

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – PERSEVERANCE (II)!

Last week, we've looked at the answer of the Baptist Confession as an introduction. Now we want to turn our attention to the Word of God itself, to see for ourselves the clear teaching of Scripture on this subject, that our faith may be grounded in the Word of God.



**John 6:38-40**

*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Here, Jesus says that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. He says that He will raise that person up at the last day, meaning that that person will be resurrected and be in heaven. Moreover, Jesus states that the will of the Father is that He should lose nothing of all that the Father has given Him, and Jesus insists that His mission is to do the Father's will. Implication? If any who truly believes in Jesus perish, then Jesus failed His mission! Could this be? NEVER!!



**John 10:27-29**

*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

Here Jesus says that those who follow Him are His sheep and they are given eternal life. He says further that no one shall be able to snatch them out of His hands. The "no one" includes even the most powerful created being in this world (Satan) and the "no one" certainly includes the person in Christ's hand! Some people have said that even though no one else can take Christians out of Christ's hand, yet the Christian himself might do so. But that is clearly a wrong understanding of this verse. When Jesus said "no one", it literally means "no one", including the one in Christ's hand! More importantly, the most forceful phrase in this passage is "*they shall never perish*" (**verse 28**). This verse can be translated more explicitly as "*and they shall certainly not perish forever*". This emphasizes that those who are Jesus' sheep, who follow Him and to whom He has given

eternal life, shall never lose their salvation or be separated from Christ. They shall never, never perish. NEVER!!!



*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life;  
and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life,  
but the wrath of God abides on him.*

### **John 3:36**

Eternal life is a gift of God that comes with salvation in Jesus Christ. Eternal life is life that lasts forever with God. Eternal life is the very opposite of death, of judgment and of separation from God. It is life that goes on forever in the presence of God. **John 3:36** states that he who believes in the Son has eternal life and this means, he has life that lasts FOREVER!

Friends, the Bible is clear and emphatic: *Christians cannot lose their salvation! If God has elected you and Christ has died for you, then you shall persevere!* And now, two questions before we finish:

#### ❖ *Are You Still Trusting Christ For Salvation ?*

It is very wonderful that you have believed in Christ many years ago. But you must ask yourself: Am I still trusting in Christ today? Do I *today* trust in Christ to forgive my sins and save me? The Bible does emphasize the importance of a *present* faith in Christ, the need to keep on believing in Christ, and so we must! You said you have believed in Jesus Christ many years ago. The question is: *Are you still believing in Him today?*

#### ❖ *Are There Evidences Of New Life In You?*

If the Holy Spirit is genuinely at work in your life, He will be producing the kind of character traits called "the fruit of the Spirit": *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*. The question is not -- Do I perfectly exemplify all of these characteristics in my life? Rather, the question is -- Are these things a general characteristic of my life? Do I sense these attitudes in my heart? Do others (especially those closest to me) see these traits exhibited in my life? Have I been growing in them over a period of years? In general, our lives ought to be one of imitation of Christ, likeness to Him in what we do and say. Friends, do you find yourself increasing obedient to God, or increasing rebellious? Do you find yourselves becoming more like Christ, or less?

**WEI En Yi**