



APOLOGETICS 101

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

Jude 3

Lesson 47

Systematic Theology

Perseverance and

Preservation (Part 3)

Safeguards Against Corrupting This Doctrine

① This doctrine is **NOT** for everyone who calls himself/herself a Christian.

- God perseveres His saints. (Psalm 87:10)
- Consider God's promise for ETERNAL LIFE in John 10:27:
 - This promise is for Christ's SHEEP and ONLY His sheep.
 - How are Christ's sheep described:
 - ① They **HEAR** Christ's words.
 - ② Christ **KNOWS** them. (Contrast this with Matt. 7:23)
 - ③ They **FOLLOW** Christ. (See Luke 9:23; Revelation 14:4)

② No person can claim this doctrine if they do not possess the **CHARACTER** and **CONDUCT** of a **SAINT**.

- If someone calls himself/herself a SAINT (a Christian) then the burden of proof falls on him/her.
- God's people are **DIFFERENT** from those of the **WORLD!** (John 17:14)
- God's people are **NEW CREATIONS**. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- God's people have passed from **DEATH** to **LIFE**. (John 5:24)
- God's people have been brought out of **DARKNESS** into **LIGHT**. (1 Peter 2:9)

③ Perseverance is an **IMPERATIVE** necessity.

- God saved us unto good works that we should walk in them. If we do not walk in them we cannot truly say we have been saved. (Eph. 2:10)
- Christ gave Himself to purify for Himself "a peculiar people **zealous** of good works." Titus 2:14
- We are to persevere to inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:12)
- Illustration: King Hezekiah's promise of 15 more years of life. (Isaiah 38:5)
- Those who "endure until the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22; 24:13)

④ We must insist on the continuance of doing well.

- It is not how we begin that counts, but how we end.
- Consider Luke 8:13; John 6:66
- Jesus Himself taught this principle in John 8:30-32.
- The apostles taught this as well: See Acts 11:20-22; 14:22; 1 Cor. 15:2; Colossians 1:23; 1 Timothy 4:6; Hebrews 3:6, 15.
- Consider carefully: **MALACHI 2:9**.
- We are to be **DOERS** of God's Word. If we are NOT we are deceived! (James 1:22-25)
- Paul exhorts (warns) the Romans to continue in Romans 11:22, 11.

⑤ We teach that there are **DANGERS** to guard against.

- Paul warns us (as does the writer of Hebrews) that many left Egypt, but only a few entered into the **PROMISED LAND**. (1 Cor. 10:2-1; Hebrews 3:12-4:1)
- Peter warns us to be **sober and vigilant**. (1 Peter 5:8-9)
- Peter warns his readers to beware of falling from their **steadfastness**. (2 Peter 3:17)

⑥ We teach the necessity of using the means of grace.

- God has **ORDAINED** the **means** as well as the **end**.
- "He could have made the fields fertile and the trees fruitful without instrumentality of rain and sunshine, but it has pleased Him to employ secondary causes and subordinate agents in the production of our food."
- Similarity, God has called us to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling." (Philippians 2:12)
- The writer of Hebrews tells his readers to "labour to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief". Hebrews 4:11
- Consider Acts 27 – God's promise to Paul that no one would die on the ship he was aboard. – look at the exception in v. 31.
- Naaman must bath in the River Jordan to be cleansed. (2 Kings 4:10); Hezekiah must have figs applied on his boil to be healed. (2 Kings 20:4-7)
- It is by **FAITH** we are **KEPT** by the **POWER** of God. (1 Peter 1:5) Faith equals **DOING**.
- It was **IMPOSSIBLE** for Herod to kill the baby Jesus, yet God instructed Joseph to flee to Egypt.
- Illustration: Sunshine coming in through windows. The windows add nothing to the sunshine, yet without them no sunshine would enter the room.

⑦ God's threats are our warnings.

- (Matthew 6:15) If we do not FORGIVE we will not be FORGIVEN.
- (Luke 12:47) The servant who knew the will of his master and did nothing shall be beaten with many stripes.
- (Romans 8:13) If we live after the flesh, we shall die . . .

⑧ God REWARDS faithfulness and perseverance.

- Eternal life is both a **gift** and a **reward**.
 - GIFT: Romans 6:23
 - REWARD: Hebrews 10:35; 11:26.

⑨ We must be STEADFAST.

- We are called to be STEADFAST without wavering. (Hebrews 10:35)
- We are called to be STEADFAST, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58
- We are WARNED about falling from our STEADFASTNESS. (2 Peter 3:17)

⑩ We dare not comfort backsliders with this doctrine.

- We never, in no way, can encourage SIN.
- We never, in no way, can encourage LAZINESS.