

MESSAGE NOTES**SCRIPTURE PASSAGE**

Introduction – a financial update

A call to respond in prayer & giving

SERMON SERIES: Amazing Grace -
The Reformation to the Glory of God
TODAY: Gospel Flame #6
Preservation of the Saints

What is it?

1. Biblical support for God’s work
in preservation

Romans 8:28-30, 8:1-2, John 6:37-40,
10:27-30, Eph. 1:13-14, Phil. 1:4-6,
1 Peter 1:3-5

2. Biblical support for God’s work
eliciting a spirit of perseverance in
believers

3. Big questions

Can I lose my salvation?

Heb. 6:4-12, Mark 4:14-20

Does this belief undermine
sanctification, which is us
growing in Christ-likeness?

Phil. 2:12-13, 1 Cor. 15:1-2,
Heb. 3:12-14

Gospel Application and
Communion and Baptism

Romans 8:28-30

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.

Hebrews 3:12-14

12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

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Financial Update

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A Call to Respond in Prayer and Giving

Welcome to Hope

The Gospel In Community On Mission

SUNDAYS

GET CONNECTED



SEVEN GOSPEL

FLAMES REKINDLED

AMAZING GRACE

The Reformation to the Glory of God

Today's Message – Gospel Flame #6:
Preservation of the Saints:
God's Promise to Uphold Us to the End

A movement away from
“Perseverance of the Saints”

A movement away from
“Perseverance of the Saints”
and
“Eternal Security of the Believer”

What is “Preservation of the Saints”?

Preservation of the Saints is the work of God by which true believers are upheld by God’s power such that true believers elicit a spirit of perseverance in Christ to the End

What is the theological alternative?

The individual has to make the decision to persevere, and God cannot make them persevere if they don't want to.

Preservation of the Saints In the Bible

“He also glorified”

Romans 8:28-30

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“There is now no condemnation”

Romans 8:1-2

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

“I will raise them up at the last day”

John 6:37-40

37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

“They shall never perish”

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

The Holy Spirit guarantee!

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.



Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology* (p. 791).
Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



“The Greek word translated “guarantee” in this passage (arrabon) is a legal and commercial term that means “first installment, deposit, down payment, pledge” and represents “a payment which obligates the contracting party to make further payments.”

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God finishes what he starts!

Philippians 1:4-6

4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

God finishes what he starts!

1 Peter 1:3-5

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

What is “Preservation of the Saints”?

Preservation of the Saints is the work of God by which true believers are upheld by God’s power such that true believers elicit a spirit of perseverance in Christ to the End

God's work elicits perseverance in us

John 10:27-30

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God's work elicits perseverance in us

Hebrews 10:36-37

36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For,
“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”

God's work elicits perseverance in us

1 Tim. 4:15-16

15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Can I lose my salvation?

Can I lose my salvation?

Hebrews 6:4-12

4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 6 and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

The rains reveals the quality of soil

Hebrews 6:4-12

4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 6 and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. 7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. 8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

The rain

Hebrews 6:4-12

9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case – the things that have to do with salvation.

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

The seed of the Word reveals the heart

Mark 4:14-20

14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

Does this belief undermine sanctification,
which is our desire and effort to become
more like Christ?

"We do not teach that any [person] is entitled to believe that [they are], and therefore shall not come again in condemnation on the proposition "once in grace always in grace," although [they] be now living in intentional, willful sin. This falsehood of Satan we abhor. We say, the fact that this deluded [person] can live in willful sin is the strongest possible proof that [they] never [were] justified, and never had any grace to fall from. And, once for all, no intelligent believer can possibly abuse this doctrine into a pretext for carnal security. It promises to true believers a perseverance in holiness. Who, except an idiot, could infer from that promise the privilege to be unholy?"

(R. L. Dabney, *The Five Points of Calvinism*)



“Work out your salvation”

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

“Hold firmly to the word”

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

“Encourage one another daily”

Hebrews 3:12-14

12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

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Gospel Application

And Communion

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