



“WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST?”

ARTICLE 7 - GOD PRESERVES HIS ELECT TO REPENTANCE

“First, He preserves in them His imperishable seed of regeneration (I Pet. 1:23), so that it does not perish and is not cast out (I John 3:9). Further, through His Word and Spirit He certainly and effectually renews them to repentance. As a result, they grieve from the heart with a godly sorrow (II Cor. 7:10) for the sins they have committed; they seek and obtain through faith with a contrite heart (Ps. 32:5) forgiveness in the blood of the Mediator; they again experience the favor of a reconciled God (Ps. 51:17, 19) and adore His mercies and faithfulness. And from now on, they more diligently work out their own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12).”

14. How does the seed mentioned in I Peter 1:23 compare with the seed of the Parable of the Sower?
Matt. 13:3-8, 18-23

15. Read II Corinthians 7:10 and distinguish between the “sorrow of repentance unto salvation” and the “sorrow of the world.”

• For a child of God, what is the joy that comes out of sorrow? Ecc. 1:18; Prov. 15:13; Ps. 51:8

16. What is meant by “fear and trembling”? Phil. 2:12; Eph. 6:5-6; II Cor. 7:15; Ps. 2:11

ARTICLE 8 - THE GRACE OF THE TRIUNE GOD PRESERVES

“So it is not through their own merits or strength but through the undeserved mercy of God that neither totally fall away from faith and grace nor remain in their downfall and are finally lost. With respect to themselves this could not only easily happen but would undoubtedly happen. But with respect to God this cannot possibly happen, since His counsel cannot be changed (Ps. 33:11-12), His promise cannot fail (Heb. 6:17), the calling according to His purpose cannot be revoked, the merit, intercession (Ro. 8:30,34), and the preservation of Christ cannot be nullified, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13) can neither be frustrated nor destroyed.”

17. AGREE or DISAGREE: A child of God cannot abuse the doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints as a hypocrite can.

18. How can Malachi 3:6 add to your understanding of this doctrine?

ARTICLE 9 - THE ASSURANCE OF THIS PRESERVATION

“Believers themselves can be certain of this preservation of the elect to salvation and the perseverance of true believers in the faith. And they are indeed certain according to the measure of their faith, by which they firmly believe that they are and always shall remain true and living members of the church, and that they have forgiveness of sins and life eternal.”

19. Read Romans 8:31-39 and II Timothy 4:8, 18. Why does God provide this comfort to His elect?
Why does a child of God need the encouragement of Romans 8:35, 38-39?

ARTICLE 10 - THE SOURCE OF THIS ASSURANCE

“This assurance is not produced by a certain private revelation outside the Word, but by faith in the promises of God, which He has most abundantly revealed in His Word for our comfort (I John 3:1-2); by the testimony of the Holy Spirit, witnessing with our spirit (Ro. 8:16-17) that we are children and heirs of God; and, finally, by the serious and holy pursuit of a clear conscience (Acts 24:16) and of good works. And if the elect of God did not have in this world the solid comfort of obtaining the victory and this unfailling pledge of eternal glory, they would be of all men the most miserable (I Cor. 15:19).”

20. RESPOND to the last sentence of this article.

21. REFUTE: Critics of the doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints challenge those who hold to this doctrine as if they think of themselves more highly, assuming to be saints.

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

- I Peter 1:23

“THE DOCTRINES OF ATONEMENT AND FORGIVENESS THROUGH CHRIST CAN ONLY BE ABUSED BY HYPOCRITES. BUT IS THIS A GOOD REASON FOR REJECTING IT OR HOLDING ITS COMFORTS FROM THE TEMPTED, STORM TOSSED SAINT?”

PSALM 138:8

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father, There is no shadow
of turning with Thee: Thou changest
not, Thy compassions, they fail not:
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies
I see: All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided, Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

(from Lam. 3:22-23)