

- 2D Resurrection, 1 Peter 1:3, "3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, "
- 3D God Himself, 2 Timothy 1:12, "12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. "
- 6C An indication of the permanent condition, John 5:24, "24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. "
- 7C Hope transforms grief, 1 Thessalonians 4:13, "13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. "
- 8C Hope transforms spiritual growth:
- 1D 1 John 3:1–3, "1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. "
- 2D 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17, "16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work. "

them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. "

2E 1 Thessalonians 4:3–5, "3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; "

4C There is even more abundant experiential evidence of this same thing.

5C Yet, Christians, even when they have sinned may be confident of their salvation standing before God. This leads to our next point.

5A The biblical doctrine of assurance of salvation.

1B 3 Reasons Christians lack assurance of salvation (from Ryrie's Basic Theology).

1C Some doubt the reality of their committal to Christ...

1D Because they cannot pinpoint the time of their salvation belief in Christ.

2D Because they doubt the clarity of their assumed moment of salvation.

2C Some doubt the procedure of their salvation:

1D Didn't go forward or raise hand.

2D Didn't feel sinful enough or saved enough.

3D Didn't say the prayer out loud.

3C Some doubt because they have continued to sin after salvation.

2B The Bible clearly states that human beings may know for certain that they are going to heaven – simply because of what God has done at salvation. The believer is eternally secure.

1C The primary source of your security is that salvation is one-time work of God that lasts forever. It is not dependent on any external or internal factor, but God alone. In essence, we are saved because God's Word says we're saved.

2C The result of knowing God's promise concerning eternal life is assurance.

3C And assurance is the basis for the beginning of the Christian life.

4C Definition of hope:

1D The Greek word *elpis* means hope in the sense of confidence about the future.

2D There is no doubt in hope, unlike the English translation. That's why certainty or assurance can be better translations of the Greek word.

5C The basis for assurance or hope:

1D Scripture, Romans 15:4, "4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. "

- transmutate, or compensate.
- 4C That is to say, though God allows evil:
    - 1D He may at any time abolish it, and ultimately He will;
    - 2D He may at any time curtail or moderate evil, diminishing its power;
    - 3D He may at any time, work good out of evil toward those who love Him;
    - 4D He may at any time act in justice toward the perpetrators of evil and their victims.
  - 5C But when God decides, His will is supreme.
    - 1D Numbers 24:23, 23 Then he took up his discourse and said, "Alas, who can live except God has ordained it?"
    - 2D Job 23:12-14, 12 "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. 13 "But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does. 14 "For He performs what is appointed for me, And many such decrees are with Him.
    - 3D Isaiah 43:11-13, 11 "I, even I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me. 12 "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And I am God. 13 "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"
  - 7B The impact of this information on the perseverance doctrine.
    - 1C Man truly has volition.
      - 1D Faith is a decision, a choice.
      - 2D Overwhelmingly, the verb pisteuo, "believe" is in the active voice.
      - 3D Man may reject or accept the salvation offer in Jesus Christ. He is surely enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and surely convicted.
      - 4D But God never does the believing for anyone.
      - 5D Those who refuse the salvation offer, refusing to believe in Christ, are cast into the Lake of Fire forever.
      - 6D It is because of their unbelief that God does so.
    - 2C God is sovereign, and he influences men, but He also allows the free exercise of volition.
    - 3C There is abundant biblical evidence that true Christians are vulnerable to temptation and even apostasy.
      - 1D 1 John 1:8, "8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. "
      - 2D 1 John 1:10, "10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. "
      - 3D 1 John 2:1, "1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. "
      - 4D Hebrews 12:4, "4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. "
      - 5D And many, many commands against sin:
        - 1E 1 Corinthians 10:8–10, "8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of

decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men.”

- 4C Colossians 1:16, 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him.
- 5C 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, 11 “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. 12 “Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.
- 6B As to the interaction with human free agents:
  - 1C God allows humanity a limited freedom to act as volitional agents.
  - 2C God may express His perfect desire and not receive it due to His willingness to permit human free will.
    - 1D God did not want the man or the woman to eat from the tree, yet they did: Genesis 2:15-17, 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”
    - 2D God desires all men to be saved, yet some are not:
      - 1E John 5:34, 34 “But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.
      - 2E 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
      - 3E Revelation 20:11-15, 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire..
      - 3D God is not willing for any to perish and has patience in hopes that some will repent: 2 Peter 3:9, 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
  - 3C No act of evil is ever out of divine control in His ability to abolish, moderate,

- 1B Lordship salvation is a doctrine that adds works to belief in Christ.
- 2B The works are added:
  - 1C At salvation in the form of commitment to Jesus as Lord, an acknowledgement of the need for obedience in all matters commanded by God.
  - 2C After salvation in the requirement of fruit, or good works as the necessary sign of belief. In this there is close association with the Calvinist doctrine of perseverance.
  - 3C Most lordship advocates believe that true salvation can never be followed by a worldly lifestyle or apostasy.
  - 4C If such a course is followed by anyone who professes the Christian faith, they cannot have truly believed in Christ.
  - 5C The remedial course is to fix salvation by re-commitment.
- 4A On the relationship between human volition and divine sovereignty:
  - 1B The sovereignty of God is His rightful authority over all creation; and His right to exercise that authority.
  - 2B God exercises His sovereignty through His infinite capabilities and His perfect character: Ephesians 1:11, 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
  - 3B If God wants something, He will receive it. 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, 11 “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. 12 “Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.
  - 4B As to the length of God’s rule, it extends from eternity past and into eternity future, and encompasses all eras of human history:
    - 1C Psalm 10:16, 16 The Lord is King forever and ever; Nations have perished from His land.
    - 2C Psalm 29:10, 10 The Lord sat as King at the flood; Yes, the Lord sits as King forever.
    - 3C Jeremiah 10:10, 10 But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation.
    - 4C Lamentations 5:19, 19 You, O Lord, rule forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.
  - 5B As to the scope of God’s rule: No matter where things exist, everything is within the sovereign will and control of God.
    - 1C Psalm 103:19, 19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.
    - 2C Jeremiah 10:7, 7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.
    - 3C Daniel 4:17, 17 “This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers And the

## **A Primer on Perseverance**

### **1A Calvinism:**

**1B** There are five points to Calvin's doctrine of salvation (please note that this is collected from the writings of Jean Calvin, and not biblical; there are falsehoods in each point). These five points form the acronym TULIP:

**1C** T = Total depravity: all humanity is in a complete state of helplessness with regard to sin. Because of Adam's original sin they are separated from God. It is only because of the intervention of God that any person can perceive the Gospel. Even their saving faith is a gift from God.

**2C** U = Unconditional election. God does not base His election of believers on any merit or anything He sees. He arbitrarily chooses who will be the elect.

**3C** L = Limited atonement. Christ died only for those elected by God in the previous step.

**4C** I = Irresistible grace. In time, God calls the elect to salvation, and they cannot resist this grace. This call comes by the Holy Spirit. Though the Gospel offer is extended to all, only the elect, for whom Christ died, receive the internal call of the Holy Spirit.

**5C** P = Perseverance. Salvation is secure thanks to the sovereignty of God. Everyone who is truly the elect and called of God will persevere as faithful Christians to the ends of their lives.

**2B** The implication of Calvinist perseverance:

**1C** All believers persevere in the faith to the end of their lives.

**2C** Those who do not persevere to the end cannot be believers.

**3C** One cannot know whether one will persevere to the end.

**4C** Therefore, no person can ever know if he is saved.

**5C** Assurance of salvation is impossible!!!

### **2A Arminianism (with help from Ryrie's Basic Theology):**

**1B** James Arminius and his followers argued against Calvinism.

**2B** Their chief tenets are:

**1C** Incomplete depravity;

**2C** The possibility of perfection;

**3C** The possible loss of salvation.

**3B** The implications of Arminianism.

**1C** The Arminians worked hard to catalogue sins into those that cause the loss of salvation, and those that do not.

**2C** One can never be sure of one's salvation. There is never any assurance that one will get to heaven.

### **3A** The Lordship salvation error: