



Perseverance and Glorification

The quarter circles represent the saints glorifying God. They are united, mirroring the circle that represents God.

Paul David Tripp
Do You Believe?

What We Believe: Solid Doctrine for Everyday Life

The Doctrines of the Perseverance and Glorification of the Saints

Those whom God has accepted through his beloved Son, has effectually called, and are being made holy by his Spirit, will not finally fall away from grace, but will persevere in that grace until the end. They will be eternally saved.

The perseverance of the saints does not depend on their own free will, but upon God's unchangeable choice, which flows from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; from the effectiveness of the merit and intercession of Jesus, from the Spirit who lives inside of them and the seed of God, planted in them, and from the nature of the covenant of grace. From all of these comes the certainty that they will persevere.

However, because of the temptations of Satan and the world, because of the corruption of sin remaining in the saints and their neglect of God's means of preserving them, they may fall into sins, continuing in those sins for a time, incurring God's displeasure and grieving the Holy Spirit. Because of this, some of the saints' blessings and comforts may be taken away, their hearts hardened, their consciences seared. This hurts and scandalize others and brings temporary judgment on them.

After death, peoples' bodies decay and return to dust, but their souls live forever. They neither die nor sleep, but return to the God who gave them. The souls of righteous people are made perfectly holy and are received in the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies.^{1 2}

Living Now Between “the Already” & “the Not Yet”

- between D-Day & VE-Day

Perseverance (our “in between the times” present) & Glorification (our certain future)

- The role of imagination

I. Perseverance of the Saints

- Read **Romans 8:28-39**

In this, Paul is just echoing what Jesus himself taught. Look at 3 key passages in John: John 5:24; 6:37-40; 10:27-30

1) If all this true, does it make any difference how we live?

1 Corinthians 9:24 Galatians 6:9 Hebrews 10:36 Hebrews 12:1 Rev. 3:11

2) What about believers who fall away?

Matthew 13:20-21 Matthew 7:21-23 1 John 2:19

II. Glorification of the Saints

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

Two dimensions: 1) The final funeral for sin & all its effects

Revelation 22:3 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

2) We will be perfected in holiness, taking on the true likeness of Jesus, and we will reign in glory with him forever.

2 Peter 1:4 — *"partakers of the divine nature"*

2 Corinthians 4:17 Romans 8:18

"The J-Curve" — death, then glory. (Paul Miller)

Some Implications for Everyday Life Now

Fearlessness, Sacrifice, & Hope

Discuss Together:

What's one specific hard circumstance in your life right now? (E.g., a health issue, a difficult relationship, struggling with doubts about what God is doing in a particular situation, etc.)

- Now let's use this 3-part interpretive tool to make sense of it:

1) God's call for you to persevere (nose to the grindstone), **2)** his promise to keep you (ground under your feet), and **3)** the glory that is at the end (eyes on the prize).

Pray Together for Prodigals

Sing: *Your Labor Is Not In Vain*

Recommended Resources

• The artwork comes from, *Do You Believe?: 12 Historic Doctrines to Change Your Everyday Life*, by Paul Tripp (Crossway, 2021), on which this class is loosely based.

¹ Paul Tripp's paraphrase of the doctrines of the perseverance and glorification of the saints as found in the Westminster Confession of Faith, chaps. 17 and 32.1.

² Gen. 3:19; 2 Sam. 12:14; Pss. 32:3-4; 51:10, 12; 89:31-32; Eccles. 12:7; Is. 64:5, 9; Jer. 32:40; Mal. 3:6; Matt. 26:70-74; Luke 16:24; John 10:28-29; 14:19; 17:21-24; Acts 13:36; Rom. 2:10; 5:1-11; 8:11, 16, 30; 9:16; 1 Cor. 2:7; 11:32; 15:50-55; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Eph. 1:18; 4:30; Phil. 1:6; Col. 1:27; 2 Thess. 2:14; 2 Tim. 2:10-19; Heb. 2:10; 6:17-18; 12:23; 1 Pet. 1:7; 4:19; 5:10; 1 John 2:19; 3:9; Jude 6-7.