

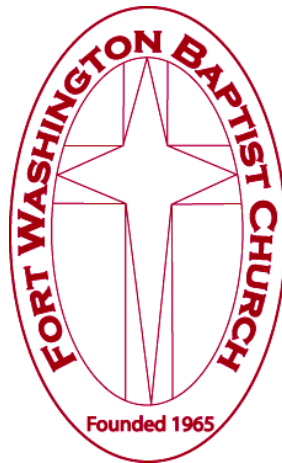
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BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

A Study of the Articles of Faith



Fort Washington Baptist Church
Pastor Darin Poullard



Participant's Copy

BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

A Study of the Articles of Faith



SESSION 56

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.

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

The Doctrine of Perseverance of the Saints



Introduction:

In our prior lesson, we learned that the Scriptures teach that “real believers,” persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors. “Real believers” persevere in the faith through challenges that come because of one’s faith in Christ Jesus. In our prior study, we learned four wonderful truths about perseverance.

- **First:** Those with **perseverance** do not have the Word of God taken away from their heart by the devil (**Lk. 8:11-12**).

In Matthew’s account, Jesus explained that when someone hears the Word of God and **does not understand it**, the evil one comes and **snatches away** what was sown in his heart (**Matt. 13:19**). The devil takes the Word away from the heart because the devil does not want people to be saved (**Lk. 8:11-12**). Therefore, those who sow the Word **must** study it, comprehend it, believe it, and share it in a manner that all listeners can comprehend and believe the Word of God. **Those with perseverance do not have the Word of God taken away from their heart by the devil.**

- **Second:** Those with **perseverance**, in times of temptation, do not fall away (**Lk. 8:13; Matt. 13:20-21**).

According to Jesus, some do not persevere. They **fall away** from faith when temptation, affliction, or persecution come because of the Word of God (**Matt. 13:20-21**). When criticism, rejection, acts of evil, and various forms of ill-treatment come because of faith in the Word of God, those **without deep roots in the faith**, may fall away to stop the persecution. Therefore, those in the faith **must encourage** new converts to listen to sound preaching of the word of God, to read the Word of God, to commune with the Lord in prayer, to maintain fellowship with the Saints, to faithfully attend

worship services, and to serve in ministry so their roots in the faith might grow deep...so they do not fall away. **Those with perseverance, in times of temptation, do not fall away.**

- **Third:** Those with **perseverance**, after hearing and receiving the Word of God, do not waste away (**Lk. 8:14**).

According to Jesus, some will not suffer the Word of God being taken away or fall away, will **waste away** by not bringing any fruit to maturity, not accomplishing much for the Kingdom of God...because of being preoccupied with the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life. This is the deceitfulness of wealth (**Matt. 13:22**) - it consumes the heart of some and causes them to be unproductive for the Kingdom. A Christlike/Biblical view of wealth can protect the heart from being deceived by wealth.

For example: **It does not profit anyone** to gain the world and lose his soul (**Mk. 8:36**); it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for **a rich man to enter the Kingdom heaven** (**Matt. 19:23-24**); and a desire for riches **can choke** the Word causing it to be unfruitful in someone's life (**Matt. 13:19**). The Apostle Paul warned that the **love of money** can cause people to engage in all kinds of evil (**I Tim. 6:6-12**). Solomon taught that "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity" (**Eccl. 5:10**).

Attorney, Orator, and major figure in the American Revolution – Patrick Henry once said: "I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them a single shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed." **Patrick Henry.**²

Point: Patrick Henry believed that having faith in Jesus Christ is the greatest wealth one could ever have...so much so...that if one had the wealth of the world and no faith, one would be poor indeed. Having persevering faith in Christ is beneficial for this life and the life to come.

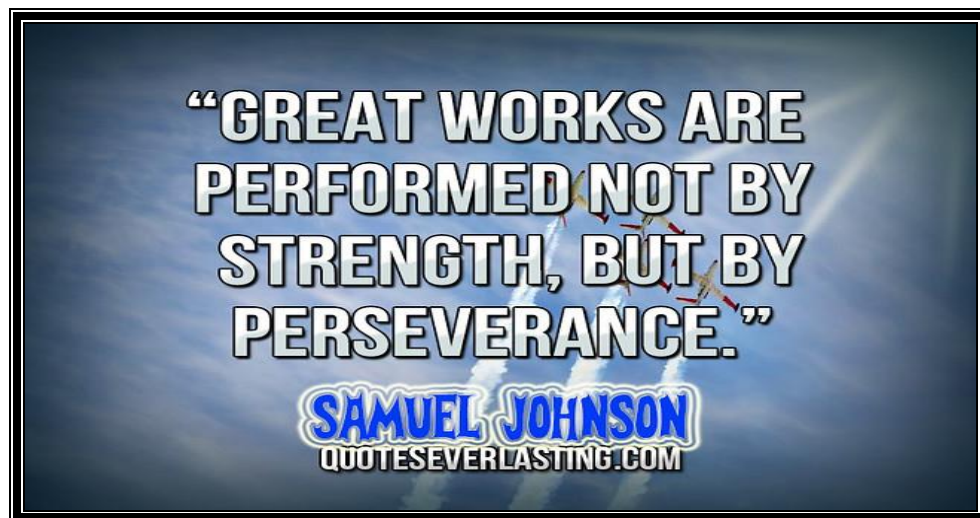
² [Sermon Illustrations](#)

PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST IS TRUE WEALTH



- **Fourth:** Those with **perseverance**, after hearing and receiving the Word of God, produce away (**Lk. 8:13**).

Jesus explained that the *seed* in the good soil, are those who hear the Word with a good and virtuous heart, hold it firmly, and **produce fruit with perseverance**. For these, the Word of God is not taken away, nor do they fall away, nor do they waste away. **These produce away!** The Word of God is fruitful within them causing them to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. **These with perseverance have impact for the Kingdom of God!**



Fill in: I started understanding the Word of God and **producing** away for the Kingdom of God _____.

Additional Truths on Perseverance



In the Scriptures, “perseverance” is encouraged and expected in both **belief and behavior**. According to Paul, perseverance yields eternal life when **belief and behavior** are in accord with the Word of God (**Rom. 2:1-10**).

In chapter 1 of Romans, the Apostle Paul explained that the wrath of God has been revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (**1:18**). According to Paul, evidence of God’s reality has been made evident to all (**1:19**). God has clearly revealed His reality to all. His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and His divine nature **are clearly seen** in creation (**1:19**).

Paul explained that the natural creation testifies to the reality of the invisible, all-powerful God...so that no one is able to deny His attributes, His power, or His divine nature...that He has revealed Himself by what has been made (**1:19; Psalm 19:1-6**). The creation, which can be seen reveals Him Who cannot be seen by the human eye --- the invisible God and because this is true, those who do not worship Him, but worship something other than Him, are without excuse (**1:19-20**). **They cannot say, they don’t know God!** They may not know His eternal plans, which are revealed through supernatural revelation (i.e. the Word of God), but the creation (i.e. natural revelation) has revealed His reality!

Paul made it clear that since All know a creation exists, **All know** the Creator must exist - yet some have chosen not to honor God the Creator or give Him thanks.

Instead because of a darkened foolish heart, some worship **created things** rather than **the Creator (1:21-23)**. Because these refused to acknowledge God, God judged them, by revealing His wrath from heaven. God's wrath is revealed upon those who refused to acknowledge by God giving them over to three things:

1. **God gave them over to their lusts (Rom. 1:24-25).**

²⁴ Therefore **God gave them over** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

2. **God gave them over to degrading passions (Rom. 1:26-27).**

²⁶ For this reason **God gave them over** to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

3. **God gave them over to a depraved mind** (*a mind unable to discern right from wrong*) **(Rom. 1:26-27).**

⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, **God gave them over** to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

³² and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them **(Rom. 1:29-32).**

Point: The wrath of God is revealed against those who do not acknowledge Him. God gives them over to lusts, to degrading passions, and to a depraved mind...to practice things which are worthy of death. God releases those who do not acknowledge Him to

their lusts. These ones know the ordinance of God, that people are not to practice such things. However, they not only practice these things, they give hearty approval to others who engage in behavior and practices which are contrary to the understood ordinance of God (1:32).

In chapter 2 of Romans, Paul warns everyone to not judge those whom God has given over to their lusts. Paul warns everyone that the same God that observed their behavior and judged them, observes each of us and will judge us if we do what is contrary to His will. Paul explained it this way!

First: Those who pass judgment on others, won't escape God's judgment when they practice the same things (Rom. 2:1-3).

Therefore, you have no excuse,
everyone of
you who
passes judgment,
for in that which
you **judge another,**
you **condemn yourself;**
for you who
judge practice the same things (2:1).

Point:

Those who judge others/who condemn others for the practices they engage in that are contrary to the ordinance of God, condemn themselves...**for they practice the same things.** They have no excuse. They're not qualified to pass judgement on anyone who practice things contrary to the ordinance of God **when they themselves practice things contrary** to the ordinance of God.

While condemning others for practicing things contrary to the ordinance of God, they condemn themselves acknowledging that things contrary to the will of God should not be done.

The person who condemns the liar, who condemns the evildoer, who condemns the arrogant, who condemns the sexually immoral, or the disobedient, condemns him/herself when he/she also lies, engages in evil, at times is arrogant, at times is sexually immoral and/or disobedient. Thus, by passing judgment on others, they pass

judgment on themselves! When they judge the behavior of another as against the ordinance of God and practice the same thing, they judge themselves as being one who practice behavior against the ordinance of God.

Point:

Because **all have sinned**, **all must be mindful** to not condemn others who practice things contrary to the ordinance of God -- because all have sinned - all have engaged in some behavior contrary to the ordinance of God. While condemning others, one condemns him/herself. None are qualified to judge/condemn another. None can say that he/she does not practice things contrary to the ordinance of God. **This raises a question.**



Question: What causes people to have 20/20 vision in seeing the sins of others but are too often blind to sins in their own life?

Transition: Paul goes on to state a truth that none can deny about the judgment of God. Paul writes:

And we know
that the **judgment**
of God rightly falls
upon those who
practice such things (2:2).

Point: God alone is qualified to pass judgement upon those who practice idolatry (won't acknowledge God), wickedness, and evil. God alone is qualified to pass judgment because He alone, does not practice the very things He condemns. All who judge practice the very practices they condemn. **All have sinned!** Sinners are not qualified to pass judgement on sinners...when they do...they judge and condemn themselves. God alone rightly passes judgment upon those who practice such things. Paul warns that those

who pass judgment on those who practice things contrary to the ordinance of God, will come under the same judgment of God as those whom they condemn.

And do you
suppose this, O man,
when you **pass judgment**
on those **who practice such things**
and do the same *yourself*,
that you will escape
the judgment of God? (2:3)

Point:

Your perspective that some behavior is contrary to the ordinance of God, may be accurate. However, neither of us is given liberty to pass judgment or to condemn another for their behavior because the one passing judgment is also guilty of practices contrary to the ordinance of God. None who practice such things will escape the judgment of God. None of us are qualified to treat sinners in a manner that only God is qualified...as though we are like God and have no sin in our lives.

Major point:

Those with perseverance, don't practice things contrary to the ordinance of God. Those with perseverance refrain from judging and condemning others! They acknowledge God! They acknowledge that only God is qualified to judge. They acknowledge the existence of God and approve of behavior that is in accordance with the will of God. They acknowledge that they do not have the right to condemn others, for they are also sinners who merit the judgement of God just like everyone else.

It's possible and necessary to recognize and acknowledge behavior that is contrary to the will of God while also restraining oneself from passing judgment of those who practice such things. **It's possible and necessary** to recognize and acknowledge behavior that merits the judgment of God while also restraining oneself from condemning others as though you don't merit condemnation yourself (**ref. Luke 18:9-14**).

“And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people:

swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

DISCUSSION QUESTION



Question: How do we keep ourselves from practicing the very things God condemns, that while recognizing sin, we restrain ourselves from both practicing the sin and from judging and condemning the one who does? How do we restrain ourselves from engaging in behavior contrary to the ordinance of God?

Here are some things we can do.

- **Practice** _____; Don't think so highly of yourself and so little of others
- **Show** _____ rather than condemnation. Be empathetic to the challenge all face with sin. It's not easy to deny the flesh.
- **Remain** _____ that you and others will seek to live in the will of God.
- **Be** _____ about your own struggles with sin.
- **Be** _____. He was a friend of sinners. He sat with them, dined with them, and welcomed them into His life...He loved them and helped them to become who God wanted them to be.

Question: What do these things have to do with **Perseverance**?

Second: Those who **persevere** _____ receive eternal life
(Rom. 2:4-8).

Or do you think lightly
of the riches of His kindness
and of His tolerance
and of His patience,
not knowing that the kindness
of God leads you to **repentance**? (2:4)

But because of
your stubbornness
and your unrepentant heart you are storing up
wrath for yourself
in the day of wrath
and revelation of the righteous
judgment of God (2:5),
who WILL RENDER
TO EACH PERSON
ACCORDING TO HIS
DEEDS (2:6):

to those **who by perseverance**
in doing good seek for glory
and seek for honor
and seek for immortality,
eternal life (2:7);

but to those who are selfishly ambitious
and who do not obey the truth,
but who obey unrighteousness, wrath
and indignation (2:8).

Question: What would doing good consist of in the context of these verses?

1. _____, Who has revealed Himself in the natural creation.
2. _____ and not created things.

3. Don't engage _____, worshipping created things.
4. Don't engage in behavior _____ to the will of God.
5. Don't _____ of behavior that you know is not in the will of God.
6. Don't _____ those who sin as though you have no sin.
7. Don't _____ of the riches of God's kindness, tolerance, and patience towards you and others.
8. _____ that merits condemnation by God.
9. _____ God by continuing in behavior that is contrary to the will of God.
10. Persevere, never give up, never quit doing things that reveal you honor God...seek to do that which is good in the sight of God, that which shows you honor/respect/think highly of God, and that which leads to immortality – eternal life.
11. Don't be _____, pursuing things that satisfy you but do not please God.
12. Obey _____, God's Word.
13. Don't obey _____ (behavior contrary to the will of God)
14. Don't obey _____ (behavior that merit the judgment/condemnation of God)
15. Don't obey _____ (behavior that evoke the anger of God.)

Never forget that those who persevere in doing good receive eternal life.

A Few Additional Truths about Perseverance



Truth 1: Perseverance is acquired through _____ (**Rom. 5:1-3**).

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.³ And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about **perseverance**;

Point: How do we acquire that godly ability to not give up faith in times of trials and difficulties? According to the Apostle Paul, Perseverance is the fruit of tribulations. We grow to have perseverance through tribulations. Tribulations is our instructor teaching believers how to endure – how to maintain faith – how to not give up trusting in God and Christ through difficulties. Each tribulation provides instruction on how to continue in faith through difficulties. Holding on to faith --- teaches us on how to hold on to faith. Therefore, we exult in tribulations because tribulations help believers grow in perseverance. **This is a reason the Lord allows believers to go through tribulations. The Lord desires us to grow in perseverance.**

Truth 2: Perseverance is a _____ (**Rom. 5:1-4**).

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.³ And not only this,

but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, proven character.”

Point: Tribulations help believers grow in their ability to persevere in faith through trials and difficulties. Those who persevere, who do not give up faith, **prove their character**...that within them there is determination, steadfast commitment to keep trusting in the Lord, despite their challenges.

Truth 3: Perseverance enables suffering believers to _____
for the advent of Christ (**Rom. 8:22-25**).

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Point:

The whole creation - all people everywhere groan and are suffering in this world. There is a universality of groaning! Everyone in this world is suffering, has suffered, or will suffer. All the world is suffering the pains of childbirth together. Even those with the Spirit – Spirit filled believers in the Lord Jesus Christ - groan within, waiting eagerly, waiting with anticipation, waiting expectantly for their adoption as sons, the redemption of their body – waiting for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Spirit filled believers along with all of creation are suffering and groaning. For believers, suffering ends when they experience the redemption of their body and their adoption as sons on the Day Jesus returns.

Major point:

Perseverance enables suffering believers to wait with hope to see what they do not yet see --- Jesus Christ, the redemption of their body, their adoption as sons, the revealing of the sons of God, and all the glory that accompanies the return of Jesus Christ (**Rom. 8**).

Truth 4: Perseverance _____ in believers causes other believers
_____ (**II Thess. 1:3-4**).

“We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater; ⁴ therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your **perseverance and faith** in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.”

Point: The Apostle Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy gave thanks to God for the faith, the love, and the perseverance of the Thessalonian believers who were enduring persecutions and afflictions because of their faith in Jesus Christ. When believers observe other believers enduring persecutions and afflictions with perseverance and faith, it causes those believers to have joy!

Truth 5: Perseverance is _____ faith in Jesus
through persecution for one’s faith (**Rev. 13:10; 14:11-12**).

¹⁰ If anyone *is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints...”

“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” ¹² **Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.**”