

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



June 5, 2016

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

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 2—article continued from last week's bulletin)

Proof Texts Used to Support the Perseverance of the Saints

John 3:16, 36 and 5:24. The argument Calvinists base on this passage is that the believer, the saved, has (present possession) **eternal** life. Since eternal means "unending," if the Christian could be lost he could not possess eternal life. Therefore, since the Christian **has** eternal life, he can never lose it. The answer to their argument is that eternal life is used in two senses in the Scriptures: 1) the life Christians now possess. (1 John 5:11-13); and 2) something for which the Christian hopes (Titus 1:2) and will receive "in the age to come" (Mark 10:29-30).

The eternal life Christians now possess would not be altered if they lose it. It is the life that is eternal, not the possession of it. The fact that one may leave it behind does not alter its intrinsic nature. Possession of eternal life is conditional upon walking with God in accordance with His will.

John 10:28-29. The argument on this passage is that no one can snatch any of Christ's sheep from out of the Father's hand. Therefore, no one who has been saved can ever be lost. To answer this argument, it is true that no one is able to pluck the saved out of the hand of God unless **the person is willing to go**. Becoming a "sheep" and being placed in the hand of God is conditional. It takes hearing Christ (v. 27), believing Christ (v. 26) and following Christ (v. 27). Remaining a "sheep" is likewise conditional. As long as a person remains a faithful follower of Christ he "shall never perish" (v. 28) but remember, a sheep can go astray. When a person places himself in God's care and humbly submits to His will, no other person or being can tear him from this position. But this passage does not teach that he is not able to remove himself from the hand of God by sinning (cf. Isa. 59:1-2).

Romans 8:35-39. The argument from this text is that nothing can separate the elect from the love of God. Therefore, if they cannot be separated from the love of God, they can never be lost. In answer to this argument, while it is true that all the things named in this passage cannot separate one from the love of Christ, but both the Father and the Son love all persons (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:14). Are all people going to be saved? Even Calvinists do not believe that. The passage is not speaking of the love Christ has for us but of the love we have for Him (cf. v. 28).

R.L. Whiteside, commenting on this passage in *A New Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Saints at Rome*, said, "The phrase, 'the love of Christ,' can mean either the love Christ has for us or the love we have for him. Here it evidently means the love we have for him, for no one would think that the harsh things we suffer for him would separate his love from us; whereas it might appear reasonable to some that the sufferings we undergo in serving Christ might cause our love to grow cold, and even vanish. It will be noticed that all the evils mentioned are things that come upon us – things from without. If a man loves Christ as he should, none of the things mentioned will destroy that love; only the conditions of our own heart can cause us to cease loving him.... It will be noticed that all the things mentioned are things without. Nothing here is said as to what corrupting influence might do to the heart. No powers or persecutions can force one to quit loving God. If he quits, he does it of his own accord. Love cannot be destroyed by force or by imperial command but it may wax cold. Some even depart from their first love (Rev. 2:4). Paul recognized that people might depart from the faith, but he was persuaded that no evils coming on us from without could destroy the love of God. In Christ, God's love for us and our love for him meet" (pp. 192, 193).

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"You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes." **Psalm 119:68**

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." **Psalm 107:1**

"Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You." **Psalm 31:19**



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This passage does not teach that people cannot be separated from the salvation which is in Christ.

1 John 3:6-9. The argument here is that one who is born of God cannot sin, i.e., it is impossible for the child of God to sin. If he cannot sin, he cannot be lost. Once he is saved he is always saved. The answer is that “cannot,” from the Greek *ou-dunamal*, means morally unable not that which is physically impossible. “Cannot,” as used in Scripture, does not always mean impossible.

Consider the example of Balaam in Numbers 22:18: “Though Balak were to give me his house full of gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more.” Balaam did not mean it was impossible for him to go beyond the word of God. Rather, he meant that he could not do it and be pleasing to God. He was forbidden to do it.

E.M. Zerr, commenting in 1 John 3:6-9, said, “And so the word in our verse does not mean that the child of God has come to the place where he is physically unable to do any wrong, but that he is morally restrained from it, just as a good man who is asked to join another in some crime would reply, ‘O, no, I couldn’t do anything like that’” (*Bible Commentary*, Vol. Six, p. 284).

John, in this passage, could not have meant that it was impossible for a child of God to sin. In 1:8-10 and 2:1-2 of this same epistle he plainly stated that he could. In commenting on verses six and nine of 1 John 3, Marvin Vincent said, “John does not teach that believers do not sin, but is speaking of a character, a habit. Throughout the Epistle he deals with the ideal reality of life in God, in which the love of God and sin exclude each other as light and darkness” (*Word Studies in the New Testament*, Vol. II, p. 348).

Scriptural Objections to Perseverance of the Saints

Matthew 13:41,42. All who are in Christ’s kingdom have been born again (John 3:3-5) but some of those in the kingdom who “practice lawlessness” will be gathered out of it.

John 15:1-6. In these verses Jesus warns His disciples to continue to abide in Him. If it is impossible for a Christian not to abide in Christ, then Jesus’ warning has no meaning. A Christian who does not repent of failing to abide in Christ can only anticipate destruction in the final day.

Acts 8:9-24. Simon believed and was baptized. (v. 3) Thus there is no question he was a child of God. After becoming a child of God he sought to buy the gift of God with money. (vv. 18-19) He was told he was “poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity” (v. 23). He was commanded to “repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart can be forgiven you” (v. 22). One inspired man, Luke, called Simon a baptized be-

liever. Another inspired man, Peter, told him he would perish with his money. Simon, though a child of God, had sins that needed to be forgiven or he would perish (v. 20). Simon had fallen from grace.

Romans 8:12, 13. This passage is directed toward “brethren” (v. 12). It is possible for a brother, a child of God, to live according to the flesh and “die” (v. 13).

Romans 11:22. This text is a warning to Gentile Christians who were in God’s “goodness.” If they failed to continue in God’s goodness, they would be “cut off.”

Romans 14:15 and 1 Corinthians 8:11. Both of these passages warn Christians not to cause their brethren to sin in matters of judgment. Those “for whom Christ died,” Calvinists would call them the elect, can be destroyed (Rom. 14:15) or perish (1 Cor. 8:11).

1 Corinthians 9:27. Not even the staunchest Calvinist would deny that the apostle Paul was a child of God. Yet, in this text, Paul said, that even after preaching to others, he could be “disqualified,” i.e., he could be lost even though he was a Christian.

Galatians 5:2-4. This passage is definitely directed toward Christians (cf. Gal. 3:26), children of God. The word translated “fallen” in this text is the same word that is used in other places to refer to divorce. It could be translated “severed.” These children of God were once as firmly united with the grace of God as a man is with his wife or as Christ is with the church, but now they have been divorced, severed, from grace. They could not be severed from something they were not joined to in the first place. They could not fall from that which they were not in.

1 Timothy 4:1. This passage states that some Christians “will depart from the faith.” Such a departure would cause them to be lost. In verse 16, Timothy is told if he, as a child of God, would be saved he would have to “continue in” the doctrine of Christ.

Hebrews 6:4-6. The people under consideration in this passage:

- Were “once enlightened.” Even Calvinists believe this phrase applies to the Christian and not to one who is totally depraved and wholly defiled.
- “Tasted the heavenly gift.” They must have been Christians for unregenerates, those totally depraved, could not experience the heavenly gift.
- Were “partakers of the Holy Spirit.” Since the word “partakers” has its root idea in fellowship, can one who is not a Christian be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit?
- “Tasted the good word of God.” An unregenerate person, ac-

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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

June 5 1 Thessalonians 2-5

June 6 2 Thessalonians 1-3

June 7 1 Timothy 1-3

June 8 1 Timothy 4-6

June 9 2 Timothy 1-4

June 10 Titus 1-3

June 11 Philemon—Hebrews 1

June 12 Hebrews 2-4

“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 **22 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ First Sunday Fellowship Meal after morning services today.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School this week at Bangs.
- ◆ Summer Youth Series Tuesday, 7:00pm, at Bangs.
- ◆ Summer quarter for our Bible Classes begins today.

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 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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According to Calvinists, could not possibly understand the word of God.

- “Tasted...the powers of the age to come.” Again, the unregenerate could have no connection to the powers and blessings of God through Christ.
- Are obviously Christians, children of God.

Not only could these children of God fall away, they could fall so far away that it would be impossible to renew them to repentance.

Hebrews 10:26-29. It is evident that Christians are under consideration in this passage because they have been “sanctified” by the blood of Christ (v. 29). If a child of God willfully forsakes the Lord and does not repent, he has nothing to anticipate but a “certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation” (v. 27).

James 5:19. A brother can “wander from the truth” in such a manner as to be a “sinner” whose soul is in jeopardy of “death” (cf. Gal. 6:1).

2 Peter 2:1. This passage warns of false teachers who will deny “the Lord who bought them.” Those who deny Christ, even children of God, will be denied before God (Matt. 10:33) and be cast into the lake of fire if they do not repent (Rev. 21:8).

2 Peter 3:17. Christians can fall from “steadfastness” and be led away “with the error of the wicked.”

Revelation 3:5. All Christians have their names written in the book of life (Rev. 20:15). Those names can be removed if they do not live faithfully (Rev. 3:5; 22:19).

Conclusion

The Bible teaches that the believer is secure in his salvation in the hand of God as long as he remains faithful to the will of God and loyal to Christ (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

The word of God also teaches that a child of God can voluntarily, by his sins, separate himself from God and Christ and be lost. If the child of God becomes unfaithful and does not repent, the “wages of sin,” death (Rom. 6:23), await him even though he had once been in fellowship with God.

The Perseverance of the Saints, or “once saved always saved,” like the four tenets of Calvinism which precede it, is a false doctrine that must be rejected.

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

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: 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).



Records

	May 22, 2016	May 29, 2016
Bible Class	41	45
AM Worship	55	61
PM Worship	45	39
Wednesday PM	44	39
Contribution	\$2,325	\$2,205

		This Week: 6/5/16	Next Week: 6/12/16		
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	
Greeters		Dennis Family		Bannister Families	
Opening Prayer		Allen Griffith		Joe Dennis	
Communion		Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Randy Huckaby, James Thomas		Allen Griffith*, Allen Bland Larry Petty, Hank Wheeler	
Closing Prayer		Gene Bannister		John Barnum	
Attendance Cards		Caleb Dennis		Ian Barnum	
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		Song Leader: James Fuller	
Opening Prayer		James Fuller		Tom Wilcox	
Scripture Reading		John Barnum		Don Smith	
Communion		Ken Maninger		Allen Griffith	
Closing Prayer		Tom Wilcox		Ken Maninger	
Wednesday Devotionals:		June 8 Garrett Barnum	June 15 Joe Dennis	June 22 Allen Griffith	June 29 Tom Wilcox

June 2016
Make Announcements:
 Ken Maninger
Prepare Communion:
 James & Cindy Fuller
Clean Building:
 Huckaby / Bland
Hostess Committee:
 Jessica Stultz's group

July 2016
Make Announcements:
 Gene Bannister
Prepare Communion:
 Johnny & Cindy McCaghren
Clean Building:
 Johnny & Cindy McCaghren
Hostess Committee:
 Jessica Stultz's group

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 June 5, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans: Introduction & Background**
 Wed. Class **What Church Did the 1st Century Converts "Join"?**

God Is Good

- I. **The Goodness of God.**
 - A. The goodness of God – one of His more underrated attributes.
 - B. We don't want simply "good" – we want "better" or "improved."
 - C. We may speak of God's goodness in two ways.
 1. First of all – He is good.
 - a. Goodness describes His being and character.
 - b. God is perfectly good – He can never be any better, or any worse.
 - c. "God is naturally good. There is such an absolute perfection in his nature and being, that nothing is wanting to it, or defective in it; and nothing can be added to make it better.... He is good of himself, good in himself.... [T]he creatures' good is a superadded quality; in him it is his essence."¹
 2. Secondly, we may speak of what He does as being good.
 - a. His goodness manifests itself in how He acts.
 - b. All He does is worthy of approval.
- II. **Categories of God's Goodness.**
 - A. Benevolence – a simple generosity God bestows upon all living things.
 - B. Mercy – bestowing of goodness toward those in need.
 - C. Grace – demonstration of love toward one who deserves punishment.
- III. **As Christians we are called to imitate God's goodness** (3 Jn. 11; Eph. 2:10).
 - A. The character of a person is revealed in how he treats those who can do nothing for him – no one passes this test like God.
 - B. When we look at the portrait of God in the OT – we might be tempted to see God as anything but good.
 1. In ancient covenants the curses come first, then the blessings.
 2. In the covenant made at Sinai – it is the blessings that come first.
- IV. **A "Good" Judge?**
 - A. Some see the wrath of God as contradicting His goodness.
 - B. The judge that doesn't punish where punishment is merited is not just.
- V. **Goodness Personified.**
 - A. In Matthew 8, we read a story of a leper who came to Jesus.
 - B. Jesus did not stop with one leper – we all have a terminal condition.
 - C. We see God's goodness in the mission of Jesus Christ.

Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning Worship (2)

- I. **The role of women in worship – 1 Tim. 2:11-15** *Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.*
 - A. 1st century tradition, or everlasting truth?
 - B. This was not Paul's opinion – he states the reasons in the passage.
- II. **The Lord's Supper.**
 - A. Transubstantiation.
 - B. Time of observance.
 - C. One cup.
 - D. Changing of elements.
- III. **Giving:**
 - A. Some claim that one can take up a contribution anytime.
 - B. Car washes, bake sales, etc. to support the work of the church.
 - C. 1 Corinthians 16:2 answers both questions.
- IV. **The day of worship: Sunday or Sabbath?**
 - A. **The command to keep the Sabbath:**
 1. The origin of this command:
 - a. Why (not when) it was given – Genesis 2:1-3.
 - b. Sabbath first mentioned some 2,500 years later in Exodus 16.
 - c. Commanded as part of the Ten Commandments – Exodus 20.
 - d. The Sabbath law was given to Israel – and Israel only.
 2. The Ten Commandments and Sabbath are no longer binding.
 - B. **Arguments used by the Sabbatarians.**
 1. Since Christ kept the Sabbath, so should we.
 2. Distinction made between *the law of God* and *the law of Moses.*¹
 3. Hebrews 4:8-10 command the Sabbath to be observed.
 4. Paul preached on the Sabbath.
 5. If the 4th commandment is no longer binding – none are.
 6. Christians are taught to obey the Ten Commandments by James.
 7. The Sabbath was changed to Sunday by Constantine in A.D. 321.
 8. The Sabbath is an everlasting covenant!
 - C. **The Lord's Day.**
 1. The resurrection of Christ came about on the first day of the week.
 2. It was the day on which He appeared to His apostles.
 3. The church began on Pentecost (The first day of the week).

¹ Thomas Mantou, *One Hundred and Ninety Sermons on the Hundred and Nineteenth Psalm*, Vol. 2 (London: William Broun, 1845), p. 96.