

HELD BY GOD

Hebrews 6:9-12 (p. 1868)

August 4, 2019

*We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end,
in order to make your hope sure.*

Hebrews 6:11

The case for security

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and no one can snatch them out of my hand. John 10:27-28 (p. 1649)

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14 (p. 1818)

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you who by faith are shielded by God's power

1 Peter 1:3-4 (p. 1886)

1) Security is GOD AT WORK

2) The Holy Spirit WANTS ME TO BE ASSURED OF JESUS' RIGHTEOUSNESS

A very real warning

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, by this time you ought to be teachers Hebrews 5:11-14

Therefore let us leave the elementary things about Christ and go on to maturity Hebrews 6:1-3

*It is impossible for those who have been enlightened . . .
if they fall away to be brought back to repentance* Hebrews 6:4-8

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case – things that accompany salvation. Hebrews 6:9-12

When God made his promise to Abraham

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. Hebrews 6:13-20

1) Eternal security is wrong if it leads to CHEAP GRACE

2) Wesley was right – never PRESUME ON GRACE

Pastoral matters

1) It doesn't MATTER

. . . being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 (p. 1826)

2) The subjective test: Am I hearing God's Spirit speak?

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:16 (p. 1757)

3) The objective test: IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT PRESENT IN MY LIFE?

Those who belong to Jesus Christ have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:23 (p. 1816)

1) The heart of the gospel is God REACHING OUT TO ME

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:28-39 (p. 1758)

Resources for the Canons of Dordt

The Canons at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs>

Spurgeon's "Final Perseverance" sermon on Hebrews 6 at <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols1-3/chs75.pdf>

Several interesting takes on the Joshua Harris situation:

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2019/08/on-josh-harris-renouncing-christianity/>

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2019/07/kissing-christianity-goodbye> by Carl Trueman

<http://julieroys.com/josh-harris-kisses-his-faith-goodbye/>

Community Christian Reformed Church of Kitchener, Ontario, has developed a wonderful teaching resource for the Canons at <https://www.ccrk.on.ca/dive-into-doctrine>

Sam Storm's insightful review of *Four Views on Eternal Security* at <https://www.samstorms.com/all-articles/post/four-views-on-eternal-security>

The *monergism.com* study of "Perseverance" page at <https://www.monergism.com/topics/perseverance-saints>

Justin Taylor's "Tweaking the TULIP" at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/tweaking-the-tulip/>.

John Wesley's counter-argument to the perseverance of the saints at <https://www.evangelicaloutreach.org/wesley.htm>

Schreiner's "Perseverance and Assurance" at http://d3pi8hptl0qhh4.cloudfront.net/documents/tschreiner/2.1_article.pdf

Jim Osterhouse has a very helpful "fresh look" at the Five Points in "FAITH Unfolded" (Faith Alive, 1997).