

# LESSON 10

## CHAPTER 17. “Of the Perseverance of the Saints”

Once saved, always saved (An evil distortion of the doctrine of perseverance)

Arminian Baptists are inconsistent.

Perseverance versus Apostasy

I. Paragraph 1: Apostasy is impossible for true believers

- A. It is impossible for true believers to totally or finally fall away.
- B. True believers may fall away for a time due to any number of reasons, but will repent and turn back to God.

II. Paragraph 2: Perseverance is God’s doing

- A. As with other saving graces, the basis of perseverance is election.
- B. It is a link in a chain of evangelical graces:
  - 1. election, redemption, regeneration, calling, adoption, sanctification, assurance

III. Paragraph 3: Stumbling saints are renewed

- A. Remaining sin, temptations of Satan, and the world cause us to fall and grieve the Spirit.
  - 1. Grieving the Spirit can result in temporal judgments (i.e., in the present, not at judgment day)
- B. By repentance, the saints are renewed

Discussion Questions:

1. What do other denominations believe about perseverance?
2. What is the difference between “Once saved, always saved” and “Perseverance of the Saints?”
3. In what are the saints to persevere?
4. What other main doctrine bears on perseverance?