



APOLOGETICS 101

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

Jude 3

Lesson 46

Systematic Theology

Perseverance and

Preservation (Part 2)

The Biblical Argument for Perseverance & Preservation

① The Unchanging Love of God.

② The Immutability of God

③ The Irreversible Purpose of God

④ The Everlasting Covenant of God

⑤ The GRACE of GOD

⑥ The Death of Christ

- “Who can condemn?” – “it is Christ that died!” – Romans 8:34.
- If Christ DIED for my sins and paid the penalty for my sins then NO PENALTY can be expected of me.
- (1 Peter 3:18) Christ died and suffered for sin **once for all**, the JUST for the unjust, to bring us to God.
- (1 Peter 2:24) Christ bore our sins and died for us and by His stripes we were and are being healed!
- (Hebrews 9:12) Christ entered into the most Holy place with His blood **once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption.
- (Hebrews 10:10) By God’s WILL (not ours) we have been **sanctified** (perfect tense – once and never to be repeated) by the offering up of Christ once for all.

⑦ The Resurrection of Christ

- (Romans 4:25) – Christ was delivered up for our offences and was raised again for our justification!
- (Romans 5:10) – We are reconciled to God by the death and resurrection of Christ.
- (Ephesians 2:5, 6; Colossians 3:1) We, the saints, were risen **with** Christ.
- (John 11:25-26) Christ said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life – he that believes on Me . . . shall never die.”

⑧ The Ascension and Exaltation of Christ

- (Romans 8:34) Who is it that condemns? – “it is Christ . . . who is even at right hand of God!”
 - The right hand of God:
 - ① Place of Honour
 - ② Place of supreme authority and power (Ephesians 1:20-23)
- There He is our ADVOCATE. 1 John 2:1
- There He makes INTERCESSION for us. (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34; John 17:11)

⑨ The Gift of the Holy Spirit

- (John 14:16) Sent by Christ to His own to abide in them forever. (Matthew 28:20; Ephesians 1:13-14 contrasted with Romans 8:9)
- Ephesians 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 4:6) The Holy Spirit is given to us as a SEAL and a GUARANTEE!

Corruption of the Doctrine

- ① The application of this doctrine (perseverance and preservation of the saints) to those who call themselves Christians but, in fact, are really unregenerated. (Example: Matthew 13:20-22)
- ② When those who corrupt this doctrine do not test or insist on the Biblical evidences of regeneration. (Matthew 3:8)
- ③ When the cause is separated from the necessary effect. (1 John 4:19)
 - When God gives a new heart to love Him then those who have received a new heart love Him. Love for God is recognized by:
 - Love for God more than anything. (Psalm 73:25-26; Luke 14:26-27)
 - Obedience to God. (1 John 5:2-3)
 - Forsaking those things that displease God.
- ④ This doctrine is perverted when there is a loss of balance between God’s preservation and the Christian’s perseverance.
 - i.e. The Deity and Humanness of Christ.
 - For a proper balance compare Jude 1 and 24 with 21.
- ⑤ It is perverted when the purpose of God is divorced from the divinely established means.
 - For example: God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness but the Israelites had to go out and collect it in accordance with God’s commands.
 - Christ commands us to “Labour for the meat which endures unto everlasting life.” John 6:27

- God promises to preserve believers in holiness not in the path of sinfulness. His promises are for those who strive against sin and mourn over it. (Matthew 5:1-12)

⑥ It is perverted by those who deny Christian responsibility.

- These emphasize the sovereignty of God and His promises that begin with "I will."
- They ignore the "ifs" found in John 8:31; Hebrews 3:6; 3:14; Colossians 1:23; Romans 2:7; 11:22; etc.
- Philippians 2:12-13 teaches us that we work out our salvation as God works in us to do and will for His good pleasure.

⑦ It is perverted by those who emphasize the doctrine of justification over the doctrine of sanctification.

- Justification is based solely on the work of Christ and done ONCE for all.
- Sanctification is a progressive work as He conforms us into the image of His Son. (Romans 8:29)
- Sanctification is the process of becoming more and more holy. Without holiness no one will see God. (Hebrews 12:14) and we are commanded to be holy in all that we do. (1 Peter 1:15, 16)
- Sanctification is GROWTH after BIRTH.

⑧ It is perverted by those who fail to see that Christ was our example.

- He came to set an example for us and we are to follow in His footsteps. (1 Peter 2:21)
- The name Christian signifies that we are followers of Christ. (Luke 9:23; John 8:12; 10:4, 27)
- We are to walk as He walked and purify ourselves as He is pure. (1 John 1:7; 2:6; 3:3)
- Those of us who call ourselves Christians are depart from sin. (2 Tim 2:19)