

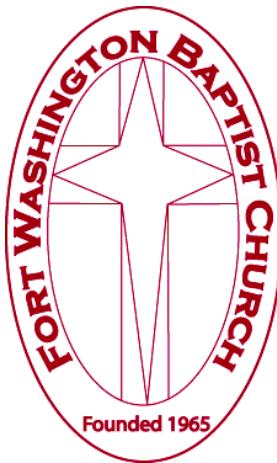
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BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

A Study of the Articles of Faith



Fort Washington Baptist Church
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A Study of the Articles of Faith



SESSION 52

XI. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by, the power of God through faith unto salvation.¹

According to Article XI:

1. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure unto the end.
2. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that their (real believers) persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors.
3. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that a special Providence watches over their (real believers) welfare.
4. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that they (real believers) are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

The Doctrine of Perseverance of the Saints



Introduction:

Thus far, in our study on the 18 Articles of Faith, we completed in depth studies on the first 10 Articles:

- Article 1: Of the Scripture
- Article 2: Of the Triune God
- Article 3: Of the Fall of Man (Humanity)
- Article 4: Of the Way of Salvation
- Article 5: Of Justification
- Article 6: Of the Freeness of Salvation
- Article 7: Of Grace in Regeneration
- Article 8: Of Repentance and Faith
- Article 9: Of God's Purpose of Grace
- Article 10: Of Sanctification

Question: What benefit is there to believers to study the 18 Articles of Faith when going through a particular book of the Bible or subject in the Bible, may seem so much more interesting?

Answer:

The first 10 Articles of Faith explain how God accomplishes salvation in the life of a sinner. **The Scriptures** explain the origin of creation, the fall, God's intercession to save humanity through Christ, atonement for sin, redemption through faith, salvation, the first and second death, resurrection, and eternity for

¹ [Articles-of-Faith.pdf \(nationalbaptist.com\)](http://nationalbaptist.com)

the saved and unsaved. The plan of God from the fall in Genesis to salvation is explained. Questions as to Who God is, Who Christ is, Who is the Holy Spirit, Who is the Triune God, how did humanity come into being, what is the purpose of humanity, what is the Church, who is righteous, who is wicked, what is God's will for humanity, what is the source of evil, who will go to heaven and who will not, how do we please God, are all questions that are answered in the Scriptures. The Scriptures answer the big questions of living in this world and life beyond this world and gives us guidance each day we are in this world.

Fill in: I find myself turning to the Scriptures (when)...

In the Scriptures, readers learn **theology** - that there is just One True and real God, Who is the creator of all things, Who has revealed Himself as three distinct persons from Genesis through the Revelation, **the Triune God**, Who is the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Who are all eternal, all coequal, all of the same essence and character, all share the same moral and eternal attributes, all omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, Who for the salvation of humanity and growth in Christian character, the One Triune God co-labor together, Who are more than one Person but are One God. The Scriptures reveal that All Persons in Triune God are eternal, have forever been, neither is created, neither is less than or more than any Person in the Godhead. The Scriptures reveal that the Persons in the Godhead are equal in every way – yet with different roles to accomplish our salvation.

Fill in: In my years of reading the Scriptures, it has brought me comfort to learn that God...

In the Scriptures, readers learn **anthropology** – a logical understanding of humanity, that humans were created by God and made in the image of God, that is, with the ability to reveal the moral attributes of God, so that through humanity – humanity would experience God – His kindness and benevolence, His love, His patience, His forgiveness, His mercy/compassion, His integrity, His honesty/truthfulness, His grace, His holiness and righteousness, and His faithfulness...that humanity was given dominion as stewards over God's creation...a dominion that is under the authority of God as humanity and is to be exercised in accordance with the purpose and will of God. The Scriptures reveal that God created humanity to live and provided all that humanity needed to live eternally. Humanity was created innocent of sin and without knowledge of the consequences of sin. The Scriptures reveal that through listening to the devil, trusting the devil, doubting God, and lusts of the flesh, humanity disobeyed God's command to not eat from the forbidden tree and as a result experienced **the fall of man**...whereby all humanity has inherited the guilt of **original sin**, like the first couple commit personal sin, and have been judged to endure physical and eternal death. This is **the fall of man**. In the Scriptures readers learn that humanity needs salvation from **the fall**.

Fill in: Of the moral attributes of God, those attributes which are most visible in my life are...

Fill in: Of the moral attributes of God, those that are not as visible in my life as I would like are...

In the Scriptures, readers learn **about theology and soteriology, the way of salvation from the fall**. They learn that **the Triune God** interceded on behalf of

humanity to rescue humanity from the consequences of sin. God the Father so loved this world that He sent God the Son into the world, in the likeness of human flesh through the womb of a virgin, Who in obedience to God the Father, would offer up His life in death as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of humanity so that every human who put faith in the Son, who accept His sacrificial death on their behalf, would be spared the second death and have eternal life. In the Scriptures, readers learn that **the way of salvation from the fall** is through faith in the Son's propitiatory death on the cross whereby believers receive the Son as their Savior and surrender to Him as their Lord enabling them to live beyond the first death eternally in the presence of God and not suffer the second death, eternal separation from God.

Fill in: When I get to glory, I am really looking forward to...

In the Scriptures, readers learn more about **theology and soteriology, the way of salvation from the fall**, that the **Triune God**, Who is the judge of all humanity, in order to give any eternal life, must declare those guilty of sin, not guilty. God cannot disregard His own Law...that the wages of sin is death...for then God would be guilty of sin. Instead, God fulfilled His Law of death for sin through His Son Jesus Christ, Who satisfied the Law of death for sin, for humanity...so that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ, has the death of Christ applied to their life, so they can now be declared "not guilty" and viewed as though they've never committed a sin. God, the righteous judge can now pronounce those who were guilty of sin...not guilty...this is **justification**. The Scriptures reveal that salvation from the fall and being absolved from the guilt of sin is not possible without intercession from the Triune God and **justification, the declaration of not guilty by God**.

Fill in: Knowing that I'm justified, that I've been declared "not guilty" of the sins I've committed causes me to...

In the Scriptures, readers learn more about **theology, anthropology, and soteriology**, that the **Triune God**, through Christ, has made it possible, that whosoever believeth on Christ would be saved, that whoever hears the Gospel and puts their faith in Christ, would experience salvation, that all who come to Christ, believing that He is God, Who for our salvation, took on humanity, to die a sinner's death, so that sinners might be spared death through His sacrifice, would be saved, that there is a **freeness in salvation** to humanity, because Christ paid the debt of sin through His death on Calvary's cross. In the Scriptures readers learn about God's love, humanity's opportunity to be saved through Christ, and that salvation cost humanity nothing but faith in Christ, because Christ paid the sinner's debt...death for sin. **Salvation is free to sinners** because the debt sinners incurred for original and personal sin has been paid by Jesus Christ.

Fill in: The Hymn/Gospel song that reminds how much I mean to the Triune God, that I sing, each time I hear it is...

In the Scriptures, readers learn more about **theology, anthropology, and soteriology**, and they learn about **pneumatology**, the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, Who causes sinners to experience **regeneration**, the new birth, the born again experience, where He causes sinners to now partake of the divine nature and realize a new desire to no longer live in the lusts of the flesh, but rather a desire to live pursuing holiness, righteousness, love, the things of God, and a life in accordance with the Word and will of God. The Scriptures reveal that without **regeneration** no one can comprehend the Kingdom or enter the Kingdom of God...no one can put to death the deeds of the body...no one can experience salvation apart from **regeneration** through the power of the third Person of the

Godhead - the Holy Spirit. Through faith alone in Christ alone, God bestows the **grace of regeneration** upon sinners, so that sinners may experience **salvation from the consequences of the fall**.

Fill in: I know I've been regenerated, born again because...

In the Scriptures, readers learn more about **theology, anthropology, and soteriology**, and they learn about **conversion**, that **event** in the life of a sinner, where he/she hears the Gospel of Christ, is convicted his/her guilt of sin, with fright realizes that his/her future eternal condemnation, acknowledges one's guilt, confesses one's sin, and turns from that life of sin with faith in the Person of Jesus Christ for salvation. **This event is repentance and faith.** This is conversion, when a sinner acknowledges his/her sin and turns from sin towards Christ for salvation. All sinners who experience salvation from the consequences of the fall must have a **conversion experience...must express both repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Fill in: I'll never forget my conversion experience, when I turned from sin to faith in Christ because...

In the Scriptures, readers learn more about **theology, anthropology, and soteriology**. They learn about **God's purpose of grace**, that God chooses those He desires to accomplish His predetermined plans. For His own purposes, God acts of His own free will, out of the mass of humanity, to select those through whom, He will accomplish His goals and plans for humanity. In the Scriptures readers learn that God chooses some for a *special assignment* because He has elected or chosen many to experience some blessing. Salvation is because of

election. God chose those through whom He would bring salvation and the message of salvation to the world because God elected or chose many in this world for salvation. God's choosing of any is because of His grace and not because any are worthy of being chosen. All are sinners.

In the Scriptures, readers learn more about **theology, anthropology, soteriology, and pneumatology**. After **regeneration**, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, believers mature in holiness, righteousness, and in the knowledge of God, Christ, and will of God, manifesting fruits of the Spirit in their life, daily being transformed morally, spiritually, relationally – wholistically to be more like Christ. This is **sanctification**...when the fallen sinner, forgiven of sin after conversion (repentance from sin and turning to Christ in faith) and regeneration (being born again), through the power of the Holy Spirit, matures to live in the image of God

The first 10 Articles of Faith reveal what God has done so that fallen sinners can be forgiven of sin and live eternally. With the eleventh article, the Scriptures reveal the responsibility of God on behalf of those who are saved and the responsibility of those who are saved regarding salvation. **Of the Perseverance of the Saints** highlight the responsibility of God and the saved.

I. Baptists believe that the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure unto the end.

Article IX makes a distinction between “real believers” and are “superficial professors.” “Real believers” endure unto the end...either the end of their life in this life or until the end of this world when the Lord Jesus shall return. “Real believers” are not swerved from loyalty to their faith in Christ despite the trials and sufferings they bear for having faith in Christ. They patiently wait for the promises of God to be fulfilled, to be realized in their life, not giving up faith in Christ or in God to keep His Word, regardless of the tests they go through that challenge their faith. In Matthew 10:16-23, Jesus spoke to His disciples saying,

¹⁶ “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ But beware of men, for they will hand you

over to *the* courts and scourge you in their synagogues;¹⁸ and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.¹⁹ But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say.²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”

²¹ “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.²² You will be hated by all because of My name, **but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.**”

²³ “But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish *going through* the cities of Israel **until the Son of Man comes.**”

Points:

1. Despite persecution, oppression, and ill-treatment by others for the Name of Christ (**10:16-19**), “real believers” endure to the end, not disowning or denying Christ despite being persecuted for the name of Christ. “Real believers” endure to the end, until Christ come, and are saved. They endure/persevere through persecution, patiently waiting for the return of Christ, not giving up faith, enduring to the end, until the Son of Man comes.
2. “Real believers” persevere in faith through betrayal, abandonment, rejection by loved ones, and martyrdom, not giving up faith in Christ (**10:21**). Despite their anguish of soul at being rejected, betrayed, and abandoned, “real believers” endure, persevering in faith until the end...until Christ comes, not forsaking loyalty and faith in Christ.
3. “Real believers” persevere, endure in their faith despite being hated by all because of their faith in Christ (**10:22**). They remain loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ until Christ comes...until the end.

Point: “Real believers” have the responsibility of enduring in faith until the Lord Jesus comes.

In the 24th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus again reiterates that “the one who endures to the end, he will be saved” (**24:5-14**), saying,

“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. ⁶You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

⁹“Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹²Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. ¹³**But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.** ¹⁴This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The “Real Believers” will not be misled away from Christ (**24:5**), will not be frightened by the wars and rumors of wars that must take place as though it is the end, time for the return of Christ (**24:6**), understand that perilous times, the beginning of the birth pangs must come (**24:7-8**), know that for the name of Christ they’ll suffer tribulation, martyrdom, and hatred by all nations (**24:9**), will not fall away like the “superficial professors,” will not betray one another, or give in to hating one another (**24:10**), and will not have a love for people that will grow cold (**24:12**), but they will endure to the end, they’ll keep on following Christ, persevere in faith, endure suffering for the name of Christ, and remain loyal to Christ through it all. This is the perseverance, the endurance of the saints, the loyalty of the “real believers” and not the “superficial professors.”