

## Perseverance of the Saints

### Introduction:

- A. "If you seek it, you can't find it; if you find it, you can't get it; if you get it, you can't lose it; if you lose it, you never had it!" (summary of Calvinistic teaching on salvation by Brother C.R. Nichol)
- B. Of the five points of Calvinism, the one that is still most commonly advocated by denominational people is the perseverance of the saints.
- C. Why is the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints wrong?

### I. definition:

*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 Westminster Confession of Faith gives the following statement of this doctrine: 'They whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from a state of grace: but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved (Five Points. 56).*

### II. practical result:

*We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul! The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul... All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bible 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 justification of the human soul is through the atonement of Christ and not through the efforts of man. The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul (Sam Morris, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Stamford, Texas, "Do A Christian's Sins Damn His Soul).*

### III. Some Arguments Which Demonstrate the Possibility of Apostasy

- A. The Bible warns children of God against falling. - 1 Corinthians 10:12; Hebrews 3:12; 4:11
- B. The Bible says some children of God did fall. - Acts 8:12-23; Galatians 5:4
- C. The Bible tells us how to keep from falling. - 2 Peter 1:2-11
- D. The Bible tells us what to do if we fall. - 1 John 2:1-2; 1:9
- E. The Bible shows the result of falling. - Romans 11:22; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-39; 2 Peter 2:20-22
- F. The Bible teaches we will be judged according to our works. - Romans 2:5-11; 8:13; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 6:7-8; Revelation 20:13
- G. Even the Apostle Paul was concerned that he might fall. - 1 Corinthians 9:27

### Conclusion:

- A. The way you live has **much** to do with the salvation of your soul.
- B. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth he standeth take heed lest he fall."