

Preserving Grace (Part 1)

The idea of eternal security acts as a huge stumbling block for many people. When human beings honestly assess their own desires and motives, the wickedness witnessed clearly paints a bleak picture. Yet, this reality makes God's grace all the more amazing. That He loves and walks alongside His elect despite their shortcomings and rebellions demonstrates His deep love and kindness. Rather than befuddle us, this grace should drive us to praise our glorious God for His sovereignty and mercy in salvation. Nothing can snatch us from His hand, no matter how hard we, or others, might struggle subvert His plan and providence.

I. Persevering Grace and Eternal Life

a. John 3:15: Whoever believes in Christ will have eternal life.

i. The verb "have" in this verse refers to a present reality and condition, not to the future.

ii. Eternity reaches into this life.

1. The reference to eternal life in this verse pertains to the quality of life, for communion with God begins with regeneration, repentance, and faith.

2. The reference to eternal life in this verse also pertains to duration of life, a life never-ending.

b. John 3:36: Belief in Christ

i. Belief in Christ involves the mind, heart, and will.

1. An individual must consciously know and recognize their lost condition before they believe in Jesus.

2. The heart must be persuaded by the truth of the gospel.

3. The will must make the decisive choice to repent of sins and to surrender to Jesus.

ii. Belief in Jesus brings eternal life.

c. John 3:16: Whoever believes in Christ will not perish.

i. By perish, Jesus assures the Christian that he will never experience the wrath of God, but he will receive His love for all eternity.

ii. Although blunders and slip-ups may occur, nothing can rip a Christian from the love and security of God.

d. John 4:13–14: The life-giving water Jesus offers (Himself) quenches the spirit eternally, meeting a spiritual need that physical water can never supply.

e. John 5:24: Never condemned

i. Jesus promises that believers will not experience judgment by God.

ii. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to believers, and for this reason they may stand justified before the Father for all eternity.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: John 3:15–18, 36; 4:13–14; 5:24; Romans 1:18; 8:1, 23; 1 Peter 3