

TEACHING GOAL

To study the nature of the perseverance of the Christian.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

- Q. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?
- A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

S.C. 36, L.C. 63, 80-81 W.C. of F. XVII, Savoy 17

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: Job 1:20-22; 2:10; 13:15

Support Passages: Ezekiel 14:14,20; James 5:11; Revelation 2-3; Ephesians 6:18; Romans 2:7, 5:3, 15:4; II Thessalonians 1:4

BIBLE STORY

The Book of Job: The story of Job

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

"But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips." (Job 2:10, ESV)

APPLICATION

We must be faithful to God and His laws regardless of adversity, whether from enemies or from God Himself.

SUMMARY

In this final lesson on the benefits of God's grace of justification, adoption and sanctification, we consider the matter of the perseverance of the saints. We have learned that God preserves the Saints perfecting that which He begins in them "until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). God provides the only basis for assurance of salvation and only because He preserves the Saints are they able to persevere.

Moreover, the scriptures command us to persevere. "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.**" (Revelation 2:10, ESV). Similarly, God commands us to believe in Christ and to repent from our sins. These are things we as Christians must do. Yet, we will not do them until the gracious Lord authors our personal salvation by regenerating us and enabling us to obey His commands. "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot." (Romans 8:7, ESV)

The nature of perseverance is beautifully illustrated by the life of Job. The Lord requires us to overcome (persevere) as he did the seven churches of Asia Minor (Revelation 2-3) and to be steadfast as was Job (James 5:8-11) because the Christian must face adversity. We must learn to deal with the hostility of the enemies of Christ, which comes to us variously from governments that require us to obey laws contradictory to God's laws and individuals who, in hating our Lord, hate His disciples. Our response to all such hostility must be faithfulness, steadfastness, endurance or patience toward God, to persevere in God's laws regardless of the consequences.

Adversity comes not only from the enemies of God but from God Himself. Adversity serves to work patience or perseverance in us (James 1:2-7; Romans 5:3-5; etc.). In dealing with divine adversity we must have the character of the godly Job. After God allowed Satan to destroy Job's household and possessions at the hands of the Sabeans and Chaldeans, Job worshipped God as follows:

Job 1:21 (ESV)

²¹ And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

To adversity Job responded:

Job 2:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job's response to the accusations of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar was:

Job 13:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ Though he slay me, I will hope in him;
yet I will argue my ways to his face.

Whether adversity comes from enemies or from God Himself, we must be found faithful, however, we will be found faithful if we are truly regenerate.

Psalms 121:1-4 (ESV)

My Help Comes from the Lord

121 A Song of Ascents.

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
² My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴ Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.