



## Chapter Seventeen: Perseverance & Glorification

“Paul sees a golden chain from God’s foreknowledge and predestination in eternity past, to calling and justification, to glorification. Those who are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ cannot fail to be glorified. So, we hear the language of perseverance. No one can accuse us; no one can separate us from the love of Christ. When Paul writes about death, life, angels, rulers, the present and future, powers, height, and depth, he knew what he was talking about. Many times he was beaten, left for dead, shipwrecked, persecuted. But he knew nothing could separate him from Christ, because he was predestined, called, and justified. Do you see how the doctrine of perseverance adds something important to the doctrine of assurance?”

### Perseverance

**The doctrine that our new life continues to the end**

**WCF 17.1** — *They, whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.*

**Matt 10:21-22** — Trouble’s comin’, thus, “... the one who perseveres to the end will be saved”

**Everybody who is effectually called ... (etc.) ... sanctified by God will surely persevere to the end:**

- “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (Jn 6:39-40)
- “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (Jn 10:27-29)

**Eternal life has already begun** — Jn 3:36; Jn 5:24; 1Jn 5:13 — our future is guaranteed by what God began in eternity (see, again Rom 8:28-39) — The Holy Spirit is God’s seal on us (Eph 1:13-14). God will complete the work that he has begun in us (Php 1:6; 1Pt 1:5).

### But wait!

**What about those who “fall away”?** — The problem of *apostasy* (lit. “a going away”). There are false professions (Mt 7:21-23), false brothers (2Co 11:15,26; Gal 2:4), false branches on the vine of Christ (Jn 15:1-2,6), wolves in sheep’s clothing (7:15), seed sown on rocky ground (Mk 4:5-6,16-17)

### What’s up with Heb 6:4-8?

- A sobering thought: false believers can have many of the same experiences as believers
- Consider Judas Iscariot & King Saul
- Heb 10:26-31 — “sanctified” = “set apart,” in this case “set apart” from the world as part of the *visible* church, but not with changed hearts
- “**Yet**, in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things — things that belong to salvation” (Heb 6:9)
- Hebrews warns potential apostates from thinking themselves out of the faith, not believers who are struggling against sin

**How “perseverance of the saints” differs from “eternal security”**



## Glorification

**The consummation of human nature in God's image — a process that begins with effectual calling and continues through eternity**

**Glory as brightness, weightiness (Lat., *gravitas*), or as adornment —**  
Ex 16:6-10; 24:16

- A worthy read: C.S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory"

**Shekinah** — "settle down, abide, dwell," thus, the dwelling presence of God — now, Jesus (Jn 1:14)

## Glorifying God

- 1Co 10:31 — Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- Mt 5:16 — "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."
- What does Frame mean by the "full bucket problem"?

**Question for reflection:**  
**"How is glory both fact and norm?"**

## Present Glorification

**Ps 8 & Heb 2:7-12** — What once was lost is now being recovered

**Jn 17:22** — "The glory that you have given me I have given them, that they may be one as we are one"

**2Co 3:18** — "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."

## Future Glorification

**Has to do especially with the body** — "... because of Christ, our bodies, not just our souls, will be raised in glory — never again to experience suffering sickness, or death." (Check the refs. in Frame.)

**Will involve "a crown of glory" (1Pt 5:4)** — which means living in the now not seeking our own, not dominating others, but serving them.

**“***It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.***”**

• C.S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory"