

Continues (Endures, Perseveres)

Our Confession of Faith (the New Hampshire): 11. Of the Perseverance of Saints: We believe that such as are truly regenerated, being born of the Spirit, will not utterly fall away and finally perish, but will endure unto the end; that their preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (__ Scriptures)

I. It Is What We Are Taught in the New Testament

1. The Lord Jesus taught that those who are disciples ind_ _d would continue in His Word, following Him. (Joh.8:30-31; 10:27)
2. The Apostle Paul taught that the tr_ _ partakers of Christ would continue to the end. (Heb.3:12-14)
3. The Apostle John taught that those who truly know the Lord would continue in f_ll_wshp with the saints and in ob_di_nc_ to the Word. (1Jo.1:3; 2:19,3-5; 3:9)

II. It Has Been Believed by the Saints

Our forefathers in the faith believed that... “These whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, and gives the precious faith of God’s elect, ... shall c_rt_inly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.” (Philadelphia Confession, London Confessions [1644,1646], Baptist Confession of 1689; NH Conf.)

III. It Is Vitally Important that this Be Taught and Believed

Because to deny, ignore or fail to believe, understand, preach, and practice this doctrine...

1. Gives the appearance of the failure of God and His p_rp_se to save. (Isa.43:13; 46:10; 1Co.15:10; Rom.8:28-31)
2. Gives the appearance of failure to the s_v_ng work of Christ. (Rom.14:9; 1Jo.3:4-9)
3. Gives the appearance of failure to the regenerating and s_al_ng work of the Holy Spirit. (Joh.3:8; Eph.1:13-14; 4:30)
4. Is to attack the very n_t_re of God. (1Pe.1:15-16; 1Th.4:7; 1Pe.2:9; Heb.12:14; Rom.8:28-39; Eph.1:4)
5. Is to have a wr__g emphasis in our Gospel preaching. (2Co.2:12-17; Luk.14:25-34)
 - 1) The call of the Gospel is from our s_n unto f_ll_wsh_p with God as our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. (1Jo.1:3; Mat.1:21; 9:12-13)
6. Gives a wrong understanding of the true gr_c_ of God. (Tit.2:11-14)
7. Leaves the poor saints without understanding as to why they are going through such h_rdash_ps. (Act.14:22; 1Pe.1:5-9)
8. Leads to s_ _ , a lack of church discipline and a poor testimony. (2Ti.3:16; Psa.119:9-11; 1Co.5-6; 2Co.2)
9. Gives the wrong impression as to our citizenship and d_st_n_tion. (Phi.3:20; Heb.11:13-16)
10. Gives a wrong view as to the believer’s m_t_ve in coming to Christ. (Job.1:9; 1Jo.4:19)
11. Gives a wrong impression as to true assurance...
 - 1) Rightly understood this word, “continues”, (perseverance) does not point us to o_rs_lv_s for our assurance, but to Christ. (Joh.3:16);
 - 2) Perseverance points us not to a p_ _t experience, but to a present fellowship from which our works flow (Joh.15:1-8; Eph.2:10)