

## CALVINISM: THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS, Part 3

We devote one more article to this subject, the Calvinistic view of the perseverance of saints. We are sincerely concerned for the millions of people who think they are justified before God in Calvinism's view and so take false comfort in the idea that no matter how slight their service to God, nor how blatantly they may indulge themselves in that which repulses him, their eternal justification is nonetheless guaranteed. Consequently, we need to notice some passages the Calvinist cites in an attempt to prove his point. Please notice how badly these passages are being abused.

For example, notice Jesus' assurance of eternal life to his followers and that they will never perish since no one is able to snatch them from the shelter of his (Jesus') hand nor the hand of the Father (John 10:27-29). Calvinists cite this in an attempt to prove that a saved person can never be lost. What Jesus actually said is certainly true. No enemy is powerful enough to remove a saved person from the safe keeping of Jesus or that of the Father. Is it possible, however, for one to remove himself from the well-being of the Lord through personal unfaithfulness? Yes, it is. Christians are warned not to depart from God with an evil heart of unbelief (Hebrews 3:12) and that one who does so draws back to perdition, (Hebrews 10:37-39).

Paul's splendid anthem of praise to God for the fact that nothing is able to remove the Christian from his love is cited as proof that a saved one cannot be lost (Romans 8:31-39). Again, everything Paul said is true. There is a problem, however, with the Calvinist's failure to recognize that everything Paul cited as being unable to remove one from the love of God is external to oneself. Is it possible for a Christian to remove himself from the love of God? Certainly! If he draws back in unfaithfulness, God says, "My soul has no pleasure in him" (Hebrews 10:38). Moreover, chapter 8 of Paul's letter to the Romans is in its entirety an exhortation to Christians to be faithful coupled with warnings against the consequence of unfaithfulness—spiritual death (8:13, 14).

Sadly, Calvinism is a false system and a faulty refuge. Salvation is found only by faithfulness to God in Jesus Christ, (Romans 13:11-14; Hebrews 10:35-39; I Peter 1:3-9; Revelation 2:10). —Jerry F. Bassett