

# Calvinism - Part 3

## Perseverance of the Saints

### Introduction:

- A. The “P” in Calvin’s tulip.
- B. This is one of the greatest attractions of Calvinism
  - 1. It eases a sense of responsibility.
  - 2. It gives a great sense of security.
- C. This is also one of the greatest dangers of Calvinism
  - 1. It offers security on wrong basis.
  - 2. Only thing worse than no security is a false security.

### Discussion:

#### **I. The Basis for Calvinism’s Perseverance and Security.**

- A. Their doctrine of predestination and election.
  - 1. Of course, God will not let one of the elect to be lost.
  - 2. If one is predestined to be saved, how could he be lost?
- B. Their doctrine of imputation
  - 1. God does not impute sin to the Christian (cf. Rom. 4:8)
    - a. The sin not imputed is forgiven sin (v. 7)
    - b. The text quoted shows it is conditional (Psa. 32:1-5)
  - 2. God imputes the righteous life of Christ to Christians (cf. Rom. 5:10)
    - a. Hence, his righteous life covers our unrighteousness in judgment.
    - b. “Saved by his life” means by his life at the right hand of God (Heb. 7:25)
- C. Their perversion of other good passages of Scripture
  - 1. “Shall not come into condemnation” (Jn. 5:24) – Compare John 3:39
  - 2. “Shall never perish” (John 10:28) – Conditioned on hear and following (v. 27)
- D. Their ignoring of the warnings against falling.
  - 1. 1 Cor. 10:1-12.
  - 2. Heb. 2:1-4; 3:12-4:11; 10:26-29

#### **II. The Basis of a Christian’s Perseverance and Security.**

- A. A Christian can persevere and feel secure knowing that he could fall
  - 1. Paul felt secure. (Phil. 1:19 ff; 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:6-8) - yet, he knew he could be lost. (1 Cor. 9:27).
  - 2. Peter felt secure (1 Pet. 1:1-5) - yet, he knew his security was conditional (2 Pet. 1:5-11)
- B. A Christian can persevere and feel secure knowing that he sometimes sins (1 John 1:7-9).
- C. A Christian can persevere and feel secure because of the promises of God (2 Pet. 3:9; Tit. 1:2)

### Conclusion:

- A. Your feelings are fleeting, cannot always trust them.
- B. God’s word is steadfast, it can always be trusted.