoever is begotten of God does not sin,</u> because his seed abides in him: and he cannot sin, because he is begotten of God.

The answer.

"<u>Cannot</u>," {G_1410} from the Greek <u>ou-dunamal</u>, <u>means morally unable</u>

Not that which is physically impossible.

"<u>Cannot</u>,"

as used in Scripture, does not always mean impossible.

The example of Balaam **"Though Balak were** to give me his house full of gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord. (Numbers 22:18) Rather, he meant that he could not do it and be pleasing to God.

The child of God has come to the place where he is not physically unable to do any wrong, But that he is morally restrained from it.

Scriptural Objections to Perseverance of the Saints **2** Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **<u>1:8</u>** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 38

<u>John 15:1-6</u>

Jesus warns His disciples to continue to abide in Him.

If it is impossible for a Christian not to abide in Christ, then Jesus' warning has no meaning.



. After becoming a child of God he {Simon} sought to buy the gift of God with money. (vv. 18-19) Acts 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness,

and in the bond of iniquity.

He was commanded to "repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart can be forgiven you." (Acts 8:22)

Simon, though a child of God, had sins that needed to be forgiven <u>or he would perish.</u> (Acts 8:20)

Simon had fallen from grace. (Galatians 5:4) Romans 8:13 For if you live after the flesh, you shall die:

but if you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.

This passage is directed toward "brethren." (v. 12)

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1 Corinthians 9:27

Not even the staunchest Calvinist would deny that the apostle Paul was a child of God. Yet, in this text, Paul said,

that even after preaching to others, he could be "<u>disqualified</u>,".

He could be lost even though he was a Christian.

• <u>1Timothy 4:1</u>

Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times <u>some shall depart from the faith</u>, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

 This passage states that some Christians "will depart from the faith."

> Such a departure would cause them to be lost.

In verse 16, Timothy is told if he "continues in the doctrine", he would be saved.

Hebrews 6:4-6

"once enlightened."

Even Calvinists believe this phrase applies to the Christian

"<u>Tasted the heavenly gift.</u>" Those totally depraved, could not experience the heavenly gift.

"partakers of the Holy Spirit." Can one who is not a Christian be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit?

"Tasted the good word of God."

An unregenerate person, according to Calvinists, could not possibly understand the word of God.

"Tasted ... the powers of the age to come."

The unregenerate could have no connection to the powers and blessings of God through Christ.

All are obviously Christians.

Not only could these children of God fall away, they could fall so far away that it would be impossible to renew them to repentance. • <u>Hebrews 10:26-29</u>

Christians are under consideration because they have been "sanctified" by the blood of Christ. (v. 29)

If a child of God willfully forsakes the Lord and does not repent, he has nothing to anticipate but <u>"certain fearful expectation</u> of judgment and fiery indignation." (v. 27)

• <u>2 Peter 2:1</u> (ASV)

 But there arose <u>false prophets</u> also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in <u>destructive heresies</u>, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

• <u>Revelation 3:5</u> (ASV) He that overcoms shall be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

- All Christians have their names <u>written in the book of life.</u> (Rev. 20:15)
- Those names can be removed if they do not live faithfully. (Rev. 3:5; 22:19)

• <u>2 Timothy 4:7-8</u> (ASV)

- <u>7</u> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, <u>I have kept the faith:</u>
- <u>8</u> henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing.

The Doctrines of Calvinism T-U-L-I-P

Total Hereditary Depravity Unconditional Election Imited Atonement Irresistible Grace Perseverance of the Saints

Galatians 1:8

But though <u>we</u>, or an <u>angel</u> from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, <u>let him be accursed.</u>

<u>1:9</u> As we said before, <u>so say I now again,</u> If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, <u>let him be accursed.</u>

•Think on these things Philippians 4:8

The doors of the church are open. The Spirit and the Bride Say "Come". **Revelation 22:17**

