

ETERNAL SECURITY, PERSEVERANCE, AND ASSURANCE¹

“Here is an encouragement to persevere on a double account. One is, that Jesus, our head, is already in heaven; and if the head be above water, the body cannot drown. The other is from the business he is there employed about, which is his priesthood; he is passed into the heavens, as our great High-priest, to intercede, and therefore we cannot miscarry [fail].”² John Flavel

Some of our biggest theological and practical struggles come from not knowing how to put together statements in Scripture that don’t fit at first glance. Part of being a good student of the Word is reading all of Scripture together and letting it interpret itself. When two ideas take us different directions we slow down and look at both together.

One example might be Christology. We give full weight to texts speaking about Jesus’ divinity without slighting his full humanity, and vice versa. There’s no inherent reason why the two should be seen as contradictory and so we allow both texts to speak with one coherent voice.

This is the case when it comes to verses in the Bible related to eternal security or perseverance. There are passages that warn against walking away from Christ and passages teaching God will not let us fall from Him. When we put these side by side, how do we answer important questions like, “Can salvation be lost? If I made a decision or signed a card, am I safe? Can I have any assurance about my salvation?” These questions deserve to be thought about for more than a few seconds because they affect how we view God, salvation, ourselves, and what it means to finish the race.³

In this article, I argue that the very nature of salvation is something that cannot be lost or revoked, but it is eternally secure. God preserves all who are His by causing them to persevere in faith and trust in Jesus. Christians persevere in faith because their faithful God preserves them to the end.⁴

Preservation & Perseverance in Colossians

We’ll begin by looking at related verses from Colossians before considering other important texts. Maybe the best place to begin is with those warnings with sharp teeth. Colossians 1:21-23 brings the question of perseverance to center stage. False teachers at Colossae were teaching things “not according to Christ” (2:8). They suggested more knowledge or something else needed to be added to Jesus to “arrive” spiritually. They taught a different faith and were “not holding fast to the Head” (2:19). This background leads to why Paul strongly admonishes them to hold firm to the gospel.

¹ See the recommended resources at the end.

² John Flavel, *The Fountain of Life* from *The Works of John Flavel*, (Carlisle: Banner of Truth Trust, reprinted 1968), 176.

³ For examples of how the doctrine of perseverance of the saints affects other beliefs, see “Perseverance of the Saints: Tertiary or Foundational,” by Jeff Robinson, written 9/24/14. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/perseverance-tertiary-or-foundational/>

⁴ “The perseverance of the saints means that all those who are truly born again will be kept by God’s power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 788.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard.** (Colossians 1:21-23; ESV)

In Paul's eyes, there's no disconnect between God's promise to keep and preserve all those in Christ and our responsibility to hold firm to the gospel. We need to feel the force of the "if" statement while also not jumping to false conclusions. They're told to continue in "the faith", "implying that faith refers here not to the act of believing but to what is believed: Christian truth."⁵ Second, the continuing is described as holding steadfastly (positively) and not shifting (negatively) from the hope of the gospel. The gospel message about the person and work of Jesus Christ is what they believed (1:4-5).

Paul states they'll stand before God one day, blameless and above reproach, *if* they continue holding firm to the gospel (1:23). We don't make ourselves blameless or keep ourselves blameless by our works or our faith. It is Jesus and "the blood of his cross" that are able to present us holy, blameless, and free from any possible accusations. We simply hold to the gospel; we cling to Christ.

Another place in Colossians where Paul deals with this doctrine is 1:15. There he speaks about the hope laid up for believers in heaven. There are three significant things to notice from this verse.⁶ First, "hope" is used here not as the act of hoping but as the objective hope awaiting us. Second, the word "laid up" means reserved, stored up, or kept. The hope awaiting us—our inheritance in Christ—is already ours by right and awaits us in heaven (cf. 1 Peter 1:3-5). The wording suggests God keeps the reservation and it "emphasizes the security and certainly of this hope because God is the actor (cf. Luke 19:20; 2 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 9:27)."⁷ And third, Paul mentions its location *in heaven* to reinforce how safe and secure it is. We have no fear of someone stealing it or us losing it since God watches over it.

A similar verse appears in chapter three. "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Col. 3:3-4). Since our salvation and destiny is tied to Christ, Paul says with certainty that when Christ returns *they will* appear with him. The 16th century hero William Tyndale explained how the Christian's future is tied to Christ. "Christ is in thee, and thou in Him, knit together inseparably. Neither canst thou be damned, except Christ be damned with thee: neither can Christ be saved, except thou be saved with Him."⁸

The strength of the security in our eternal security isn't found in the degree of our faith or the measure of our growth. It's found in the unbreakable union we have with Christ and the strength of God to keep us. "May you be strengthened with all power, *according to his glorious might*, for all endurance and patience with joy" (Col. 1:11).

Preservation & Perseverance in the Doctrine of Salvation

To think genuine believers can lose their salvation fundamentally misunderstands what salvation in Christ is and what happens at conversion when we're united to Jesus. Through union with Christ, we

⁵ Moo, *Colossians*, 145.

⁶ See "Non-refundable Reservations" entry on Colossians 1:4-5.

⁷ Pao, *Colossians*, 53.

⁸ William Tyndale quoted in Michael Horton, *Putting Amazing Back into Grace* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002), 253.

receive him and all that belongs to him. We become one with him, and he never divorces the one he's joined himself to.

Justification is the doctrine and reality that when we believe in Jesus, God forgives us of all our sins (past, present, and future) and credits—imputes—Christ's perfect righteousness to us.⁹ The righteousness given (credited) to us is never revoked and taken back. The nature of justification is a once-for-all act, and God doesn't reverse his legal declarations. This is why Paul says for us in Christ “there is no condemnation” (Rom. 8:1; cf. 5:1). The sin of a believer doesn't cancel our justification, it's the very thing that justification takes care of for us.

Adoption is one of the most beautiful truths in the New Testament. To those who believe in the name of Jesus, we're given the right to become children of God (Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:12-17). God loves us as His children and makes sure every son and daughter is kept in the family. God never sends any of His adopted children back to the orphanage. He keeps and loves them forever.

Part of the family seal we get is the Holy Spirit, a down-payment of our inheritance (Eph. 1:13-14). This sealing of the Spirit not only marks us as God's own, but he seals us to the end.¹⁰ This same Spirit makes dead men and women alive through regeneration. We who were spiritually dead have been brought to life (Col. 2:11-13; 3:1-4). Those with God's life in them cannot crawl back into their spiritual casket to die again. We will die physically, but we have life that's eternal.

Salvation by its very nature precludes it from being stolen, forfeited, lost, reversed, broken, or cancelled out. These amazing and immense benefits we receive by grace alone because of God's mercy and Christ's work for us are ours...forever. We can have freedom, joy, and peace in knowing they're ours by grace and are eternally secured for us by God's power. If we're holding to Christ by faith, we have assurance that Christ is ours and all these blessings are ours in him (Eph. 1:3-14). Assurance puts the believer at ease and ratchets up their joy by putting up indestructible walls of salvation wherein we live and enjoy life with our King.

A View from Above (Preservation)

As we move beyond Colossians and into the rest of the New Testament, let's look at this from God's angle and then from man's angle. The two truths held together are that God will preserve all those who believe in Jesus Christ and keep them until the end, and we must not turn from Christ as proclaimed in the gospel. We persevere by holding fast in faith, but we do so because we're preserved by a God holding us. The *basis* is God keeping us but the *condition* is our perseverance. It's similar to when we first believe, where faith is the *condition* but Christ's work is the *basis* for our forgiveness and salvation.

Looking at things from God's perspective, we have the encouragement that **He preserves His children**. God assures the completion of our salvation the moment He unites us by grace to Jesus. This unbreakable chain of events is laid out in Romans 8:29. “And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

⁹ This is entirely of grace through and through and we receive Christ's accomplishment for us by faith. Faith is the act of holding out our hand and grasping Jesus and all he offers to us. We not only need forgiveness but we need the imputation of Christ's righteousness.

¹⁰ See Dustin Crowe, “Seal: Small Word, Big Meaning” at indycrowe.com.

Paul emphatically says every person God justifies will be glorified. In fact, Paul's past-tense language about glorification sounds as if it's already happened because the outcome is guaranteed. "He who began a good work in you *will bring it completion* at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6). Our assurance rests in the faithfulness of God to finish what he begins, His ability to keep those who belong to Him, and the sufficiency of Christ's work to present us pure and blameless.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks several times about the eternal security of all true believers and he does so as a Shepherd offering peace to his people. "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out...And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day" (Jn. 6:37, 39). How amazing. Jesus will never cast out those who come to him. He'll never push us away, never keep us from coming, never tell us to leave, and he will never walk away from us. He will lose *nothing* or no one who belongs to him.

A few chapters later where he tells them "I Am the Good Shepherd" who gives his life for the sheep (Jn. 10:11), he gives similar comfort. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will 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 the Father's hand" (Jn. 10:27-29). Jesus knows those who are his. Jesus keeps all of his sheep, beating off the wolves and keeping the straying sheep from getting lost. He leads them home until they arrive safely into the fold. No one, including you, can snatch anyone from the Father's hand. This is great news.

These verses—and many more—tell us that though we must persevere, we will persevere because God preserves us. God is the strength and the energy behind our perseverance though we must keep walking and finish the race. God is faithful and will finish the work He's started in us by bringing it to completion.

Jesus "will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful..." (1 Cor. 1:8-9). The New Testament connects God's faithfulness to His keeping us (1 Cor. 10:13). Because God is faithful, He will preserve us, and we will persevere because He is faithful. Paul put his trust in God and found an unshakeable foundation there for assurance. "The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom" (2 Tim. 4:18).

The almost forgotten book of Jude repeats this theme. "To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for [or by] Jesus Christ" (Jude 1). "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy" (Jude 24). These verses teach us that a person who genuinely believes in Jesus is united to him and kept forever.

Eternal security is true because God is faithful. He's taken on Himself the project of bringing His sons and daughters to completion. We continue in faith because we are kept by grace. We persevere because God is preserving us. He's hitched our wagon to the one who's already crossed the finish line, Jesus Christ.

A View from Below (Perseverance)

We as believers then simply, though not easily, don't let go of the gospel. If we continue holding fast to "the faith" we can rest assured that Christ is ours and we are his. That doesn't mean we don't sin, or

even that our faith is perfect and we never struggle with doubt, sin, or even unbelief. But seasons of struggling and imperfect faith is set in contrast to willful unrepentance and rejection of Christ's gospel.

Only those who persevere—endure in faith in Christ and his gospel—will enjoy God's eternal rest. "Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples'" (John 8:31). Endurance doesn't save us, but it demonstrates our union with Christ. All those united to Jesus must persevere and will persevere, not because of the power of their faith but because of the preserving power and grace who is the object of their faith.

Commentator P.T. O'Brien says it this way: "If it is true that the saints *will* persevere to the end, then it is equally true that the saints *must* persevere to the end."¹¹ There is no disconnect between the promise that God preserves and keeps all who are His and the truth that all who are His must persevere. This should encourage us that if we hold fast to Jesus we're promised salvation, not as something we earn but as the outcome of a faith that unites us to Jesus and receives all the promises in him. It should warn anyone who has turned away from Jesus or seeks salvation apart from him that they have no grounds to think they will be saved.

In Colossians 1:23, this conditional statement calls them to continue in the faith, meaning the confession of Jesus Christ proclaimed in the gospel. If they hold firm, stable and steadfast, and don't shift their hope to something other than Christ, then they can know they'll be presented before God as holy, blameless, and without fault (Col. 1:21-23). The "if" statement here isn't meant to express pessimistic doubt but the positive belief that they will continue in the faith.

Peter expresses a similar idea, although he uses "faith" differently. God has caused us to be born again to a living hope, "kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5). The certainty of our salvation rests in the fact that it's being kept in heaven and God is guarding it.

But, how does God work this out in us? It's through the faith *He* gives that *we* exercise. We must continue in this faith until the end but God is guarding us by His infinite power, and He's doing so through our faith. "God does not guard us *apart from* our faith, but only by working *through* our faith so that he enables us to continue to believe in him. In this way, those who continue to trust in Christ gain assurance that God is working in them and guarding them."¹²

This sounds like Paul when he says, "work out your salvation...for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work" (Phil. 2:12-13). We work because God is working in us. We must persevere but God is the one preserving our faith and energizing our perseverance. When we read passages that say we must endure and we must hold fast we should take those words seriously. But, we should understand them and our role in light of everything we've seen about God's promise to keep us and to empower us in our endurance.

But what about...

We might ask what about those people who don't persevere or endure? What about those people who don't hold fast to Jesus the Head (Col. 2:19). There are certainly people who make a confession about

¹¹ P.T. O'Brien, *Colossians*, 69.

¹² Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 792.

Jesus or say they put their faith in him who walk away. Apostasy has less to do with moral sliding—although that’s often involved—and more to do with turning from belief in Jesus as taught in the gospel.¹³ In Galatians, Paul warns against Judaizers and any who might follow them because they preach a different gospel (Gal. 1:6-9). In Colossians, the warning is to not turn away from Jesus or to add to Jesus. The dangerous sect in Colossae are those teaching things not according to Christ (2:8), who have not held fast to Christ (2:19).

The NT doesn’t teach that these are people who lost their salvation. They aren’t people who were genuinely forgiven but now they’re not. They’re not those who had the law written on their hearts but now it’s been scratched out (Heb. 8:10). The NT teaches that these people who have appeared to be followers of Jesus were never in Christ. It’s not that they fall from their union with Christ, but they were never united to him.

Paul says in 1 Cor. 11:19 there are some in the church who are “genuine” and some who are not. It’s not that salvation is lost but there are some who never had it. We know the genuine ones because over the course of their life they grow in Christ and they hold fast to their confession about Christ. “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us” (1 Jn. 2:19). These are people who once said they believed in the Son but now they deny the Son (1 Jn. 2:20; cf. 2 Jn. 9). It’s not that they lose salvation but they were never part of us.

We’re responsible to hold fast to Jesus and not turn to another gospel, but God has promised that He will empower us to do so. Those still putting their trust in Jesus and confessing Him alone as their Lord have all the reason in the world to believe they’re God’s children and will be kept to the end. Those who’ve turned from Jesus either by relying upon something else for salvation or by denying Jesus as Lord have no reason to believe that they’ll escape judgment. This should give great joy and hope to anyone presently looking to Jesus and scare the hell (literally) out of anyone who’s turned from him.

Assurance

One reason this doctrine deserves such attention and why it has been the source of so much writing is because the applications are significant. We can’t answer every question in this limited space or fully unpack the practical effects of such a doctrine, but we must consider a few points.

What we should see from this is that the phrase “once saved, always saved” might be true but it can be dangerously misleading. Eternal security doesn’t mean that people who make a confession of Jesus or pray a prayer always have genuine faith. The doctrine has been misused to teach that people can be converted but spend the rest of their lives walking contrary to the gospel. Some even suggest that a person might deny Jesus and yet we should assume they’re saved.

To repeat what’s been said, genuine faith is discernible by perseverance. Perseverance isn’t the grounds of our salvation but it’s the condition of it. No one who lives a life completely contrary to the

¹³ D.A Carson defines apostasy as “the decisive turning away from a religious position and stance one firmly held. It differs from ordinary unbelief in that it involves turning away from a position of belief; it differs from backsliding in that it is calculated, decisive, and irrevocable; it differs from merely changing one’s mind over some relatively minor theological point in that it involves the rejection of an entire position and stance.” D.A. Carson, “Reflections on Assurance,” in *Still Sovereign*, ed. Thomas Schreiner and Bruce Ware (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 247-276: 260.

Bible and doesn't feel convicted, who utterly forsakes the Christian community, and who no longer confesses Christ should have any hope of standing before God and being blameless.

The tragedy is those most needing to hear and heed the warnings are deaf to its shout, and often those safe and secure in Christ are the ones most frightened by these words. The passages calling us to persevere are meant to warn and awaken those who turn from Christ, and to encourage those who believe in Jesus and see any spark of Spiritual life. They're meant to provide hope, peace, and assurance for those holding firm to the gospel of Jesus. If we believe he is who the Bible says he is and we confess him as our Lord, then we can know he will present us holy, blameless, and without any fault (Col. 1:22). We hold fast to Christ but are aware that we do so only because God is holding fast to us.

This means the warnings are true in that no one who fails to persevere or hold fast to Christ will be saved at the judgment day, but they are also the very means used to encourage believers to keep holding fast and keep persevering. When Paul says Jesus died to present us blameless and holy before God "if indeed you continue in the faith" (Col. 1:23), he's encouraging the believers to hold firm to the gospel. Believing their perseverance will happen doesn't keep him from encouraging it to happen. These Scriptural warnings and encouragements are the very means God uses to help us hold fast.

A couple dangers might rob us of the assurance God desires for us. First, the American evangelical landscape has placed undue emphasis on a moment of conversion tied to our response, whether that be coming down an aisle, signing a card, or praying a prayer.¹⁴ It's true that there is a moment when the Spirit gives us life (regeneration) and God unites us to Christ, both of which are instantaneous. But from our end this often happens over time, and many people who are trusting in Jesus don't know when that "moment in time" took place.

Michael Horton explains: "Many people see their salvation in terms of a decision they made, and since their assurance of salvation is based upon the shifting sands of human decision, they are faced with having to return frantically to the mirror every hour on the hour rather than resting in the character, plan, and purpose of a sovereign God."¹⁵ If you remember the hour you first believed that's great. But whether you do or you don't your assurance should be located in your present trust of Jesus alone who has saved you and will complete your salvation.

This leads us to a second danger. If we base our assurance on what we've done or how much we've grown, we'll always question if we've done enough or if it's authentic. There *should* be some fruit in the life of a Christian that reflects Jesus (Gal. 5:22-23). When we feel for a spiritual pulse in our heart there should be signs of life showing the Spirit has breathed life into us. But, we must be careful not to be too introspective and to give ourselves over to unhealthy self-analysis. We should see fruit but we shouldn't become fruit inspectors tediously working over every piece to see if it's real or not.

There are some Christians with very sensitive consciences, and usually they struggle with or lack assurance. For them, their self-condemning tendency might mean they should be careful not to trust their own judgments of spiritual life and growth. Listen to the voices of others in your church who know you. Other people never question their assurance, despite others in the Church asking them tough questions about whether or not they're saved, and they need to look at their lives with more scrutiny. In both cases, the key and ground of assurance is looking to Jesus alone for salvation and resting in the promises of God. Am I believing in Jesus today for my salvation?

¹⁴ See: J.D. Greear, *Stop Asking Jesus into Your Heart* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2013).

¹⁵ Michael Horton, *Putting Amazing Back into Grace* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002), 173.

Although the truest means of assurance is a present and enduring trust in Jesus, seeing fruit in our lives is one way to strengthen assurance. “Although works cannot save and cannot be the primary ground of one’s assurance (that, surely, is Christ and his work and promises), they may serve as corroborating evidence.”¹⁶

Fruit in our life can support the validity of our faith but it can also be a subjective and dangerous test if we set the standards beyond what God has set. The NT says there should be genuine fruit, which might mean for some a handful of healthy fruit and not a dump-truck full. The Puritan Richard Sibbes wrote: “It is one thing to be deficient in grace, and another thing to lack grace altogether.”¹⁷

Every Christian can look at their life and be frustrated by their failures or disappointed in how little or slow they’ve matured. But, the question is are we different in any way from our old self? It’s not how far we have to go but have we taken steps, even if we’re still crawling, in grace?

I know in writing this that some who should have assurance won’t have it (yet). And some who shouldn’t have assurance will be unmoved in their apathy. For anyone who struggles with assurance, I encourage you to keep praying for and fighting for it. You aren’t justified by assurance but by faith in Christ. What keeps you isn’t your ability to hold onto Jesus but his ability to hold onto you.

The struggle for assurance is not an abnormal Christian experience. It might come and go, or increase and decrease at times. It might be a while before you taste the sweet comfort of assurance, but continue looking to Jesus alone as your hope and continue resting in the character and promises of God.

Assurance is a good thing to have and something each Christian should pursue. It grants us peace and rest from our anxiety. It strengthens our trust and bond of love with God, knowing He sees us as His child and is for us. It frees us to take risks and hold loosely to our lives and this world. It motivates prayer to a God we know hears us and it fuels our worship for a God who calls us to come near. It is good and desirable and is even something God wants for you, but it might not come all at once.¹⁸

Final Thoughts

The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints says all Christians must continue on by holding firm to Jesus. Those who hold firm to Jesus will stand before God as holy, blameless, and without fault. Those who turn from Jesus demonstrate their lack of genuine faith and distance from Christ, and they will suffer the punishment for their sins. This doctrine warns anyone not clinging to Christ that they have no firm ground on which to stand. It motivates us to press on and persevere, not by looking within for strength but by looking to our Savior and High Priest who will see us to the finish line (Heb. 12:1-2)

While it’s true we must persevere, it’s also true all Christians will persevere because God is preserving them. Our endurance depends not on our strength but on God’s. The bond of our union with

¹⁶ Carson, “Reflections on Assurance,” 274.

¹⁷ Sibbes, *Bruised Reed*, 36.

¹⁸ “Christians think to have assurance all at once, upon a sudden, and are apt to be very much troubled if it commeth not in by the lump: whereas the will of God is, to let it sometimes by little and little; and the soul may be a long time in attaining it.” Samuel Petto, quoted in Geoffrey F. Nuttall. *The Holy Spirit in Puritan Faith and Experience*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1947), 139.

Christ is inseparable and God's faithfulness is constant. He finishes what He starts. Always. And that includes His plan to save you.

Third, Christians should first look for assurance by trusting in the sufficiency of Jesus' atoning work for them. Look to Jesus instead of always looking within, looking at some moment in the past, or looking at your life. Assurance is found by trusting in the faithfulness of God to complete the good work He began and by looking to Jesus as the one who will present us holy and blameless. We rest in God's promises, the Spirit's work, and Christ's redemption. Those are much more sturdy grounds of assurance than the strength of our faith or the degree of our growth.

Fruit can provide corroborating evidence for a Christian and we should look for the Spirit's internal witness that grants assurance, but neither are the primary grounds for assurance. The primary ground is God's character and Christ's accomplishments. If I'm believing in him today, I'm persevering. Salvation is His work, and He will complete it in us by carrying us in faith through all of life's storms.

Christian, if you are trusting in Jesus Christ today then you can have confidence and assurance that he will keep you trusting. Anyone who truly believes in Jesus will be preserved and kept by Jesus. Jesus loses none who are his. Neither our faith or faithlessness, nor our sin, nor our enemy, nothing can take Christ's people away from him. When we believe in him we are united with him, and it's a union that never leads to divorce. When we are one with Jesus we get his righteousness and are declared justified, and this is a verdict God never reverses. In Jesus, we are made new and given an eternal life, and that life is never revoked or taken away.

Recommended Resources

Books

Greg Gilbert, *Assured*; Chris Bass, *That You May Know*; J.D. Greear, *Stop Asking Jesus into Your Heart*; Sam Storms, *Kept for Jesus*; Michael Horton, *Putting Amazing Back into Grace*; *Still Sovereign*, ed. Thomas Schreiner and Bruce Ware; Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*; Richard Sibbes, *The Bruised Reed*; John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*; Thomas R. Schreiner, *Run to Win the Prize*; Thomas R. Schreiner, *The Race Set Before Us*; Thomas Hooker, *The Poor Doubting Christian Drawn to Christ*.

Articles

- "Perseverance and Assurance: A Survey and A Proposal" by Tom Schreiner
- "Perseverance: God Keeps All His People Safe" by J. I. Packer at monergism.com
- "Warning Passages Ahead" by Collin Hansen at thegospelcoalition.org
- "Does Hebrews 6 Teach You Can Lose Your Salvation?" by Ardel Caneday at thegospelcoalition.org
- "Calvinism and the Warning Passages: A Brief Reply to Scot McKnight" at credomag.com
- "[The Necessity of Perseverance in Faith and the Assurance of Salvation](#)" and "[The Agonizing Problem of the Assurance of Salvation](#)" by John Piper at desiringgod.org
- "Perseverance of the Saints: Tertiary or Foundational," by Jeff Robinson at thegospelcoalition.org
- "Charles Spurgeon on Calvinism—Preserving Grace" by Nathan W. Bingham at Ligonier.org
- "Scripture Sheds Light on Scripture" and "Seal: Small Word, Big Meaning" at indycrowe.com
- "Primer on Perseverance" by Sam Storms at crossway.org

Sermons & Videos

- "The Doctrine of Perseverance: The Future of a Fruitless Field"; "When is Saving Repentance Impossible?"; and "[Do Not Harden Your Heart in the Day of Trouble](#)" by John Piper at desiringgod.org
- "Can You Lose Your Salvation? What About the Warning Passages?" by Tom Schreiner at youtube.com
- "How Can We Have Assurance of Salvation" video from The Gospel Coalition on youtube.com