

Real Grace Never Fails

Jude 20-21, 24-25

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Real Grace. As we said last week, genuine grace is effectual. It accomplishes what God intends. It changes us. And real grace will preserve us and ultimately take us to heaven. But how does that work. Are we just robots controlled beyond our free will? Or is it a matter of our own effort?

The Bible has a lot to say about this subject. And I want us to understand all that God has done on our behalf, and all that He does through us.

The doctrine that we are dealing with today is called the preservation and the perseverance of the saints. It is not a universally accepted teaching in churches. Some believe that salvation is something that we get ourselves into and we can get ourselves out. But that comes more from a misunderstanding of the effectual working of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer than anything else. So this teaching marks what I consider a significant difference between the major denominations in the Christian faith.

Baptists, from the beginning have set down what they believe the Bible to teach so that any intelligent person can read and make a distinction between the different Christian faiths.

The one adopted by our church in 1848, 160 years ago is known as the New Hampshire Confession of faith. I have included Article 11. Of the Perseverance of Saints on the back of the bulletin for your reference.

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end;⁵⁸ that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors;⁵⁹ that a special Providence watches over their welfare;⁶⁰ and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.⁶¹

There are two inseparable parts to this teaching. One that the believer cannot apostatize and be finally lost, and two that the believer will not apostatize and turn back to a life of sin and remain there for the rest of their lives.

If we teach either one without the other, it bring in all sorts of problems and errors that are damaging to the believer. Some have taken the idea of once saved always saved and turned it into

antinomianism. It treats the believer like a spoiled child that can get by with anything and the parent never does anything about. But the misappropriation of the truth is no excuse for not teaching it.

On the other side, if we teach that we are saved by our own works and kept saved by our own efforts then we rob God of His place in the salvation of the believer. We rob the doctrine of grace of its beauty and fulness.

Both sides are taught in our text.

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21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

And . . .

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

- I. The Bible plainly teaches that the believer will be preserved from judgment and hell.
 - A. Psa 37:24, 28 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand. 28 For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.
 - B. John 5:24 "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.
 - C. John 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."
 - D. John 10:26 "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.
 - E. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
29 ¶ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He

also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

31 ¶ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- F. 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.
- G. Job 17:9 Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.
- H. Phil. 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;
- I. Phil 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.
- J. 2 Kings 6:16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
- K. 1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- L. 1 Peter 1:3 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, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- M. 2 Cor. 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- N. 1 Cor. 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
- O. John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- P. Gal. 2:19 "For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

Now we have not had time to explain all these passages this morning so we want to continue this message next Sunday.