



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Calvinism VI: Perseverance of the Saints

(Part 1)

The fifth and final tenet of Calvinism, Perseverance of the Saints, is also referred to as the doctrine of "once saved always saved;" "the impossibility of apostasy;" "the security of the believer;" and "once in grace always in grace."

This doctrine results from the tenets which precede it. Loraine Boettner, a Calvinist, says, "This doctrine does not stand alone but is a necessary part of the Calvinistic system of theology. The doctrines of Election and Efficacious Grace logically imply the certain salvation of those who receive these blessings. If God has chosen men absolutely and unconditionally to eternal life, and if His Spirit effectively applies to them the benefits of redemption, the inescapable conclusion is that these persons shall be saved" (*The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*, p. 182).

The "logic" of Calvinism states that since man is totally hereditarily depraved and can do nothing on his own but evil, unconditional election is required to save him, God must then call him in an irresistible way to salvation. Therefore, since he needs to do nothing to be saved, he needs to do nothing to remain saved and that anything he would do in any way that would affect his salvation would negate the miraculous work of God in saving him.

Perseverance of the Saints Expressed

The Westminster Confession of Faith states,

"They whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace: but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved."

"This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, upon the efficacy of the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ, the abiding of the Spirit and of the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace; from all which ariseth, also, the certainty and infallibility thereof" (Chap. XIX, Sect. 1).

David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas affirm,

"The elect are not only redeemed by Christ and renewed by the Spirit; they are also kept in faith by the almighty power of God. All those who are spiritually united to Christ through regeneration are eternally secure in Him. Nothing can separate them from the eternal and unchangeable love of God. They have been predestinated unto eternal glory and are therefore assured of heaven."

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"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." **1 John 4:8**



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“The doctrine of perseverance of the saints does not maintain that all who profess the Christian faith are certain of heaven. It is saints -- those who are set apart by the Spirit -- who persevere to the end. It is believers -- those who are given true, living faith in Christ -- who are secure and safe in Him. Many who profess to believe fall away, but they do not fall from grace for they were never in grace. True believers do fall into temptations, and they do commit grievous sins, but these sins do not cause them to lose their salvation or separate them from Christ” (*The Five Points of Calvinism, Defined, Defended, Documented*, p. 56).

Sam Morris, a Baptist preacher, adds, “All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit, from idolatry to murder, will not make his soul in any more danger.... The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul” (*Do a Christian's Sins Damn His Soul?*).

The Calvinistic Doctrine of Imputation

The doctrine of Perseverance of the Saints is based upon the false assumption that the elect sinner is clothed in the personal righteousness of Jesus Christ. Therefore, when God looks at him, He does not see the sins of the elect one, rather He sees the perfection of Jesus. Thus, one does not have to be concerned with doing righteousness if he is one whom God has elected to save.

To impute is “to credit to a person or a cause...to credit by transferal” (*Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*, p. 421). Calvinists believe the guilt of Adam's sin was imputed to the whole human race -- that all are

sinner by virtue of the fact that being descendants of Adam they inherited the guilt of his sin. The remedy Calvinists offer for imputed sin is a second imputation. The perfect life of Christ is imputed to the elect sinner. God, in viewing that individual, only sees the personal righteousness of Jesus, not the sins of the sinner. This allows the elect one to continue to sin because Christ lived a sinless life in his stead and the innocence of Christ now clothes him. He is relieved of any responsibility for living a godly life. He does not even have to correct his wrongs because he will not be judged by his own actions but by the perfect life Jesus lived.

John Calvin, speaking on imputation, said, “...I answer, that the grace which they call accepting, is nothing else than the free goodness with which the Father embraces us in Christ when he clothes us with the innocence of Christ, and accepts it as ours, so that in consideration of it he regards us as holy, pure and innocent. For the righteousness of Christ (as it alone is perfect, so it alone can stand the scrutiny of God) must be sisted for us, and as a surety represent us judicially.... Our imperfection and purity, covered with this purity, are not imputed, but are as it were buried, so as not to come under judgment until the hour arrive when the old man being destroyed, and plainly extinguished in us, the divine goodness shall receive us into beatific peace with the new Adam, there to await the day of the Lord, on which, being clothed with incorruptible bodies, we shall be translated to the glory of the heavenly kingdom” (*Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book III, p. 82).

The word “impute” is found some seven times in the King James Version of the New Testament. (Rom. 4:6, 8, 11, 22, 23, 24; 2 Cor. 5:19; Gal. 3:6) Not a one of these passages teaches that Christ's personal righteousness ever becomes the righteousness of another. None of these verses states that God imputes Christ's righteousness to anyone.

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

May 29	Galatians 1-3
May 30	Galatians 4-6
May 31	Ephesians 1-3
June 1	Ephesians 4-6
June 2	Philippians 1-3
June 3	Philippians 4—Colossians 2
June 4	Col. 3—1 Thessalonians 1
June 5	1 Thessalonians 2-5

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **24 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Jessica would like to have a quick **ladies meeting immediately after services this morning.**
- ◆ **Next Sunday will be our regular first Sunday Fellowship Meal.**
- ◆ **Next Sunday will start the summer quarter for our Bible Classes.** Most classes will have new teachers for the summer—to give the regulars a well deserved break. We will begin a **new study in the adult class—The Book of Romans.** There will also be a **special program on Wednesday evenings** through the summer. **Make plans to be at Bible Class!**
- ◆ The **Summer Youth Series** will be kicking off June 7th at Bangs. It continues each Tuesday evening at 7pm (schedule on the bulleting board).

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 9—We host area Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 16-19—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.
- ◆ October 29—2nd Annual Ladies Day.

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ June 6-9—VBS @ Bangs. (Flyer on bulletin board)
- ◆ June 7—Summer Youth Series Begins—Each Tuesday evening through the summer (schedule on bulletin board).
- ◆ June 26-30—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 17-22—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 5-7—Discipleship U.—Dripping Springs, TX.
- ◆ August 19-25—Polishing The Pulpit—Sevierville, TN.
- ◆ Sept. 10—Teacher’s Workshop @ Cleburne.
- ◆ Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship
- ◆ Oct. 1—Ladies Day @ Dublin.

- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat [Brady]
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: “*The Bible and Archaeology*” (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

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The Bible clearly states that one who is considered righteous by heaven is one who practices righteousness (1 John 3:7), not the one who has had the personal righteousness of Jesus imputed to him. A sinner becomes righteous by pardon made possible by the atoning death of Jesus, not by imputation of His perfect life (Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:8-9). The atoning death of Jesus provides for the sinner's pardon if he will face up to his responsibility to repent and then obey God's law of pardon (cf. Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:7-9).

(To be continued next week...)

Gene Taylor (www.centervilleroad.com/articles/calvinism-6.html)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

June Birthdays: Gracen Hardy (5/30), Mike Bannister (4), Caleb Dennis (6), Loutrell Dobbins (8), Shannon Dennis (13), Tiffany McCaghren (22), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (28).

June Anniversaries: James & Laverne Thomas (5), Johnny & Cindy McCaghren (8), Wayne & Mileen Kahlich (19), David & Lisa Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 15, 2016	May 22, 2016
Bible Class	49	41
AM Worship	59	55
PM Worship	52	45
Wednesday PM	45	44
Contribution	\$2,225	\$2,325

This Week: 5/29/16		Next Week: 6/5/16		May 2016 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Joe Dennis Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group June 2016 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: James & Cindy Fuller Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Randy Huckaby, James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Larry Petty	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Allan Bland	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	James Thomas	John Barnum		
Communion	Joe Dennis	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 1 Prayer Night	June 8 Garrett Barnum	June 15 Joe Dennis	June 22 Allen Griffith

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of May 29, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 28:23ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies
Wed. Class Man's Problem—Sin; God's Solution—Jesus Christ

God Is Love

I. God Is Love.

- A. God is personal, loving, and intimately involved with His creation.
B. What is love?

- John describes love in an emphatic way (1 John 4:7-11).
 - Love is an essential part of God's being – not just what He does.
 - The two are not interchangeable – God is more than love.
- When used as a verb – "love" means to delight in or cherish.
- When used as a noun – it means affection or fondness.

C. The kind of love God shows is unlike anything known to man.

- People in the ancient world thought of their gods in very mortal ways – their gods loved like people love.
 - God's love is quite different from man's love.
- D. God's love was to be imitated by His people.

II. Love Demonstrated.

- A. Never is the love of God more clearly demonstrated than at the cross.
B. Jesus knew what it meant to experience sorrow.
C. Jesus knew what it meant to be humiliated.
D. Jesus knew what it meant to suffer.
E. Jesus knew what it meant to be treated with contempt.
F. Jesus knew what it meant to die.

- Love and agony together in terrible beauty.
- It is one thing to see an act of injustice – it is something quite different to see that action taken against your own child.

III. A Father's Love for a Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24).

- A. Jesus tells the story of a young, arrogant, ungrateful son – who asks for his inheritance before his father has even died.
B. Despite the son's actions – we see the father looking for his return.
C. God already knows us and accepts us.

IV. A True Love Story.

- A. The drama of redemption – all the elements of a true love story.
- A Father – intimately concerned with His creation.
 - An antagonist – mankind – who reject and betray Him.
 - A hero – the Son – who pays the ultimate price for mankind.
- B. God's love is constant – even though our sin violates His holy character (example – the book of Hosea).

Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning Worship (1)

[The Use of Mechanical Instruments of Music]

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:24)

I. The "Aid" argument.

- A. An "aid" helps us do something (in this case "sing") [songbook, notes].
B. Mechanical instruments are an "addition" to what God commanded.

II. Old Testament argument.

- A. A great admission. Why not say it is in the New Testament?
B. God knows how to ask for instrumental music if He wants it (Ps. 150:3-5).
C. Why not take all that is in the Old Testament? (Galatians 5:3)

III. Psalmo argument.

- A. The argument.
- In classical Greek the word meant "to strike," as, for instance, "striking" the strings of a harp.
 - "The...classical" period was from around 900 B.C. (the time of Homer) to the conquests of Alexander the Great (c. 330 B.C.).
 - The Septuagint (3rd century B.C.) used the word in this manner.
- B. Why the argument is incorrect.
- Words change in meaning over time – the only relevant issue is "What did psalmo mean as used in the New Testament?"
 - J. H. Thayer: "...in the N.T. [psalmo signifies] to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song..."
 - W. E. Vine: "...in the N.T., to sing a hymn, sing praise..."
 - No standard translation of the English bible provides a hint of instrumental music in any of the five NT texts where psalmo is found.
 - If psalmo means to sing and play – every Christian is commanded to sing and play.

IV. The temple argument.

V. The "I like it" argument.

- A. Romans 15:3; John 5:30.

VI. Instrumental music in heaven.

- A. The argument proves too much (infant membership, no marriage, etc.)

VII. It does not say not to use it.

- A. But it does say not to – by giving a specific command, all other things are eliminated (Eph. 5:10).

VIII. What others have said.