

2. This perseverance of the saints depends, not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father;^a upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ;^b the abiding of the Spirit and of the seed of God within them;^c and the nature of the covenant of grace:^d from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.^e

a. Jer 30:24–31:4 24 The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it. 31:1 “At the same time,” says the Lord, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.” 2 Thus says the Lord: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness—Israel, when I went to give him rest.” 3 The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. 4 Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. ■ 2 Tim 2:16–19 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

b. Luke 22:31–34 31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” 33 But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” 34 Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.” ■ John 17:6–24 6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. 9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition,

that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. 20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ■ Heb 7:23–25 23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ■ Heb 9:11–15 11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. ■ Heb 10:8–14 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of

God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. ■ Heb 13:20-21 20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. ■ Rom 8:33-39. 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

c. John 14:15-24 15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ■ 1John 2:26–27 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. 27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. ■ 1John 3:7–9 (see 1.a above)

d. Jer 32:38–41 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. 41 Yes, I will rejoice over them to

do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.'.

e. John 10:25–30 (see 1.a above) ■ 2Thes 3:1–5 1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, 2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. 5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. ■ 1John 2:18–19 18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 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 they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Well, So today, we're on the second article in the chapter on perseverance, and it covers that upon which our perseverance depends.

The first article from last week, Declared the truth or the reality of our perseverance primarily because of who it is that accomplishes that perseverance. So Article 1 and article two Are very, very Closely related, indeed interconnected. And that is that, since God is the one who accomplishes our perseverance the certainty of it.

Uh, relies or depends upon him. So, the article reads as follows this perseverance of the Saints, Depends not upon their own free will. But upon the immutability of the decree of election, Flowing from the And unchangeable love of God, the Father. Upon the efficacy of the Merit and intercession of Jesus Christ.

The abiding of the spirit. And of the seed of God, Within. And the nature of the Covenant of Grace. From all which ariseth also the certainty. And infallibility.

Amen. Praise God. So the first first thing he or they say here, first thing, our confession says here, is this perseverance of the Saints? Depends. Not upon their own free will. Uh, and praise God. That that is not what, our perseverance depends upon. Because if it depended upon us or if it depended upon Our will then we would not persevere in the faith.

We would not grow in Holiness, we would not arrive at the end. Uh, if the Lord did not choose us. We would not have chosen him. And if we could lose our Salvation, Than we would

certainly lose. Our Salvation. Uh, and so praise God, that Our perseverance depends on all of these.

Wonderful powerful. Unchangeable. Uh, things. And this is important for you to remember, not just when You are thinking about Theology and the abstract and contemplating Whether it's possible to lose salvation. And the answer is, if it's salvation, it's not possible to lose it. Uh because salvation is being saved, not being hypothetically, maybe potentially Uh, so Uh not just when you're thinking hypothetically but when you yourself are finding that there is not within you, Uh, what is necessary for perseverance in the faith.

Uh, when you feel either like giving up or like, you have been defeated Uh, to know. Upon what your perseverance depends. Uh, so this is a very pastoral article. Although it does answer errors of the papists again, if they are selling you Grace then they are very financially incentivized.

Uh, Scare you that what God has started might not be finished unless you pay the church to help it along and the Armenians who are afraid that Christians aren't going to be holy if they have confidence that no matter what. They are going to end up in eternal glory, which of course is connected to their error on how you've come to be a Christian in the first place.

Because if God has brought you to Faith in his son and United you through fraud and dwelt You, by his spirit, and your Christianity comes from Union with Christ, It is as we saw last week confidence. From all those things, that drives Holiness, not fear that you might not make it.

No, he is pursuing Holiness in us because that is what he has secured for us and what he has secured us for, and we pursue it, then. By the work that he does in the heart. Uh, but the perseverance of the Saints depends not. Upon their own free will.

But upon the immutability, Of the decree of election. Flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God, the Father. Now, we have had this several times in our Romans preaching, and nowhere more plainly than those whom he foreknew. He also predestined Those whom he predestined. He also called. Now, the reason you end up there in Romans 8, 29 is because everyone's favorite Bible verse or one of the favorite Bible verses of almost every Christian, Romans 8, 28 Refers to the fruit of that calling work.

Our love for God. We know that all things work together for those who love God. Uh this is not saying that you earn for things to work together for you because you love him. It's saying if God has already brought you to the point where you love him, Then certainly he will bring you to the point where you have him in fullness of experience and enjoyment and that is the good that all things are working together too.

And the reason you came to the point of loving him already is because he called you. And the reason he called you is because he predestined you, and the reason he predestined you is because he knew you not knew about you not cheated by looking forward into. Hypothetical Futures to see what you could end up being, but he knew you.

And his son, he knows his son, he loves his son, his fellowship with his son, from all eternity. And he knows us in his son, he loves us in his son. He desires fellowship with us, that he is bringing us into. And it is that those whom he foreknew that is what drives predestination Is to be conformed to the image of his son to be brought into that Glory of knowing and being known by God enjoying him and knowing that he Delights in us, and that predestination produces the call.

So, To being trained. It's being traced. Uh, backwards here. The, the perseverance of the Saints depends upon the immutability. Not just unchangingness that it doesn't change, but unchangeableness. That it cannot change. It is from within God. Uh, just as later is going to say, Nothing can separate us from the love of God, that is in Christ Jesus.

In Romans 8, the one of the main points there is that which had no that it cannot have an end because it did not have a beginning. It is from within God from that side of time from eternity. Nothing that God has decided nothing that the Creator had decided can be undone by the preacher.

Nothing that is true from eternity. We therefore did not have a beginning. Can be brought to an end. And so, the perseverance of the Saints depends upon the unchangeableness of the decree of election, which flows from free and unchangeable love of God, the Father Uh, so let's look at Jeremiah 30.

Uh, and 31 and second Timothy 2.

Jeremiah 30 and I'm just grabbing from. End of chapter 30 to lead into to lead into chapter 31 here. Israel is being punished for their sin. They're being exiled to Babylon. And yet. Ultimate salvation is sure. And we've Reckoning with who that Israel is his ultimate salvation is sure.

We've been Reckoning with that in Romans 9 through 11 in the midweek meetings for a couple of months now But God gives even in the history of Israel, as a church. A picture of that certainty. That they having forfeited all of this. And and if it depends upon them they would be destroyed.

And yet, God, Uh, there's the one upon whom it depends. So, Uh, verse 24 of chapter 30, the fierce anger of Yahweh will not return. Until he has done it. And until He has performed the intense. Of his heart. In the latter days, you will consider it at the same time, says Yahweh.

I will be the god of all the families of Israel and they shall be my people. You see there is this declaration. This determination Um there this declaration that is what determines what's going to happen to Israel? Thus says, Yahweh, the people who survived the sword found Grace in the wilderness Israel when I went to give him rest.

Yahweh has appeared of old to me said, Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love.

Therefore, with loving kindness. I have drawn, you Again, I will build you. And you shall be rebuilt. A virgin of Israel. You shall again. Be adorned with your tambourines.

A virgin of Israel. You shall again. Be adorned with your tambourines you shall go forth on the dances of those who Rejoice. So again this Eternal determination. Not just to love elect. Believers, who must therefore persevere but even his decree, from before the world began. Uh to love Israel as a people to set them apart for the place that they would have in the history of his of his work in the church, his work of redemption that they would be that natural tree that we have been Hearing about and Romans 11.

Those last few weeks whose root is not Abraham or Jacob but whose root is Jesus. Uh, and And the unchangeableness then of God's decree. And if this is Uh, if God's decree about Israel, Uh, as The people who are precious to him as the ones through whom he would bring his worship through whom he would preserve his word through whom his son, would enter the world.

To be our Redeemer. How much more than Uh, does this apply to those who are elected in Christ for everlasting salvation? It depends. Upon the decree. Of God, the immutability of the decree of God. Coming from his election. So he elects he four knows he loves ahead of time and then he decrees to save and to finish that salvation, Uh, consistently with his election and therefore that it shall be completed.

Uh, the other text in this section is second, Timothy 2. Verses 16 through 19. And again. Sorry, I forgot to put on the sheets. Um, The particular proof text if you have one of these. You'll find it there, but I've expanded the context in many places for our help.

And, Uh, Paul is telling Timothy to just to persevere warning him about those who do not persevere. But Sun profane and Idol babblings for, they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer hymenaeus and phyletus are of this sort to having strayed concerning the truth saying that the resurrection is already passed.

I'm sorry, who have strayed according to the truth. Saying that the resurrection is already passed, and they overthrow the faith of some Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal, the Lord knows who are his And let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

So, how will it be? That Timothy won't be a false teacher. Like Jimenez or phyletus? Upon what does that ultimately depend? Well. He is commanded. Watch out for. For speculative and false teaching the ideas of men verse 16 and and he is commanded along with all the rest of us.

Uh, who named the name of the Lord. Uh in verse 19 to depart from iniquity but upon what it depends is the Lord knows who are his. And again this isn't the Lord has figured out. But the Lord has entered into relationship with The Lord has set his love upon.

It's the same sort of language as Those whom he foreknew. Uh, and this is a great comfort for Timothy. As he looks to Christ and knows that his own faith. And now his uh, his continuing faithfulness come from Christ. But it's also a comfort when people like hymenaeus and phyletus Stray concerning the truth.

It's a comfort to him when people, uh, like the all the unnamed, some in verse 18, Uh, have their supposed Faith overthrown Many of us have had the experience and if the Lord peeps you in his world and in his church long enough you'll have the experience of seeing someone who really seemed to be a genuine believer.

Uh, Throw it all away, walk away from the faith, decide. It's not for them and live for themselves or according to their own ideas. Many claim to continue to remain within the church but they take up the language and the the thoughts and ideas of the world. Uh they this happens, especially around the issue of perversion in our own day.

And you hear homosexuality or lgbtq kids, you don't need to know anything about that. It's perversion. It's a corrupting crookedness filth, uh, of distorting and destroying things that God has designed for good by disobeying his Commandments. But one of the things that happens in the church, and one of the things that That you will discover is that those whom you thought were really strong Believers, some of them will at some point decide that they're going to say that they're going to be friendly to those ideas.

And they're going to say that if if you believe what the Bible teaches about marriage, what the Bible teaches in the seventh commandment and what it requires, and what it, forbids, uh, that That you are mean-spirited and hateful and you are distorting God and you'll hear those things. And you wonder how could this happen?

How did this happen to people? Who were brought up being taught the Bible and taught good theology. Well, it happens because they were not actually saved. Those who are his, those who are actually, the Lords came to be his by, the Lord's knowledge, by the Lord's election by The Lord's love.

So if you want to make your calling an election, sure. Then you depart from iniquity. You add to your faith, all of these things that That Peter, Tells us about, Uh, but of course, those things are only done also by the grace of God. So, the perseverance of saying the Saints does not depend upon their own free will.

Uh, it depends upon Uh, God's love. Election and decree. The second place, it depends upon. Yes, Dave. So, what would you say about Allison Bay?

I would say I don't know him, but he is now teaching falsely and

Many, who care about him have tried to help him and He uh, he doubled down. Are on his false position. And he doesn't have the benefit of Christ's form of church government. In which you're under the authority of. Uh plurality of Elders, both in the local church. And then in the broader court in the Presbytery, So, there's Not for him.

Sort of help and accountability that we might have had if he was a Presbyterian. And, Alistair Begg encouraged. Supposedly I have numb, he's back up and Aleister Begg says that he encouraged. A grandma in his congregation to attend the lgbtq. Uh, wedding of her grandchild and to bring a gift.

Um, so He doesn't know or at least in that particular circumstance doesn't know what love is. Uh, doesn't know. Uh, you know, love is not Uh, committing to commit mortal sin, against one another. For the rest of your life. Uh, marriage is a covenant, it's a divinely instituted. Covenant all those things, but he he would be an example.

Of someone who really taught soundly. And he, maybe converted and those things that he taught that were sound. Uh, do not lose their soundness. Now because they never depended upon who was saying it, they depended on the fact that they were actually from the text Uh, actually from uh, from the scripture.

Uh, but one of the things that Uh, this doctrine of perseverance. Um, Helps us with. Is. Uh, when we are disappointed or concerned for someone, Uh, we Not taken entirely by surprise because Uh the Lord told us that it would happen, but be we know to whom to look.

Yeah, it's a lot more. I think it's a lot more. Difficult when it's someone close to us. Aleister Begg is not particularly. Close to me. Um, Yeah, I'm not gonna get into any more, uh, specific examples. Um, Than that. But our hope is. That they who are. Who were cut out.

Uh, of the Because they were not. Uh, they were not grafted into Christ that they can still be regrafted and that the God who in his goodness is, is to this day bringing those who are from outside of his church in and grafting them into Christ by faith. That he will continue to do so.

Uh, with those who have been in it, And that's a plug for. This past Wednesday's midweek, sermon. By the way, that which applies to unbelieving Israelites? Also belong applies to Apostatized Covenant children. Uh, apostasized, Covenant adults. Um, Which sadly there aren't too many of uh yes Jeff. Oh, brother, you mentioned a minute ago and I just think in the context it needs to be reinforced that The only way you can lose.

Faith. Is we've never had it. Absolutely. So, just like the word saved doesn't always mean the efficacious salvation. To Eternity. Faith here doesn't need to be understood as being saved in faith. It can be Fidelity. It could be Assurance to whatever these people had that they lost. It cannot be saving faith.

Yeah, the the word Faith actually has that breadth of. Um, that range in its meaning. But I think here it's uh it's even easier just to say as a profession of Faith. Right. They professed to believe and now they no longer profess to believe but it's not talking about that gift of Grace in the heart where they are brought to rest upon Uh, Christ, as he has offered to them in the gospel.

Um,

Next week. We are. Uh, we're gonna start the breakfast line at 10 minutes. And I'm starting teaching at 10 after Um, Where's Ben? Are you going to be here two weeks from now is that okay? The week after that. All right. So we will not start the next book.

Uh, until three weeks from today since then is, Uh, since Ben is teaching that All right. Let's uh conclude in front.

Our gracious. God and our heavenly father, we pray that you'd protect us. From Doctrine that makes too much of ourselves and too little of You. As if you could. Start a work. That we could undo. Uh, forgive us Lord for how Um, How such implications or inferences? Belong, often even to Our own discouragements about ourselves.

And others but Grant to us instead. To see your goodness. As the one who. Saves over against our inability and our original nature. And, We pray that you would give us. Rest upon you and to persevere with you. Uh, by your own breasts in Christ applied to By your spirit.

We thank you that. When you intend, Uh, to give yourself to us as Uh, our reward. That you then accomplish and apply everything necessary. To bring us at last to have the full experience of you and enjoyment of you. As our reward. And we pray. O Lord, as we go now to taste of that in the public worship, generally And to hear of it in, The preaching specifically.

That your spirit would help us according To your Everlasting, love. Uh, with which you have loved us and Uh, Eternal intention and decree. How invigorating it is to also go out. To live day by day. Those days which you wrote for us in your book. Before one of them came to be.

And so, we look to you and depend upon you in Delight upon you. I Delight in you as we seek to live out the rest of this one. Of those days, even your day. Help us. In Jesus name we ask amen.