



# HOPE

## LOWERTOWN

ST. PAUL

# Financial Update

# Financial Update

A Call to Respond in Prayer and Giving



1517



2017

# AMAZING GRACE

*The Reformation to the Glory of God*



SEVEN GOSPEL

FLAMES REKINDLED

# AMAZING GRACE

*The Reformation to the Glory of God*

TOTAL DEPRAVITY  
UNCONDITIONAL  
ELECTION  
LIMITED ATONEMENT  
IRRESISTIBLE GRACE  
PERSEVERANCE OF  
THE SAINTS



**Today's Sermon:**

*Perseverance of the Saints: The Power of God for  
ALL of your life*

**Today's Sermon:**

*Preservation of the Saints: The Power of God for  
ALL of your life*



What is “Preservation of the Saints”?

Preservation of the Saints is the work of God by which true believers are upheld by God’s power such that true believers elicit a spirit of perseverance in Christ to the End

## Romans 8:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

## Ephesians 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy

Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

# I. Can I lose my Salvation?

## Hebrews 6:4-12

<sup>4</sup> It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age <sup>6</sup> and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Those who fall away from the faith must not be allowed to slip calmly into the night. They should be confronted with the spiritual peril associated with their actions. It is mandatory, therefore, that every professed believer take these words of harsh caution to heart, examining their lives “to make [their] hope sure” (6:11).

~George Guthrie, *The NIV Application Commentary: Hebrews*, 1998, 231.

## Philippians 1:3-6

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

These actions were the beginning of the sacrifice, and the technical term for making this beginning was the verb *enarchesthai*, which Paul uses here. The verb used for completing the whole ritual of sacrifice was the verb *epitelein*, which Paul uses here for to complete. Paul's whole sentence thinks in terms and pictures of sacrifice. Paul is seeing the life of every Christian as a sacrifice ready to be offered to Jesus Christ. It is the same picture as the one that he draws in Romans when he urges Christians to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (Romans 12:1).



On the day when Christ comes, it will be like the coming of a king. On such a day, the king's subjects are required to present him with gifts to mark their loyalty and to show their love. The only gift Jesus Christ desires from us is ourselves. So, our supreme task is to make our lives fit to offer to him. Only the grace of God can enable us to do that.

~Barclay, W. (2003). (3rd ed. fully rev. and updated, p. 20). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

**I. Can I lose my Salvation?**

**II. Do I contribute anything to stay saved?**

## Philippians 2:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” <sup>u</sup> Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky

## Philippians 2:12-18

<sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Work out your own salvation; the word he uses for work out is *katergazesthai*, which always has the idea of bringing to completion. It is as if Paul says: 'Don't stop half-way; go on until the work of salvation is fully achieved in you.' No Christian should be satisfied with anything less than the total benefits of the gospel.

‘For God is at work in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.’ The word Paul uses for work is the verb *energein*. There are two significant things about it; it is always used of the action of God, and it is always used of effective action. God’s action cannot be frustrated, nor can it remain half-finished; it must be fully effective.

~Barclay, W. (2003). (3rd ed. fully rev. and updated, pp. 4849). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

**I. Can I lose my Salvation?**

**II. Do I contribute anything to stay saved?**

**III. So then, I can do whatever I want?**

## Philippians 3:1-11

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. <sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh — <sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:



## Philippians 3:1-11

<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

## Philippians 3:1-11

<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

**I. Can I lose my Salvation?**

**II. Do I contribute anything to stay saved?**

**III. So then, I can do whatever I want?**

**IV. What's my motivation to live a fully devoted life for Christ?**

## Philippians 3:12-16

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

## Philippians 3:12-16

<sup>15</sup> All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

As we have said, this passage gives a perfect statement of the work of salvation.

(1) Salvation is of God. (a) It is God who works in us the desire to be saved. It is true that, as St Augustine said, 'our hearts are restless until they rest in him', and it is also true that 'we could not even begin to seek him unless he had already found us'. The desire for the salvation of God is kindled not by any human emotion but by God himself. The beginning of the process of salvation is awakened by God..

(b) The continuance of that process is dependent on God. Without his help, there can be no progress in goodness; without his help, no sin can be conquered and no virtue achieved. (c) The end of the process of salvation is with God, for its end is friendship with God, in which we are his and he is ours. The work of salvation is begun, continued and ended in God.

~Barclay, W. (2003). (3rd ed. fully rev. and updated, p. 49). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

# Gospel Application:

*Keep one another accountable*



# Gospel Application:

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*Gen 1:16*