

**Baptist Distinctives:
Eternal Security & The Perseverance of the Saints**

Introduction:

1. These are Not Historical Baptist Distinctives
2. But, Much stress has been given to them in History

The Main Idea: All true believers ARE NOW Saved, eternally secure, and preserved and kept by God. Therefore, they will by the means of His grace persevere and endure to the end TO BE Saved.

The Baptist Faith & Message, 2000, Article V, Paragraph 2

Definitions

1. Perseverance: Continue in belief in Jesus Christ through life; You endure, persist in faith by Grace
2. Eternal Security: Everlasting eternal life is given to the believer – God preserves/keeps you by Grace
3. Already/Not Yet Principle: You are saved now, but this present salvation is not fully realized until Jesus Comes Again

Christians are Commanded to Persevere (Heb 12, 1 Tim 6)

Two Types Of Biblical Texts That Seem To Contradict

1. The Warning/Conditional Passages – Admonitions to Keep Believing; IF/THEN conditional statements
 - a. Paul: **Rom 11:22, 8:13; Col 1:21-23**
 - b. Writer to Hebrews: **Heb 3:6, 6:4-6**
 - c. Peter: **1 Peter 2:20-22**
 - d. John: **1 John 1:7**
 - e. Jesus: **John 15:6; Mark 13:13; John 7**
2. The Promise Passages – Eternally Secure to the End
 - a. Paul: **Phil 1:6; 1 Cor 1:7-8; Eph 4:30**
 - b. Jude: **Jude 1b, 24-25**
 - c. Jesus: **John 6:37-40**
3. What do we do? Danger is to throw up hands and walk away, or regard one kind of text over/against the other
4. The Bible is From God – We need all of Scripture!
5. ***Both Warning & Promise Passages are MEANS of God's grace to preserve and persevere us to the end***

The Already/Not Yet Principle Of Scripture

1. Salvation is usually looked at as a one-time conversion experience in the past; Salvation is past, present, future
2. You have eternal life, you also have the HOPE of eternal life (**1 John 3:2, Titus 3:5-7, 1 Peter 1:3-5**)
3. Tom Schreiner's 4 Categories: *The Race Set Before Us*
 - a. Loss-of-Salvation View
 - b. Loss-of-Rewards View
 - c. Test-of-Genuine-Faith View
 - d. God's-Means-of-Salvation View ✓
4. **God's Purpose for Warning & Promise Passages:** Motivate you with secure encouragement and threaten you with damnation to KEEP you running forward

John 10:22-30 – Jesus On Perseverance & Eternal Security

1. Verses 22-24 – Are you the Messiah or not?
2. Verses 25-26 – Why don't they believe?
3. Evidence You Are A Sheep of God
 - a. Saving Faith – rest life, trust, sin on Jesus (**v 25-26**)
 - b. You Hear Jesus' Voice (**27a; verse 3b**)
 - c. Jesus Knows His Sheep like He knows His Father (**27b; verses 14-15; See also John 17:24**)
 - d. You Faithfully, Obediently Follow Jesus (**27c**)
 - i. YOU Persevere with God
4. What Jesus does for His Sheep (**Verses 28-30**)
 - a. Given Eternal Life – a spiritual life that will never cease; An irrevocable gift from God (**Rom 11:29**)
 - b. The Sheep NEVER Perish – Jesus does not lie, you cannot ever lose your salvation
 - c. You cannot be snatched from Jesus' hands
 - d. You cannot be snatched from the Father's hands
 - e. Nothing can separate you God's Love (**Rom 8:38-9**)
 - i. Not Death-Life, Not Angels-Demons
 - ii. Not Present-Future, Not Height-Depth
 - iii. Not even Yourself – Noting in Creation

The hands that that were wounded to save you can never be doubted for their love. The hands that created the universe can never be doubted for their majestic power.

God's love and power KEEP you, preserves you to persevere, eternally secure in Christ, until you are finally saved. Amen.