

***Of The Perseverance of the Saints, Part 3 (Philippians 1:6)***

*Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 17, Paragraph 3*

**Doctrine: The Need for and Work of Perseverance**

*The Need for Perseverance*

- Christians are still prone to fall into grievous sins, and even continue in them for a time (Mt 26:69-74).
  - i. Through the temptation of Satan
  - ii. Through the enticement of the world
  - iii. Because of the prevalency of the corruption remaining
  - iv. Because of the neglect of means of preservation
- In such seasons of sin, believers will be greatly disturbed, not only because of their sin but also because of the effects of sin:
  - i. Incurring God's displeasure and discipline (1sa 64:5)
  - ii. Grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30)
  - iii. Impairing their graces - gifts and godly desires - and comforts - benefits of the ordinary means and assurance (Psa 51:10)
  - iv. Hardening their hearts to the rebuke of brothers/sisters
  - v. Wounding their consciences (Psa 32:3)
  - vi. Hurting (by betrayal, offense, or causing the stumbling of) Scandalizing (harming the witness of and exposing to scorn/shame) others in the Church (2 Sam 12:14)
  - vii. Bringing temporal judgments upon themselves by God's righteous and just discipline (Lk 13:1-5)

*The Work of Perseverance*

- Yet Christians shall renew their repentance (Lk 22:61-62).
  - i. Being brought under conviction of and godly sorrow over sin by the Holy Spirit from the Word of God.
  - ii. Being strengthened again in the faith.
  - iii. Being strengthened to turn from sin and walk in obedience.
- Christians will be persevered through faith in Christ Jesus (Lk 22:32).
  - i. We are justified through faith, and are persevered through faith.
  - ii. We are not persevered merely by our works, but by God's grace; our works are the evidence and result of our perseverance.
- This perseverance shall be unto the end.
  - i. Through the whole of our lives
  - ii. To glory, the day of Christ Jesus

**Applications**

- 1) Beware Two Common Extremes:
  - i. Self-Confidence: We are undeserving of and reliant upon God's promises.
  - ii. Anxiety: God's promises are true and trustworthy.
- 2) Confession and Repentance of Sins
- 3) Daily Perseverance in Christ