

7/10/14

Perseverance Of The Saints
Calvinism, Pt. 7

Having examined the first four points, my prayer is that you have clearly seen how unbiblical is the teaching of “Five Point Calvinism”.

1. The first four points have failed the test of Scripture, proving them to be man’s subjective understanding imposing “Calvinistic, Reformed Theology” interpretation upon the teaching of the New Testament regarding salvation that has its origin in Augustine of the Catholic Church.
 2. We have shown and proven that the language used by Calvinism is not Biblical, but man made language to teach their doctrine of salvation according to their TULIP and pass it off as what the Bible teaches about salvation.
 3. Their approach has proven to be poor exposition and a dishonest altering of terms to accommodate the dogma of “Five Point Calvinism”, also know under the acronym TULIP.
- * No one reading and studying the Bible would ever come up with these five points, they have to be taught to you!

Let’s look at the fifth and final point of “Five Point Calvinism”, the “Perseverance Of The Saints”, from three vantage points;

- I. The teaching of Calvinism regarding the perseverance.
- II. The teaching of the Bible regarding perseverance.
- III. The teaching of the Bible regarding assurance through perseverance.

I. The teaching of Calvinism regarding the perseverance.

- A. The final letter “P” of the acronym TULIP is the climax of teaching of Calvinism, perseverance of the saints.
 1. The teaching declares the believer will persevere being “Unconditionally Elected” to salvation and if they depart they will come back before they die, called “final perseverance”, if not they were not born again.
 2. This in turn leads to the doctrine of “Eternal Security” of the believer that is based on the fact that they are one of the elect of God and their performance plays a great part in helping them know if in fact they are one of the elect.
 4. The problem is you can never be sure till the end, like extreme Arminianism.
 5. Coppes says, “God’s answer to doubt...the only proper fount of assurance of salvation...of getting to

heaven (glorification) is the doctrine of predestination”. (Hunt:377)

6. The word **perseverance** only appears one time in the Bible, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance “proskartereesis” and supplication for all the saints. Eph. 6:18
* The English word “perseverance” appears eight other times in the NKJV, but it is a different Greek word “hupomone” usually translated “patience”. Rom. 5:3, 4; 8:25; 2Cor. 12:12; 2Tim. 3:10; Ja. 5:11; 2Pet. 1:6

- B. The final point “Perseverance Of The Saints” is tied to all the preceding points.
 1. That is why we have stated often throughout the series, that if the first point is unscriptural, then they all are wrong, for they stand or fall together.
 2. The foundation of this strange theology begins by a human definition of their first point “Total Depravity”.
 - a. Declaring man is so completely depraved he has no ability to hear, understand or respond to the gospel.
 - b. A definition that is foreign to the Bible, it is not found in the Bible!

3. The solution to this invention of Calvin and Calvinists is therefore to provide the way this inability can be overcome.
 - a. So they invent the doctrine of “Unconditionally Elected” that God sovereignly chose some for salvation by predestination, while the rest of humanity by equal sovereignty is damned for all eternity, without ever having a chance to be saved, making God a respecter of persons and unjust.
 - c. They say this is the only way God could overcome man’s inability, by predestining man with the ability to respond.
4. This then had to be substantiated by the doctrine of “Limited Atonement”, which explains that the atonement of Jesus, though it seems to teach He died for the entire world, He really didn’t.
 - a. The interpretation being that the atonement of Jesus was confined to a “limited few”, not to all as clearly indicated in the Scriptures!
 - b. The “limited few” of course are the “Unconditionally Elected”, enabled to respond to God’s predestination.
 - c. So every Scripture must be interpreted by the phrase “elect”, so as not to believe or teach that all can be saved.

- d. This is circular reasoning going back and forth from one to another point to justify the doctrine, a closed system!!!
 - 5. Then to insure that not one person can fail to be saved who was “elected”, the teaching of “Irresistible Grace” is introduced guaranteeing that no person “Unconditionally Elected” can resist their salvation.
 - a. They must be and will be saved.
 - b. They don’t even have to believe, understand or believe, they will be saved, they have no choice.
 - 6. This can only be culminated by the doctrine of “The Perseverance of the saints”, in order to make the entire “Five Points” full proof and air tight.
 - a. If you are “Unconditionally Elected”, then you will “Persevere”, because you cannot resist the Grace of God.
 - b. If you “Persevere”, it is because you are enabled by “Irresistible Grace” therefore you are “Eternally Secure”.
- C. The words of Calvinist themselves.
- 1. R. T. Kendall has commented, that “nearly all of the Puritan ‘divines’ went through great doubt and despair on their deathbeds as they realized their lives did not give perfect evidence that they were elect.” (Hunt:378)

- 2. Zane C. Hodges points out that “The result of this theology is disastrous. Since, according to Puritan belief, the genuineness of a man’s faith can only be determined by the life that follows it, assurance of salvation becomes impossible at the moment of salvation. (Hunt:378)
- 3. Congdon writes, “Absolute assurance of salvation is impossible in Classical Calvinism”.
 - a. The reason is works are an inevitable outcome of “true salvation”.
 - b. Therefore one can only know they are saved by the presence of good works.
- 4. At Sproul’s Ligonier National Conference, with about 5,000 present, on June 15-17, 2000 in Orlando Florida the following was stated by John Piper....described himself as “a seven point Calvinist”...[and said] that no Christian can be sure he is a true believer; hence there is an ongoing need to be dedicated to the Lord and deny ourselves so that we might make it. [We must endure to the end in faith if we are to be saved.] (Hunt:379)
 - * What an incredible lack of assurance for those teaching “Eternal Security”.
- 5. Calvin taught that being born into a Calvinist family automatically made the

child one of the “elect”, as did infant baptism, so long as one believed in it’s efficacy. (Hunt:380)

- a. Therefore believing the gospel is no assurance of being saved, but believing in one’s infant baptism is?
 - b. R. C. Sproul even says, “Infants can be born again, although the faith they exercise cannot be as visible as that of an adults.”
 - d. This **contradicts** the teaching of Calvinism, that faith and salvation have nothing to do with man’s volition, it is predetermined!
 - e. On the contrary to the false label attached to Arminius by those who hated him, he had perfect assurance and said that the believer can “depart out of this life...to appear before the throne of grace, without any anxious fear...that he is a son of God, and stands in the grace of Jesus Christ.” (Hunt:378, 80)
6. The late Dave Hunt Of The Berean Call pointed out that Calvinism really is much like Jehovah’s Witness and Mormons, in that the only way to make one’s “calling and election sure”, as Peter says is not through faith but through good works.
- a. **R. C. Sproul said, “A while back I had** one of those moments of acute

self-awareness...and suddenly the question hit me: “R. C., what if you are not one of the redeemed? What if your destiny is not heaven after all, but hell?” Let me tell you that I was flooded in my body with a chill that went from my head to the bottom of my spine, I was terrified. I tried to grab hold of myself. I thought, “Well, it’s a good sign that I’m worried about this. Only true Christians really care about salvation.” But then I began to take stock of my life, and I looked at my performance. My sins came pouring into my mind, and the more I looked at myself, the worse I felt. I thought, “Maybe it’s really true. Maybe I’m not saved after all.” I went to my room and began to read the Bible. On my knees I said, “Well, here I am. I can’t point to my obedience. There’s nothing I can offer...I knew that some people only flee to the Cross to escape hell...I could not be sure about my own heart and motivation, then I remembered John 6:68...Peter was uncomfortable, but he realized that being uncomfortable with Jesus was better than any other opinion!” (Hunt:381-2)

- * Where is the comfort in that or the assurance of salvation, in being uncomfortable with Jesus?
- b. The important words of Peter in context were... "You have the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jn. 6:68-69
- 7. According to Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion, God even helps people with the delusion that they are saved, this is crazy. (Hunt:391)
 - a. "Experience shows that the **reprobates are sometimes affected in a way similar to the elect**, that even in their on judgment **there is no difference between them**...Not that they truly perceive the power of spiritual grace and the sure light of faith; but the Lord the better to convict them, and leave them without excuse, instills into their minds such a sense of his goodness as can be felt without the Spirit of adoption."
 - * So God is deceptive, allowing some to believe they are saved?
 - b. "Still it is correctly said, that the reprobate believe God to be propitious to them, inasmuch as they accept the gift of reconciliation, though confusedly and without due

discernment... **Nor do I even deny that God illumines their minds to this extent, that they recognize his grace;** but that conviction he distinguishes from the peculiar testimony which he gives to his elect in this respect, **that the reprobate never obtain to the full result or to fruition. When he shows himself propitious to them, it is not as if he had truly rescued them from death,** and taken them under his protection. **He only gives them a manifestation of his present mercy.** In the elect alone he implants the living root of faith, **so that they persevere even to the end.** There is nothing to prevent His giving some a slight knowledge of his Gospel, and imbuing other thoroughly."

* Where is this taught in the Bible?

- c. How can you know if you are one of the "elect", where is the assurance?
- d. The teaching of Calvinism regarding the "Perseverance of the Saint" denies the assurance a believer can have regarding their salvation.

Illustration

The teaching of Calvinism regarding the perseverance of the saints is like telling someone

they might have won the lotto, but they can't be assured of it till the end of their life, it doesn't make sense!

The teaching of Calvinism regarding the perseverance is based on the first four unbiblical points of Calvinism!

II. The teaching of the Bible regarding perseverance.

A. The Bible teaches salvation is the result of responding to the gospel, believing by grace through faith unto repentance.

1. Any sinner can respond and be saved according to Jesus, Peter and Paul.
 - a. Jesus said, "for the Son of Man has come to **seek** and to **save** that which was lost." Lk. 19:10
 - b. "I have come as a light into the world, that **whoever** believes in Me should not abide in darkness." Jn. 12:46
 - c. "And it shall come to pass That **whoever** calls on the name of the LORD **Shall** be saved." Acts 2:21
 - d. "And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever** desires, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17

2. God initiates through the gospel and the sinner response to the conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit, in faith to repentance or rejects.
 - a. "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Matt. 3:1-2
 - b. "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 4:17
 - c. The people were cut to the heart at Pentecost and asked Peter what they should do, he said, "**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" Acts 2:37-38
 - d. The church gathered reporting all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of **faith** to the Gentiles." Acts 14:27
 - e. The first church council confessed the Gentiles had purified their hearts by faith, God knowing their heart, giving them the Holy Spirit like the Jews and were warned to not test God trying to put a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither their fathers nor they were able to bear? **But we believe that through the grace** of the Lord

- Jesus Christ we **shall be saved** in the same manner as they.” Acts 15:8-11
- f. Paul told Agrippa his call, “To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified **by faith in Me.**” Acts 26:18
 - g. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation **for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it is the righteousness of God is revealed from **faith to faith**; as it is written, “The just shall live **by faith.**” Rom. 1:16-17
 - h. We have been justified by **faith** and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, also we have access **by faith** into this grace in which we stand. Rom. 5:1-2
 - i. “So then **faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Rom. 10:17
 - j. “For **by grace** you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” Eph. 2:8

- C. The Bible teaches the principle of abiding in Christ, the source of perseverance after being saved.
 1. The words of Jesus have an incredible weight, the ultimate authority. Jn. 15:1-8
 - a. Three times Jesus told His disciples “abide in Me” in order to bear fruit. Jn. 15:1-5
 - b. Then Jesus said to them, “**If anyone does not abide in Me**, he is **cast out** as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you **abide in Me**, and **My words abide in you**, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” Jn. 15:6-7
 - c. The late founder and leader of Calvary Chapel Chuck Smith said, “Jesus Himself brought up the possibility of a person not abiding in Him. So we seek to take a balanced position rather than getting on one side and pressing the five Points of Calvinism.” (Dist:115)
 - * Like the umbilical cord of the baby to the mother!
 2. The author to the Hebrews affirms the abiding principle persevering faith.
 - a. “But without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is

a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb. 11:6-7

- b. “By **faith** Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear.” Heb. 11:7
 - c. Perseverance comes by studying the word, prayer, gathering with the church, serving, spiritual warfare, by the example of others, being reproved, rebuked and exhorted!
3. The repeated exhortation to continue to persevere and not to be deceived are all addressed **to the Christian, not the unbeliever**, the practical and responsible side of salvation without implying any work for one’s salvation.
- a. The gospel had reached Cyprus, Cyrene and Antioch, “Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and **encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.**” Acts 11:22-23
 - b. Paul speaking about Israel and the Gentiles said, “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you **continue** in His

goodness. Otherwise **you also will be cut off**. And they also, if they do not **continue** in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again”. Rom. 11:22-23

- c. The church is to teach the saints that they not be deceived, “**tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.” Eph. 4:14
- d. “And you, **who once were alienated** and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now **He has reconciled** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- **if indeed you continue in the faith**, grounded and steadfast, and are **not moved away** from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.” Col. 1:21-23
- e. “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. **Continue** in them, for in doing this **you will save both yourself and those who hear you.**” 1Tim. 4:16

D. The Spirit clearly reveals that in the latter times some will depart from the faith through seducing spirits, creating a problem with Calvinist from the human perspective in their unbalanced understanding of what is called “eternal security” by the five points.

1Tim. 4:1

1. This departure is the occasional seasons occurring from time to time throughout the last days in “the latter times”.
 - a. A willful turning away from the truth of the Gospel, depart “aphisteemi” means to remove, to desist, to desert, to draw away or withdraw oneself from a place of abiding.
 - b. Chuck Smith said, “We believe in the security of the believer, but we also believe in the “perseverance of the saints.” We don’t believe that because you are a saint you will necessarily persevere—but that you need to persevere because you are a saint.” (Cal. Dist:115)
 - * Man has a free-will”, no one is forced to go to heaven!
2. As stated before the best thing to do is to limit ourselves to Biblical terms that way we do not have to define them ourselves and that is why I do not use the term “eternal security” or “loss of salvation”, neither one is found in the Bible.

* But we do find words and phrase like: “abide”, ‘grow”, “walk’, ‘be rooted”, “be steadfast’, “continue”, ‘do not grow weary”, “do not drift”, “turn not away’, “backsliding”, “do not depart”, “do not be deceived”, “If anyone among you wonders from the truth”, the context gives the exact meaning.

2. The Scriptures are very clear that some who appear to depart were never of the faith in the first place. 1Jn. 2:18-19
 - a. This is always a possibility when someone departs from the faith, but not the only one, as Calvinist teach.
 - b. There are three groups indicated, the faithful believers, those who departed from the faith and the Gnostics.
3. The Scriptures are also clear that some do not persevere and do **depart or stray** from the faith having been saved!
 - a. Paul says Hymenaeus and Alexander made shipwreck of the faith and **delivered** them over to Satan that they learn not **to blaspheme**, to be shipwrecked you have to be in the ship, he didn’t say they were never of us. 1Tim. 1:19-20
 - 1) In fact Paul’s deliverance of both men over to Satan was in view of restoration, as much as the young man who was sleeping with his

- step-mother at Corinth, treating him as one saved, a believer!
- 2) They could have been the elders Paul warned. Acts 20
- b. Paul again names Hymenaeus and one Philetus saying that they had **strayed from the truth** saying that the resurrection had passed already and overthrowing the faith of some. 2Tim 2:17-18
- c. Paul names one more individual Demas who forsook Paul having loved this present world. 2Tim. 4:10
 * Unless we are willing to say that he appointed unbelievers for ministry!

Illustration

Who would dare to say that a child was never born if he died before birth or at any stage of the pregnancy or at any age unable to reach adulthood, so it is presumptuous to declare that one was born-again or not after falling away, God is the only one who knows. The Parable of Sower, only was not born again! We are to call them to repentance!

The teaching of the Bible regarding perseverance is based on the seeming paradox of predestination and free-will!

III. The teaching of the Bible regarding assurance through perseverance.

- A. The assurance of the believer is on what Jesus did on the cross alone, His imputed righteousness, nothing can be added.
1. “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” Jn. 1:12
 2. The words of Jesus from the cross, “It is finished” are the final commentary on the atonement for the sins of the world.” Jn. 19:30c
 3. “The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life.” Rom. 6:23
 4. “God made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2Cor. 5:21
 5. “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Col. 2:9-10
 6. “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” 1Jn. 2:2
 * My entire trust in only His death and resurrection!
- B. The assurance of the believer is despite the seeming contradiction and irreconcilable truths of predestination and man’s free will.

1. These should never cause a person to exclude both truths of the Scriptures nor lead them to stack the scriptures in favor of one side at the expense of the other, because delicate balance is subject to God's unique attribute of *foreknowledge* which no man possesses.
* Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4; 1Pet. 1:2
2. Jesus said, "And the **servant who knew** his master's will, and **did not prepare** himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he, **who did not know**, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." Lk. 12:47-48
* The focus is on **man's free-will!**
3. Jesus said. "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 "harpazo" them out of My Father's hand." Jn. 10:27-29
* The focus is on **God's ability** to protect and keep a person from

- anyone snatching them out of His hand, but it does not exclude a person's free-will to depart!
3. Peter tells us, "**For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome**, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. **For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.** But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." 2Pet. 2:20-22
 - a. The focus again is on **man's free-will** without contradicting predestination, not that they were never born-again, as Calvinist say, the dog and pig are illustrations of man's sin nature!
 - b. You don't teach doctrine from an illustration, it confirms doctrinal truth.
 4. All the warnings in the Old and New Testament about departing from the Lord are always to believers, not the unsaved, who are already apart from God.
 - a. The book of Hebrews confronts Christian Hebrews who had left the

Old Testament sacrifices for their standing before God recognizing that Jesus was the Lamb of God, who took away the sins of the world.

- b. The author of Hebrews gives five stern warning to Christians by calling them brethren, in the first three they were **not to drift away** from the word spoken to them, to beware of having an **evil heart of unbelief**, to **depart from the living God** and **failing to enter** into His rest. Heb. 2:1; 3:12; 4:1
- c. Why? The fourth says, “For it is impossible for those who were **once enlightened**, and **have tasted the heavenly gift**, and have **become partakers of the Holy Spirit**, and have **tasted the good word of God** and the **powers of the age to come**, if **they fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. Heb. 6:4-6
- 1) What does he mean? Simple that if these Hebrews returned to animal sacrifices to repent of their sins after being born again, it would be impossible for God to renew them again to repentance under the Mosaic system which there was no more atonement.

- 2) The Greek says “having fallen away” the perfect tense a fact, apostatizing, not “if”. vs. 6a
- 3) The text says nothing about not being able to return to Christ if they have not fully apostatized and repented!
- d. The strongest and final warning if any of them returned apostatizing to trust animal sacrifices for their atonement says, “For if we **sin willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how **much worse** punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which **he was sanctified** a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall

into the hands of the living God.”
Heb. 10:26-31

- e. Paul warned the Corinthians, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” 1Cor. 6:9-10
- f. The book of life is mentioned several times and name written or blotted out, if there is not possibility why the warning? Ex. 32:32; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19
* There was the common practice of removing citizen’s names from registers, losing their citizenship.

C. The assurance of the believer never excludes man’s free-will, human responsibility.

- 1. The late Pastor Chuck Smith said, “For anyone to believe that a person who has exercised their free-will to be saved, to think that that the same person no longer has to continue to exercise their free-will in the process of their salvation, is illogical and unbiblical.” He believed and taught one can apostatize from the faith!

- a. It contradicts the proclamation of Jesus to abide in Him or be cut off and cast into the fire. Jn. 15:4-6
- b. “And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.” Gal. 5:3-4
- c. “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the **full assurance of hope until the end**, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Heb. 6:11-12
- d. It would make the warning of Peter, as well as others absolutely worthless, “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, **beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness**, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him [be] the glory both now and forever. Amen.” 2Pet. 3:17-18
- e. And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not **strive** with man forever, for he is indeed flesh.” Gen. 6:3c

2. Salvation is taught from three perspectives in the Scriptures.
 - a. We have been saved in the past, are being saved in the present and shall be saved in the future. Eph. 2:8; 1Cor. 1:18; Heb. 9:28
 - b. The late founder and leader Chuck Smith wisely modeled and maintained the balance throughout his fifty-some years of ministry, the middle ground of “abiding”, not teaching the extreme of Calvinism or Arminianism!
3. The believer’s assurance comes as he grows, develops and matures in Christ, as he is looking for His Coming.
 - a. “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I **press** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:13-14
 - b. “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” 1Jn. 3:2-3

- b. “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Eph. 4:15-16
- c. “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2Pet. 2:5-11

- D.** The believer’s assurance is in the ability of Christ, not himself.
1. Paul says, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” Rom. 8:29-30
 * The key is, “He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son”.
 - a. There is no assurance of salvation for any person, be they Christian or think they are Christians, if their life is filled with an ongoing life of sin.
 - b. They should be called to repent of their sins.
 2. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2Cor. 5:17
 - a. “Therefore by their fruits you will know them”. Matt. 7:20
 - b. “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven”. Matt. 7:21

- c. “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Jn. 13:35
3. Paul again says, “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ”. Phil. 1:6
 - a. “The Spirit Himself **bears** witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Rom. 8:16
 - b. Our body is the **temple** of the Holy Spirit. 1Cor. 6:19
 - c. We are not to resist, grieve, quench or insult to the Spirit of grace. Acts 7:51; Eph. 4:30; 1Thess. 5:19; Heb. 10:29
4. Paul again states, “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have **believed** and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day”. 2Tim. 1:12
 - a. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit. 2Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13
 - b. Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ;... and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Gal. 2:20
 - c. If I am wrong being able to walk away from Christ, what do I have to

loose by telling you to ABIDE?
Nothing!!!!

5. Jude says it all, “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.” Jude 1:24-25
- a. “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart **in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.” Heb. 10:19-23
- b. “For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith

and patience inherit the promises.”
Heb. 5:10-12

Illustration

D. L. Moody said, “Predestination and free-will are two parallel lines in this side of heaven, which we do not know how they cross, but when we get to heaven we will!”

* Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen”. Rom. 11:33-36

The teaching of the Bible regarding assurance through perseverance is based on abiding in Christ!

Conclusion

This is the fifth and final point of “Five Point Calvinism”, the “Perseverance Of The Saints”, from three vantage points.

- I. The teaching of Calvinism regarding the perseverance is based on the first four unbiblical points of Calvinism!
- II. The teaching of the Bible regarding perseverance is based on the seeming paradox of predestination and free-will!

- III.** The teaching of the Bible regarding assurance through perseverance is based on abiding in Christ!