

Perseverance – Keeping Going as a Christian

Discuss: Why is it hard to keep going as a Christian, what are the 'obstacles' in the road of the Christian life?

- Intro / Aim
 - Perseverance is 'a two sided coin'
- 1) God will complete the work he began..his preservation of the saints

Romans 8 v 28-30 – God's promise

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

An Incorrect application of preservation - we do nothing

- 2) The Christian is commanded to act.. to persevere

2 Peter 1 v 1-15

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to^[a] his own glory and excellence,^[a] ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,^[e] and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities^[f] are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so short-sighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers,^[g] be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practise these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

¹² Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body,^[h] to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

- Discuss:

What kind of life does Peter look for and expect in response to Gods work of grace in saving us?

Note down the key areas he highlights.

Share where are you: 1) making progress 2) finding it hard with any of these areas of life?

- How do we persevere in the Christian Life?

-Steadfastness - remember the 'long haul' in the mundane

-A long obedience in the same direction

-Godly Habits: prayer and bible, in daily life

Paul Trip quoted in Randall says ..

You live your life in the utterly mundane. And if God doesn't rule your mundane, he doesn't rule you because that where you live.

-We need to persevere through the temptations that blessings bring

-We persevere through suffering

-We keep going together

- Ultimately how will I persevere?

-We persevere through the work of the spirit..fixing our eyes on Jesus

- Hebrews 12 v 1-2

- Pray