

GraceLife Church Presents . . .

Soteriology

The Purpose,
Accomplishment, Plan, and
Application of Redemption

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

- ❖ Last time we introduced the perseverance of the saints.
 - ❖ The Question(s) of Perseverance.
 - ❖ The Definition of Perseverance.
 - ❖ The Guarantee of Perseverance.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

- ❖ Today we finish covering this final doctrine in the *ordo salutis*.
- ❖ The Guarantee of Perseverance.
- ❖ The Necessity of Perseverance.
- ❖ The Corollary of Perseverance.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Question(s) of Perseverance

- ❖ What guarantee do we have that a true believer will reach the joys of heaven—fellowship with God and Christ?
- ❖ Could a genuine Christian lose their salvation?
- ❖ Can those who trust Christ for salvation at one time later turn from that faith and lose their eternal life?

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Question(s) of Perseverance

“The question is whether God upholds, continues, and completes the work of grace he has begun, or whether he sometimes permits it to be totally ruined by the power of sin.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:267.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Question(s) of Perseverance

- ❖ To those questions we answered, “yes” and “no.”
- ❖ Yes, God upholds, continues, and completes the work of grace that *he* begun.
- ❖ No, a genuine believer cannot lose his *eternal* life.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Definition of Perseverance

“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 thus only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 336.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Definition of Perseverance

“This definition has two parts to it. It indicates first that there is assurance to be given to those who are truly born again, for it reminds them that God’s power will keep them as Christians until they die, and they will surely live with Christ in heaven forever.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 336.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Definition of Perseverance

“On the other hand, the second part of the definition makes it clear that continuing in the Christian life is one of the evidences that a person is truly born again. It is important to keep this aspect of the doctrine in mind as well, lest false assurance be given to people who were never really believers in the first place.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 336.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Definition of Perseverance

- ❖ This doctrine has two sides. On the one hand, God keeps true believers *so that* they persevere in the faith.
- ❖ On the other hand, this means that true believers will persevere or continue in the faith.
- ❖ There is no salvation apart from perseverance.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Definition of Perseverance

- ❖ This is why we don't like to call this *Eternal Security*.
- ❖ Yes, we are secure. But we are never secure if we turn away, run into sin, commit apostasy, etc.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

- ❖ We covered the majority of what I wanted to cover under this heading last time.
 - ❖ Father, Son, Spirit
 - ❖ Eph 1:13–14
 - ❖ John 6:37–40
 - ❖ John 10:27–29
 - ❖ Rom 8:1
 - ❖ Rom 8:28–30
 - ❖ Rom 8:31–39

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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- ❖ “Blessed be . . .” Worship. Why?
 - ❖ He has done something “according to His great mercy.”
- ❖ What has he done?
 - ❖ “He has caused us to be born again.” (1:3)

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ The new birth has given us “a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ . . . to obtain an inheritance.”
- ❖ We are born again *to* a living hope. That living hope includes (or is) an inheritance.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ Now Peter will tell us about this inheritance.
- ❖ The inheritance is secure.
 - ❖ It is imperishable
 - ❖ and undefiled
 - ❖ and will not fade away
 - ❖ reserved in heaven

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ The inheritance is secure, but what about ‘us’?
- ❖ It’s one thing to have a secure inheritance it’s another thing to live until the reception of that inheritance.
- ❖ Verse 5 is such an important text on this subject of perseverance.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ “Who are protected by the power of God.” We could make that a question, “Who are protected by the power of God”?
- ❖ “Who” modifies “you” from 1:4.
- ❖ “You” are those who have been caused (by God) to be born again (1:3)

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ Therefore, if you have been born again you are protected by the power of God.
- ❖ Not only is our inheritance secure, we are also protected in such a way that we will receive that inheritance.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

“The word ‘guarded’ [ESV] can mean both ‘kept from escaping’ and ‘protected from attack,’ and perhaps both kinds of guarding are intended here: God is preserving believers from escaping out of the kingdom, and he is protecting them from external attacks.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 338.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

“φρουρέω . . . 1. to maintain a watch, *guard* . . .
2. to hold in custody, *detain, confine* . . .
3. generally to provide security, *guard, protect, keep.*”

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ Notice the security is ‘by the power of God.’ This is omnipotent protection.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ We need to note three things about these people who are born again.
 - ❖ (1) They are protected (guarded, secure).
 - ❖ (2) They are protected until the last time.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ They are protected *for* “a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
- ❖ This salvation is “ready” but it has not been revealed yet. It will be “revealed in the last time.”
- ❖ The word “salvation” here is used broadly of our final glorification and reception of our inheritance.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

“‘Salvation’ is used here not of past justification or of present sanctification (speaking in theological categories) but of the future full possession of all the blessings of our redemption—of the final, complete fulfillment of our salvation.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 338.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

“Their attainment of final salvation ultimately depends on God’s power.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 338.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ❖ (1) They are protected
- ❖ (2) They are protected until the last time.
- ❖ (3) They are protected through faith

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

“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.”

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

“In this way, those who continue to trust in Christ gain assurance that God is working in them and guarding them.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 338.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

- ❖ Can you see what this means?
- ❖ God's omnipotent power that granted us new birth and gave us faith is protecting us, which guarantees that our faith will not fail. We will continue to believe.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

Luke 22:31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; **32** but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” **33** But he said to Him, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” **34** And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Guarantee of Perseverance

Phil 1:6 *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

- ❖ Here we look at the other side of the equation and see that true believers *must* persevere.
- ❖ If we are kept *through* faith it follows that true believers will persevere or continue in the faith.
- ❖ In other words, no faith, no keeping protection, no attaining the salvation ready to be revealed at the last time.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

- ❖ Perseverance is necessary.
- ❖ If it is lacking it demonstrates that God's guarantee was not applicable to such an one.
- ❖ In other words perseverance is a proof of genuine saving faith.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

“Perseverance is not an activity of the human person but a gift from God. . . . He watches over it and sees to it that the work of grace is continued and completed. He does not, however, do this apart from believers but through them.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:267.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

- ❖ Sometimes Scripture presents this necessity in a way that might make us uncomfortable.
- ❖ Let's look at a number of Scriptures that present salvation as contingent upon perseverance.
- ❖ Contingent: occurring or existing only if (certain circumstances) are the case.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

John 8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

John 8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

- ❖ Continuing is evidence of true discipleship or genuine faith.
- ❖ Failure to continue shows one was or is not a disciple.
- ❖ If you do not continue in his word you are lost. That is a frightening way to put it but Jesus does not shy away from such language.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

Matt 10:22 “You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Matt 10:22 “You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

- ❖ “Will be saved” in this context does not mean “will be born again.” Salvation is used here much like in 1 Peter 1:5.
- ❖ The person who endures will reach the eternal inheritance promised to God’s people.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

Matt 24:9 “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. **10** “At that time many will fall away [σκανδαλισθήσονται (σκανδαλίζω)] and will betray one another and hate one another. **11** “Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. **12** “Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. **13** “But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

“σκανδαλίζω . . . 1. to cause to be brought to a downfall, *cause to sin* (the sin may consist in a breach of the moral law, in unbelief, or in the acceptance of false teachings).”

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

Rom 11:22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

1 Cor 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

Col 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach — **23** if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

John 15:1 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. **3** “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. **5** “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. **6** “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

Heb 3:5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; **6** but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house — whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away [ἀποστῆναι (ἀφίστημι)] from the living God. **13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

“ἀφίστημι . . . of action that results in the distancing of person or thing from person, thing, place, or condition. . . . 1. to cause someone to move from a reference point, transitively, in our literature in reference to altering allegiance *cause to revolt, mislead* . . . 2. to distance oneself from some person or thing . . . intransitively a. go away, withdraw . . . *Fall away . . . become a backslider* . . . often LXX, mostly of falling away from God) Hebrews 3:12.”

BDAG, 157–58.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

1 John 2:24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

“It is only natural that Paul and the other New Testament writers would speak this way, for they are addressing groups of people who profess to be Christians, without being able to know the actual state of every person’s heart.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 339.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

“Moreover, in this and in all of the other passages about the need to continue in faith, *the purpose is never to make those who are presently trusting in Christ worry that sometime in the future they might fall away.* We should never use these passages that way either, for that would be to give wrongful cause for worry in a way that Scripture does not intend. Rather, the purpose is always *to warn those who are thinking of falling away or have fallen away* that if they do this it is a strong indication that they were never saved in the first place.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 339.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Necessity of Perseverance

“The crucial test of true faith is endurance to the end, abiding in Christ, and continuance in his word.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 339.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

- ❖ If (1) there is a guarantee that the truly saved will persevere and (2) perseverance is necessary and an evidence of true saving faith then (3) what do we understand about those who seem to fall away?

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

- ❖ Those who seem to fall away, as much as they may have seemed to be genuine believers, were never truly born again.
- ❖ You can look very much like a true believer and yet fall short of the real thing.
- ❖ Even Jesus and the Apostles had false converts in their midst.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

Matt 13:5 “Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.
6 “But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Matt 13:20 “The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

Heb 6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

Heb 6:7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

Heb 6:9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. **10** For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. **11** And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, **12** so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

“At this point we may ask what kind of person is described by all of these terms. Does this text describe a person who has been genuinely born again? These are no doubt people who have been *affiliated closely with the fellowship of the church*. They have had some sorrow for sin (repentance). They have clearly understood the gospel (they have been enlightened). . . perhaps using some spiritual gifts in the manner of the unbelievers in Matt 7:22 . . . They have been exposed to the true preaching of the Word and have appreciated much of its teachings (they have tasted the goodness of the Word of God).”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 341–42.

“But in spite of all this, if they ‘commit apostasy’ . . . then they are willfully rejecting all of these blessings and turning decidedly against them. The author tells us that if this occurs, it will be impossible to restore these people again to any kind of repentance or sorrow for sin. Their hearts will be hardened and their consciences calloused. Their repeated familiarity with the things of God and their experience of many influences of the Holy Spirit has simply served to harden them against conversion.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 342.

“It is clear that there were some in the community to which this letter was written who were in danger of falling away in just this manner (see Heb 2:3; 3:8, 12, 14–15; 4:1, 7, 11; 10:26, 29, 35–36, 38–39; 12:3, 15–17). The author wants to warn them that, though they have participated in the fellowship of the church and experienced a number of God’s blessings in their lives, yet if they fall away after all that, there is no salvation for them. He wants to use the strongest language possible to say, ‘Here is how far a person can come in experiencing *temporary blessings* and still not be saved.’”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 342.

“This does not imply that he thinks true Christians could fall away—Hebrews 3:14 implies quite the opposite. But he wants them to gain assurance of salvation through their continuing in faith and thereby implies that if they fall away, it would show that they never were Christ’s people in the first place.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 342.

“For this reason, he immediately passes from this description of those who commit apostasy to a further analogy that shows that these people who fell away never had any genuine fruit in their lives. Verses 7–8 speak of these people in terms of ‘thorns and thistles,’ the kind of crop that is brought forth on land that has no worthwhile life in itself even though it receives repeated blessings from God (in terms of the analogy, even though rain frequently falls upon it). We should notice here that people who commit apostasy are *not compared to a field that once bore good fruit and now does not*, but that they are like *land that never bore good fruit*, but only thorns and thistles. The land may look good before the crops start to come up, but the fruit gives the genuine evidence, and it is bad.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 342.

“Strong support for this interpretation of Hebrews 6:4–8 is found in the verse immediately following. Though the author has been speaking very harshly about the possibility of falling away, he then returns to speak to the situation of the great majority of the hearers whom he thinks to be genuine Christians. He says, “Though we speak thus, *yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things that belong to salvation*” (Heb 6:9).”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 342.

“But the question is ‘better things’ than what? The plural ‘better things’ forms an appropriate contrast to the ‘good things’ that have been mentioned in verses 4–6; the author is convinced that most of his readers have experienced *better things* than simply the partial and temporary influences of the Holy Spirit and the church talked about in verses 4–6.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 342.

“In fact, the author talks about these things by saying (literally) that they are ‘better things, *also holding fast salvation.*’ These are not only the temporary blessings talked about in verses 4–6, but these are *better things*, things having not only a temporary influence, but ‘*also holding fast to salvation.*’ In this way, the Greek word *kai*, ‘also,’ shows that salvation is something that was not part of the things mentioned in verses 4–6 above. Therefore, this word *kai*, which is not explicitly translated in the RSV or NIV (but the NASB comes close), provides a crucial key for understanding the passage.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 343.

“He thus shows that he can use a brief phrase to say that people ‘have salvation’ if he wishes to do so (he does not need to pile up many phrases), and he shows, moreover, that the people that he speaks of in verses 4–6 are not saved.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 343.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

2 Pet 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. **21** For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

“We must appreciate the lengths and the height to which a temporary faith may carry those who have it.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 162.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

Matt 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. **2** “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ **23** “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

Matt 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. **2** “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ **23** “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

- ❖ Jesus says to these people, “I never knew you,” not, “I once knew you.”
- ❖ The distinguishing characteristic of this people is dependence on their ‘works’ and “lawlessness”.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

“The Scripture itself, therefore, leads us to the conclusion that it is possible to have very uplifting, ennobling, reforming, and exhilarating experience of the power and truth of the gospel, to come into such close contact with the supernatural forces which are operative in God’s kingdom of grace that these forces produce effects in us which to human observation are hardly distinguishable from those produced by God’s regenerating and sanctifying grace and yet be not partakers of Christ and heirs of eternal life.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 163.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

“A doctrine of perseverance that fails to take account of such a possibility and of its actuality in certain cases is a distorted one and ministers to a laxity which is quite contrary to the interests of perseverance. Indeed it is not the doctrine of perseverance at all.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 163.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

1 John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

“Finally, the doctrine of the possible apostasy of the saints is so far from escaping the difficulties that it seeks to avoid that it rather magnifies and increases them. For if in this connection it holds on to the immutability of God’s foreknowledge, then finally only those are saved whom God has eternally known would be, and the human will cannot undo the certainty of this outcome.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:268–69.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

“Or it must proceed to deny predestination and foreknowledge in every sense of these terms, thus making everything uncertain and unstable, including the love of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:269.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

“As for the examples Scripture is said to cite as instances of real apostasy, it is impossible to prove that these persons (1) either had truly received the grace of regeneration (Hymeneus, Alexander, Demas, persons referred to in 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1); (2) or really lost it in their fall and later received it back again (David, Solomon); (3) or really did receive it but never got it back (Heb 6:4–8; 10:26–31; 2 Pet 18–22).”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:268.

The Application of Redemption

Perseverance of the Saints

The Corollary of Perseverance

“All the above-mentioned admonitions and threats that Scripture addresses to believers, therefore, do not prove a thing against the doctrine of perseverance. They are rather the way in which God himself confirms his promise and gift through believers. These are the means by which perseverance in life is realized.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:267.

