

Grace Notes

November 2023

The Doctrines of Grace

Perseverance of the Saints

This month's article on the doctrines of grace addresses the fifth and final doctrine, or the "P" in the acronym TULIP, called the "perseverance of the saints." This is the logical conclusion to the doctrines of grace and it assures the Christian the work God began when he spiritually transformed him and made him a new creation in Christ, he will not fail to complete on the day of glorification (Phil. 1:6). Let us briefly consider this important doctrine of the Christian faith.

The simplest explanation of the perseverance of the saints is revealed in the familiar saying: Once saved, always saved. And while these words can be misused and thereby give a false assurance of salvation to an unregenerate person, they are nonetheless true. For once God saves you, he will never lose you. A true Christian will continue to persevere in the faith.

And we should not be in doubt. For those whom God has foreknown and predestined to eternal life (Eph. 1:3-6), whom he effectually calls, regenerates, justifies, and adopts in this life (Rom. 8:29-30), and glorifies in the life to come (2 Cor. 4:16-18), never will and never can be lost (Jn. 10:27-30). For the God who saves us, will also preserve us (1 Pe. 1:3-5). This is important to remember. As one author explains, "God not only re-created us, but he keeps us alive spiritually every moment. If he should withdraw his Holy Spirit from us for a single moment, we too, would instantly crash back to our natural depraved nature." Christians do not persevere in the faith by their unaided efforts, but only by God's preserving power. Thus, all glory belongs to God (Rom. 11:36).

Now, to say a true believer will persevere in the faith does not mean the road to glory is a "primrose path" to paradise with nary a bump along the way. Although Scripture teaches God transforms us into the image of Christ "from one degree of glory to another" (2 Cor. 3:18), this does not guarantee our transformation is a smooth process. Christians who persevere in the faith will encounter various bumps in life that will test their faith and, for some, cause them to veer off course and fall into a "spiritual ditch" for a time. But since God preserves his own, they will not ultimately fall away from the faith, but in the end will persevere.

We can look at the apostle Peter, or King David and see this is so. Peter succumbed to the temptations of Satan and fell into grievous sin when he denied Jesus three times on the night he was betrayed (Lk. 22:61). But later, he was restored. King David also fell into scandalous sin. He committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband Uriah killed (1 Sam. 11). But he too, much later than Peter, was restored to God. Both men sinned and both suffered the consequence of their sin, but neither man completely fell away from the faith. God preserved them and they persevered in the faith.

In chapter seventeen of the Westminster Confession of Faith that is titled: "Of the Perseverance of the Saints," the authors state the following concerning the Christian's assurance of salvation:

Those whom God has 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 in it to the end and be eternally saved... Nevertheless, they may—through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the pervasiveness of the corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means by which they are to be preserved—fall into grievous sins and for a time continue in them. In so doing they incur God's displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit; some measure of God's graces and comforts is taken from them; they have their hearts hardened and their consciences wounded; they harm others and give them occasion to sin, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves.

A true believer cannot lose their salvation. The God who saves them by his grace will preserve them by the same grace that saves them. That is the confidence we have as the children of God. Once we are saved, we are always saved.

In the words of James Montgomery Boice:

What can separate my soul
From the God who made me whole,
Wrote my name in heaven's scroll?
Nothing. Hallelujah!

Christian Inquiry

A Blog About Topics and Views of Interest to
Christians from Dr. Gaylan McLin, JD, ThD

www.christianinquiry.com

RECENT ARTICLE :

Satan is Bound for a Thousand Years

Daylight Savings Time ends on
Sunday November 5th.
Please don't forget to set your clocks
back an hour Saturday evening



WJC Council Meeting

*The WJC Council meeting will be held
on Wednesday, November 15
after Bible Study.*

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his
name;
Make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him; sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord
rejoice!

1 Chronicles 16: 8-10



Grace PCA will observe the sacrament of Holy Communion during the morning worship services Sunday, November 19th. Everyone should spend time during the week before preparing your hearts and minds to partake in this sacrament.

Please pray for the following physical concerns and spiritual needs of each, individual.

Praying for our Nation...

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

“First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

(I Timothy 2: 1-2)



Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”
Jeremiah 29: 12



Please Join us every Wednesday

Time: 10:30

Where: Fellowship Hall

**Rev. Jim Gorski will be teaching from the book
“Survey of the New Testament”**

By

Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.

Women's Bible Study



Please come and join us on the second Tuesday of the month at Grace to learn more about what Christ can teach us.

We study Gods word, pray for each of the prayer needs we have, and fellowship together.

If you have any questions, please call Marsha Allison

Calendar of Activities for the Month

Men of the Covenant: Thursday, November 2, 10:00 am
WIC Circle Meeting Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 am
WIC Council Wednesday, November 15, 12:00 pm
Session Meeting Sunday, November 19, 12:00 pm
Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am



The next **Session Meeting** will be
Sunday, November 19, 2023
at 12:00 p.m.

Please contact Rev. Jim Gorski, Jesse Arnold, Kit Bonvillian, Randy Borill, Cleve Chandler, Dana Andries, Don Andries prior to the meeting if you have items to bring to their attention.

Every month we remind everyone about the penny jar in the vestibule and the Sunday school rooms. Just to let you know what that money is used for, and how important it is.

First of all that is one of the ministries of Grace as we are supporting our missionaries. This money is going to Ellen Barnett in Acapulco for the school, Horizon. It is a Christian school she is involved with. It seems like any kind of small amount of change is not very much, but as of this month of this year alone the amount that has been collected is \$373.04. As you can see that money adds up.

Please keep praying for this ministry, and continue to add your change from your pockets to our "Penny Jar" (dollars are accepted too!)



Men of the Covenant

Thursday, November 2

All men of GPC

are invited to the Men of the Covenant which will take place on Thursday, November 2.

We will be meeting at 6:30 to enjoy some good fellowship. Following the meal we will hear a devotion from the Word of God. Men, please sign up in the foyer if you are planning to attend.

*"As iron sharpens iron,
 so one person sharpens another."*
Proverbs 27: 17



MEN'S GROUP

November 2023

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalms 100:4-5



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	2 6:30 pm Men of the Covenant	3	4
5	6	7	8 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	9	10	11 
Daylight Savings Time Ends						
12	13	14	15 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	16	17	18
		10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting				
19	20	21	22 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	23 Happy Thanksgiving 	24	25
12:00 Session Meeting				Office Closed		
26	27	28	29 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	30		

Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service



Grace Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in America
9526 Joor Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

Grace Notes



November 2023

Cards for the Troops!

We greatly appreciate all the thought and care that was put into writing Christmas cards to our Troops who are serving overseas.

Thanks again for blessing our Troops in this way! It means so much to them, knowing that they are not forgotten, especially at this time of year.

Appreciate your faithfulness,
Mary Ann Bennett



For the month of December, we will be putting live poinsettias in the sanctuary.

If you would like to make a donation to the church and have one or more placed in the sanctuary in memory of someone or in honor of a occasion. Here is what you need to do. The cost is 20.00 and we will deliver them to the church on what Sunday you chose. After that Sunday you may take them home. We need your name, what Sunday you chose, what you would like to say in the bulletin in honor of. Call Brigitte in the office 261-0890, or leave her a note on her desk. Remember this is for each Sunday in December.

Any questions, please contact
Marsha Allison.