
The Westminster Confession of Faith

Week 3

17:1 Can I lose my salvation?

Those who are truly saved will never fall away (Philippians 1:6; John 5:24; 10:28; 1 Peter 1:5, 9)

Does experience contradict this?
False professions (1 John 2:19)
Apostasy (Hebrews 6)

17:2 What is the basis for this perseverance?

Perseverance is based on the origin/author of salvation (contra Roman Catholicism and Arminianism)

Perseverance depends on:
election (Phil. 1:6)
work of Christ (Heb. 10:14)
abiding of the spirit and seed of God (Jn. 14:16ff; 1 Jn. 3:9)
covenant of grace (Jer. 32:40)

17:3 What about hard times?

Perseverance does not remove discipline of God or consequences of sin

What does this look like?
Incur God's displeasure
Grieve the holy Spirit
Lose some graces and comforts
Hearts hardened and consciences wounded
Hurt others
Temporal judgments

18:1 What about assurance?

Assurance of salvation is possible (1 John 2:3; 3:14, 18, 19, 21, 24; 5:13; Hebrews 6:17-18; 2 Peter 1:10)

Definition: an increased consciousness of our union with Christ, the "flowering of justification"

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Definition: an increased consciousness of our union with Christ, the "flowering of justification"

Some are falsely assured; four possibilities:

- Saved and assured (of being saved)
- Saved and not assured
- Unsaved and assured
- Unsaved and not assured

18:2 How can I have assurance?

Infallible assurance, not a fallible hope (Romans 5:5; Heb. 6:11, 19)

Grounds of Assurance

- Promises of God (2 Peter 1:4; Hebrews 6:17-18)
- Evidences of a changed life
- Testimony of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:15-16)

18:3 Does everyone have it?

Not everyone who has faith has assurance

Every Christian has seed of assurance and may grow to have full assurance through the use of ordinary means

Everyone has the duty to seek assurance (2 Peter 1:10)

18:4 Assurance is not static.

Assurance, once gotten, may be shaken

None are never utterly barren of the seed of assurance

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