

## CONFESSION OF FAITH.

### CHAPTER 17.-*Of the Perseverance of the Saints.*

II. 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<sup>1</sup>; upon the efficacy of the merit, and intercession of Jesus Christ<sup>2</sup>; the abiding of the Spirit, and of the seed of God within them<sup>3</sup>; and the nature of the Covenant of Grace<sup>4</sup>: from all which, ariseth also the certainty, and infallibility thereof<sup>5</sup>.

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Question 1.—*Does the perseverance of the saints depend upon their own free-will?*

*Answer.*—No. 2 Tim. 2:18,19; Jer. 31:3. The *ground* of this certain perseverance is not at all in the free will of the saints, but altogether—In the inherent immutability of the eternal decree of election. God's decree of election (a.) respects individuals, Acts 13:48; 2 Thess. 2:13; Eph. 1:4; (b.) chooses them to salvation and all the means thereof, 1 Pet. 1:2; Eph. 1:4,5; 2:10; 2 Thess. 2:13; (c.) is not conditioned on the use he foresees they will make of grace, but is founded on "the counsel of his own will," Rom. 9:11,13,16; Eph. 1:4,9; (d.) is immutable and certainly efficacious, Rom. 8:30. Hence those elected to salvation through grace must persevere in grace unto salvation, Heb. 9:15.

Question 2.—*Does the perseverance of the saints depend as well upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ?*

*Answer.*—Yes. Heb. 10:10,14; 13:20,21; Heb. 9:12-15; Rom. 8:33-39; John 17:11,24. This certainty is grounded—In the merits and intercession of Christ, John 17:9. The Scriptures teach that Christ, by his vicarious obedience and suffering as their federal representative, wrought out a perfect righteousness in the stead of his people, John 17:6; Ps. 22:30; Isa. 53:10;—which people were all individually and certainly designated in the eternal covenant in pursuance of which he acted; and that he makes effectual intercession in heaven for all those, and for those only, for whom he has purchased redemption, 1 John 2:1,2; Rom. 8:34. Since, therefore, neither Christ's redemption nor his intercession can fail of the ends for which they are designed, it is evidently impossible that those for whom he was substituted, and for whom he acquired a perfect righteousness, and for whom he offers an effectual intercession, can fail of salvation, Heb. 7:25; Luke 22:32.

Question 3.—*Is the perseverance of the saints also grounded upon the abiding of the Spirit, and of the seed of God within them?*

*Answer.*—Yes. 1 John 2:27. The certainty of the perseverance of the saints in grace is secured—By the constant indwelling of the Holy Ghost, Rom. 8:9. He acts upon the soul in perfect accordance with the laws of its conscience as a rational and moral agent, and yet so as to secure the ultimate victory of the new spiritual principles and tendencies

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<sup>1</sup>2 Tim. 2:18,19; Jer. 31:3.

<sup>2</sup>Heb. 10:10,14; 13:20,21; Heb. 9:12-15; Rom. 8:33-39; John 17:11,24; Luke 22:32; Heb. 7:25.

<sup>3</sup>John 14:16,17; 1 John 2:27; 3:9.

<sup>4</sup>Jer. 32:40.

<sup>5</sup>John 10:28; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 John 2:19.

implanted in regeneration, John 14:16,17; 1 John 3:9. This is accomplished working in the saints to will and do according to those things which are consonant with the advance in grace and the growth of the new man, Phil. 2:13.

Question 4.—*Does the perseverance of the saints also appear in the nature of the Covenant of Grace?*

*Answer.*—Yes. Jer. 32:40. The *ground* of the certainty of the perseverance of saints is *also* laid—In the provisions of the eternal covenant of grace, Isa. 55:3. Taking into consideration the Covenant existing between the Father and the Son to save the elect, it necessarily follows that those embraced in this covenant cannot fail of the benefits provided for them, John 6:37. As our Lord says, “My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand,” John 10:29.

Question 5.—*Is there a certainty and infallibility which flows from the aforementioned grounds?*

*Answer.*—Yes. John 10:28; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 John 2:19. Perseverance of the saints is the result of all of these grounds. From these, believers may conclude with both certainty and infallibility that perseverance is guaranteed to those of whom those grounds can be predicated, 2 Tim. 1:12.