Calvinism - Part 3
Perseverance of the Saints

Introduction:
A. The “P” in Calvin’s tulip.
B. This is one of the greatest attractions of Calvinism
   1. It eases a sense of responsibility.
   2. It gives a great sense of security.
C. This is also one of the greatest dangers of Calvinism
   1. It offers security on wrong basis.
   2. Only thing worse than no security is a false security.

Discussion:
I. The Basis for Calvinism’s Perseverance and Security.
   A. Their doctrine of predestination and election.
      1. Of course, God will not let one of the elect to be lost.
      2. If one is predestined to be save, how could he be lost?
   B. Their doctrine of imputation
      1. God does not impute sin to the Christian (cf. Rom. 4:8)
         a. The sin not imputed is forgiven sin (v. 7)
         b. The text quoted shows it is conditional (Psa. 32:1-5)
      2. God imputes the righteous life of Christ to Christians (cf. Rom. 5:10)
         a. Hence, his righteous life covers our unrighteousness in judgment.
         b. “Saved by his life” means by his life at the right hand of God (Heb. 7:25)
   C. Their perversion of other good passages of Scripture
      1. “Shall not come into condemnation” (Jn. 5:24) – Compare John 3:39
      2. “Shall never perish” (John 10:28) – Conditioned on hear and following (v. 27)
   D. Their ignoring of the warnings against falling.
      1. 1 Cor. 10:1-12.

II. The Basis of a Christian’s Perseverance and Security.
   A. A Christian can persevere and feel secure knowing that he could fall
      1. Paul felt secure. (Phil. 1:19 ff; 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:6-8) - yet, he knew he could be lost. (1 Cor. 9:27).
      2. Peter felt secure (1 Pet. 1:1-5) - yet, he know his security was conditional (2 Pet. 1:5-11)
   B. A Christian can persevere and feel secure knowing that he sometimes sins (1 John 1:7-9),
   C. A Christian can persevere and feel secure because of the promises of God (2 Pet. 3:9; Tit.1:2)

Conclusion:
A. Your feelings are fleeting, cannot always trust them.
B. God’s word is steadfast, it can always be trusted.