

APOLOGETICS 101

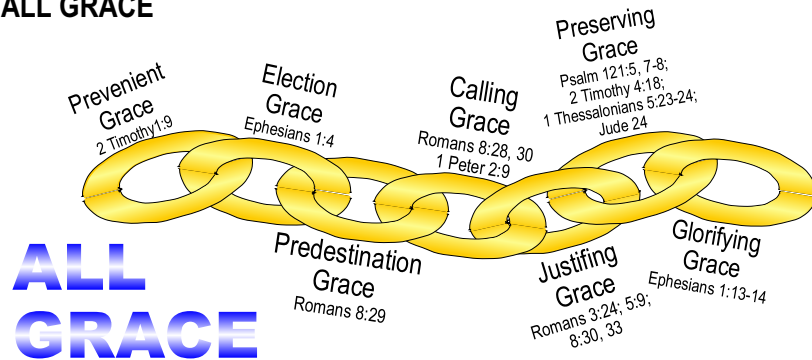
Beloved, I exhort you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to you.

Jude 3

Lesson 48 Systematic Theology Perseverance and Preservation (Part 4)

Who Does God Preserve? **ONLY SAINTS** (Psalms 37:28; 97:10; Prov 2:8)

ALL GRACE



Opposition to This Doctrine of Grace

• **SELECTING A SINGLE PART OF THE DOCTRINE AND TWISTING IT.**

- They will say that this doctrine teaches that a person can live as he wants with the full assurance that at some point in his life (before he dies) God will bring him to repentance.



- Answer: All true saints do not have FULL and COMFORTABLE assurance of their salvation. Many are beset with doubts and fears.

- Answer: No true saint would boast of assurance while living in horrible sin.
- Answer: True saints have new hearts with the law of God written on them.
- Answer: True saints are sheep of Christ who hear His voice and follow.

• **THIS DOCTRINE ENCOURAGES LOOSE LIVING.**

- They will deduce: "If I am fully assured of heaven, then I can drop all religion and eat, drink and be merry!"
- They will say that those who believe this way encourage themselves with the sins of Lot, David, Solomon and Peter.
- Answer: The transgression of the men just listed were met with God's rod and they are recorded for our learning and warning to stay far from the same.
- Answer: They fail to see what happens at REGENERATION. God gives us a new heart to love Him and His law. God gives us His Spirit to cause us to walk (live) in His ways.
- Answer: To say that a true saint can fall in love with the world and turn his back on God with no returning is to say that God FAILED in His work of grace in regeneration.



• **THIS DOCTRINE DEPRIVES GOD'S PEOPLE OF THE SHARPEST BIT WHICH HE HAS GIVEN FOR CURTAILING THE FLESH.**

- They say that this doctrine "blunts" the warning or exhortation of **apostasy** and "waters down" the possibility of eternal burnings.
- "FAITH purifies the heart (Acts 15:9), FAITH overcomes the world (1 John 5:4) but Scripture nowhere ascribes such virtues to a dread (fear) of the Lake of Fire.)"
- Answer: A wild horse is led by a bit and bridle, but one that has been broken is better led by a gentle touch and word.
- FEAR does not work with the UNGODLY – they remain in their sins. FEAR did not work with the guards at the tomb (Matt. 28:4); FEAR did not work with Pharaoh.
- We are to FEAR HIM – not HELL! (Luke 12:5) **BUT** God has put HIS FEAR in our hearts to cause us NOT to depart from Him (Jer. 32:40)



• **THIS DOCTRINE NEUTRALIZES ALL WARNINGS.**

- They say that this doctrine teaches that there is no real need to exhort people to stay on the narrow way.
- They say that exhortations such as diligence, watchfulness, effort, obedience, etc. are meaningless to those who are assured of Heaven by God's grace.
- ANSWER: Those who are convinced of God's great grace and His great love towards them LIVE THEIR LIVES to please Him.

- Answers: It is GOD's WORD that gives us DIRECTION in living. It is GOD's **MEANS** for keeping us on the narrow path.
- Consider: 2 Corinthians 7:1 and then 6:16, 18.

• **THIS DOCTRINE IS NOT TRUE BECAUSE OF MANY WHO ONCE WERE CHRISTIANS ARE NOT NOW CHRISTIANS.**

- Those who say this must first prove that the ones they speak of were in fact truly regenerated.
- Christ warned us that **many** would be **deceived** in believing that they were true believers. (Matthew 7:21-23)
- Christ warned us that **many** would **receive the word for a season**. (Matt. 13:20, 21; Matthew 25:1-13)
- Christ warned that one can come **very near** the kingdom and never truly enter. (Mark 12:34)
- **WHAT GOD DOES LASTS FOREVER**. (Ecclesiastes 3:14; Acts 5:39)
- "Whoever lives and believes in Me shall **never die**." (John 11:26)

• **THIS DOCTRINE TEACH THAT GOD IS A RESPECTER OF PERSON CONTRARY TO THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURES** (Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34; Deuteronomy 10:7; 2 Chronicles 17:7)

- They say that God treats Christians differently than He treats non-Christians when it comes to sins.
- Answer: If God bestows **HIS** grace and pardoning mercy on those in Christ and does not on those outside of Christ who are we to say that God is unjust.
- See Matthew 20:12-15.

• **THIS DOCTRINE MAKES ONE PROUD and PRESUMPTUOUS.**

- Answer: True saints are greatly **humbled** by God's grace bestowed on them.
- They put "no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3)
- They understand that there is no sufficiency in themselves (2 Cor. 3:5)
- They know they can do **nothing** without Christ. (John 15:5)
- **CONSIDER**: What truly breeds more boasting – one who is completely, totally **DEPENDENT** on GOD for His whole salvation — OR — one who emphasizes that it is HIS obedience that keeps him?

CASE STUDIES

• **ADAM:**

- Adam **FELL**. Adam was MUCH different from us. Adam teaches us that at his very best man is vanity (emptiness). (Psalm 39:5; 62:9; Isaiah 40:17)
- Adam was never promised Divine preservation, **but saints are!**

- Adam stood dependent on his own righteousness, **but saints are given the Holy Spirit and God's grace**.
- Adam was under a covenant of works, **but saints are under a "better covenant" of whom Christ is the SURETY**. (Hebrews 7:22)

• **SAUL**

- Saul was "anointed" by Samuel (1 Sam. 10:1); he was given another heart (10:9); the Spirit of God fell upon him and he prophesied (11).
- Then we are told that the Spirit of God departed him (16:14); the Lord would not answer his prayers (28:6); he consulted a witch and committed suicide (31:4).
- Saul was "anointed" **to be king** in God's anger (Hosea 13:11).
- God gave Saul **another** heart — not a NEW HEART of FLESH.
- The word "gave" is more commonly translated "turned" and the word "another" can mean "different." (1 Samuel 10:9)
- God pours out His Spirit to accomplish His purposes – He did this with Balaam (Numbers 22:38; 24:2) and Caiaphas (John 11:51)