



Session 10

Of Saving Faith, Of Repentance unto Life, Of Sanctification,
Of Good Works, and Of the Perseverance of the Saints

Session 10 Overview

- Westminster Confession of Faith
 - Chapter 14 Of Saving Faith
 - Chapter 15 Of Repentance unto Life
 - Chapter 16 Of Good Works
 - Chapter 17 Of the Perseverance of the Saints
- Catechisms
 - **Q. 72. What is justifying faith? (WSC Q.84)**
 - Q. 73. How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?
 - **Q. 76. What is repentance unto life? (WSC Q.85)**
 - Q. 77. Wherein do justification and sanctification differ?
 - Q. 78. Whence ariseth the imperfection of sanctification in believers?
 - Q. 79. May not true believers, by reason of their imperfections, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, fall away from the state of grace?

The WCF on Saving Faith, part of the “I” in T.U.L.I.P.

- **Saving Faith is a free gift of God’s grace** where: (WCF 14:1) (Eph 2:8)
 - **The elect are enabled to believe by the power of Holy Spirit.** (Eph 2:5, Phi 1:29; 2:13)
 - It is Wrought **by the ministry of the Word.** (Jam 1:18, Rom. 10:14, 17)
 - It is strengthened **by the Word, sacraments, and prayer.** (Matt. 28:19, 1 Cor 11:23–29)
- By faith the Christian: (WCF 14:2)
 - **Believes the Word to be true** and the authority of God Himself. (2 Pet 1:20–21; 1 Thess. 2:13)
 - **Yields obedience to the commands** and **embraces the promises** of God for this life, and that which is to come. (John 14:15; 1 Jo 2:25)
 - Accepts, receives, and **rests upon Christ alone for salvation.** (John 1:12, Acts 16:31)
- **This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong;** may be often and many ways assailed, and weakened, **but gets the victory:** growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance, **through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.** (WCF 14:3) (Mat 17:20, Rom 14:1–2, Luke 22:31–32, 1 John 5:4–5)



Faith is a result of being born again

"Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
(Heb 11:1 NAS)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;" (Eph 2:8 NAS)

"For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake," (Phi 1:29 NAS)



"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him." (1Jo 5:1 NAS)

"And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.'
..."Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven" (Mat 16:16-17 NAS)

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
(Joh 3:3 NAS)

"To those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (Joh 1:12-13 NAS)

"According to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1Pe 1:3 NAS)



The Order of Decrees

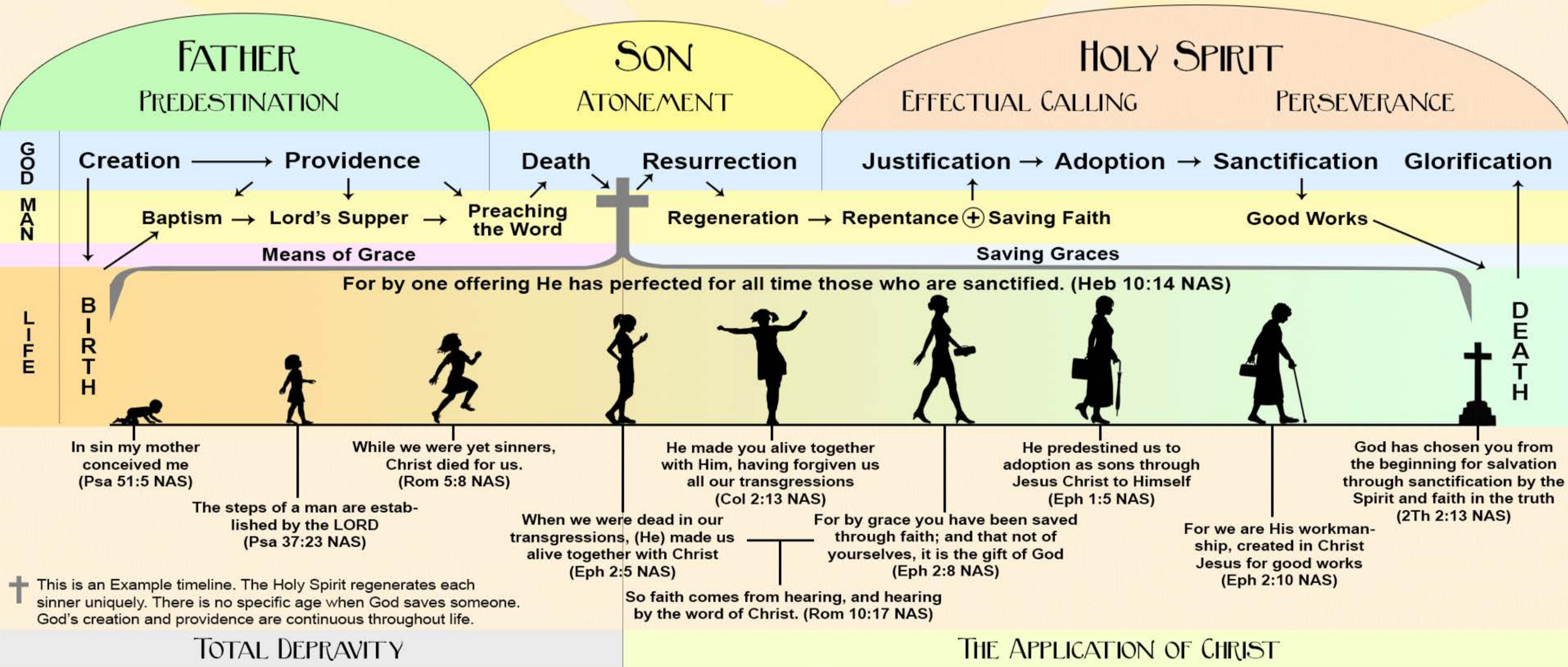
SUPERNATURALIST	PARTICULAR	Supralapsarian	→	Forordained Everything	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	Definite Atonement	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
		Infralapsarian	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	Election of some	→	Definite Atonement	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
		Amyraldian	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	General Atonement	→	Election of some	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
	UNIVERSAL	Lutheran	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	General Atonement	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Election of some	→	Conditional/Perserverance
		Universalistic	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity or Deprivation	→	Election of All	→	Definite Atonement for All	→	Efficacious Grace for All	→	Salvation of All
		Weslyan	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	General Atonement	→	Resistable Grace	→	Election upon faith	→	Salvation upon Faith
	SACERDOTAL	Anglican	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	General Atonement	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	2 Sacrament Salvation
		Roman Catholic	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	Sacrament of Mass	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	7 Sacrament Salvation
		Orthodox	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	Sacrament of Mass	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	7 Sacrament Salvation
	NATURALIST	Semipelagian	→	Creation	→	Free Will	→	General Atonement	→	Persuasive Gospel	→	Grace no Works	→	Once saved always saved
		Pelagian	→	Creation	→	Free Will	→	Persuasive Gospel	→	Expiate past sin	→	All good works	→	Salvation upon Works

The Trinity in Salvation

Whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Rom 8:30 NAS)

I will put My laws upon their heart, And upon their mind I will write them," He then says, "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. (Heb 10:16-17 NAS)

Having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. (Rom 6:22 NAS)



By grace you have been saved (Eph 2:5)

Apostles-Creed.Org Graphics by James Richardson

What is justifying faith? “Saving Grace”

A. **Justifying faith is a saving grace, Wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, Whereby the sinner, being convinced of his sin and inability to save himself agrees to the gospel, receives Christ and His righteousness** instead of his own for the pardon of sin.

- “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1 NAS)
- “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Rom 10:17 NAS)
- “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,” (1Co 2:12 NAS)
- “Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.” (Gal 3:24 NAS)
- “After he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.” (Act 16:30-31 NAS)
- “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Eph 1:13 NAS)

Q. 76. What is repentance unto life? (WSC Q.85)

- **Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace**, the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ. (WCF 15:1)
- **Repentance unto life is a saving grace** that: (Act 11:18)
 - Is wrought in the heart of a sinner **by the Holy Spirit and Word of God**, (Zech. 12:10; Acts 11:18, 20–21)
- **Out of the sight and sense**, not only of the danger, but also of **the filthiness and odiousness of his sins**, and **upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ** to such as are penitent, (Ezek. 36:31, Isa. 30:22, Phil. 3:7–8, Joel 2:12–13, Ps. 51:1–4, Luke 15:7, 10)
 - **The sinner grieves for and hates his sins**, (2Co 7:11)
 - He **turns from them all to God**, (Luke 1:16–17, 1 Thess. 1:9, Acts 26:18, Ezek. 14:6, 1 Kings 8:47–48)
- **Purposing and endeavoring constantly to walk with him in** all the ways of new **obedience**. (2 Chron. 7:14, Ps. 119:57–64, Matt. 3:8, 2 Cor. 7:10, Luke 1:6)

The WCF on Repentance unto Life

- Although **repentance is not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin**, or any cause of the pardon thereof, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet **it is of such necessity** to all sinners, **that none may expect pardon without it.** (WCF 15:3) (Ezek. 16:61–63, 36:31–32; ; Mat 3:8, Luk 5:32)
- As **there is no sin so small**, but it deserves damnation; so **there is no sin so great**, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent. (WCF 15:4) (Isa 55:7, Rom 8:1, Isa 1:16–18)
- Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but **it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins**, particularly. (WCF 15:5) (Ps. 19:13, Luke 19:8, 1 Tim. 1:13, 15)
- **As every man is bound to make private confession of his sins to God**, praying for the pardon thereof; upon which, and the forsaking of them, he shall find mercy; so, **he that scandalizeth his brother**, or the church of Christ, **ought to be willing**, by a private or public confession, and sorrow for his sin, **to declare his repentance to those that are offended**, who are thereupon to be reconciled to him, and in love to receive him. (WCF 15:6) (Ps. 32:5–6, Luke 19:8, Mat 5:24-25)

The WCF on Good Works “Imperfection”

- Good works are **only what God has commanded in his holy Word**, and not devised by men, blind zeal, or good intentions. (WCF 16:1) (Num 26:61, Matt 15:9, Rom. 10:2, 1Cor 2:5)
- **Good works are the evidences** of a true and lively faith. (WCF 16:2) (James 2:18, 22)
- Their ability to do **good works are not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ**; yet, are they not to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty. (WCF 16:3) (John 15:4–6, Rom. 8:4–14, Ezek. 36:26–27)
- They who attain to the greatest works which are possible in this life, **still fall short of what God requires**. (WCF 16:4) (Rom. 8:21–25, Gal. 5:17)
- **We cannot by our best works merit the pardon of sin**, or eternal life, by reason that they are **mixed with IMPERFECTION** and cannot endure the severity of God’s judgment. (WCF 16:5) (Rom. 3:20, Rom. 4:2, 4, 6, Titus 3:5–7, Mal 3:2-3, Isa. 64:6)
- **Believers good works are accepted in him**; not as though they were unblamable in God’s sight; but that he, looking upon them in His Son, is pleased to accept **and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many IMPERFECTIONS**. (WCF 16:6) (Eph 1:6, 1 Pet 2:5, 1 John 1:8, Heb 6:10, Matt. 25:21, 23)
- **Works done by unregenerate men**, although they may be things which God commands; yet, because they **proceed not to the glory of God, are therefore sinful, and cannot please God**, or make a man receive grace from God: (WCF 16:7) (Luke 6:32–34, 1 Cor. 13:3, Matt. 6:2, 5, 16)

Q. 78. Whence ariseth the IMPERFECTION of sanctification in believers?

The IMPERFECTION of sanctification in believers arises from

- The remnants of sin abiding in every part of them,
 - **For I know that nothing good dwells in me**, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. **For the good that I wish, I do not do**; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. **I find then the principle that evil is present in me**, the one who wishes to do good. (Rom 7:18-19,21 NAS)
- The perpetual lust of the flesh against the spirit; whereby they are often foiled with temptations, and fall into many sins,
 - And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, "**Before a cock crows twice, you will deny Me three times.**" And he began to weep (Mar 14:72 NAS)
- Are hindered in all their spiritual services,
 - **Let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Heb 12:1 NAS)
- Their best works are imperfect and defiled in the sight of God.
 - For all of us have become like one who is unclean, **And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment**; (Isa 64:6 NAS)

The WCF on the Perseverance of the Saints

The “P” of T.U.L.I.P.

- They, whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall **certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.** (WCF 17:1) (Phil. 1:6, Rom. 8:28–30, John 10:28–29, 1 Pet 1:5, 9)
- This perseverance of the saints **depends not upon their own free will**, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, **flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ, the abiding of the Spirit**, and of the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace: from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof. (WCF 17:2) (Ps. 89:3–4, 28–33, 2 Tim. 2:18–19, Jer. 31:3, Heb. 13:20–21, Rom. 8:33–39)
- Nevertheless, **they may**, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, **fall into grievous sins**; and, for a time, continue therein: whereby they **incur God’s displeasure, and grieve his Holy Spirit**, come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and **bring temporal judgments upon themselves.** (WCF 17:3) (2 Sam. 12:9, 13, Gal. 2:11–14, Num. 20:12, Eph 4:30)

The Order of Decrees

SUPERNATURALIST	PARTICULAR	Supralapsarian	→	Forordained Everything	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	Definite Atonement	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
		Infralapsarian	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	Election of some	→	Definite Atonement	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
		Amyraldian	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	General Atonement	→	Election of some	→	Efficacious Grace	→	Perserverance of Saints
	UNIVERSAL	Lutheran	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity	→	General Atonement	→	Efficatious Grace	→	Election of some	→	Conditional/Perserverance
		Universalistic	→	Creation	→	Total Depravity or Deprivation	→	Election of All	→	Definite Atonement for All	→	Efficacious Grace for All	→	Salvation of All
		Weslyan	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	General Atonement	→	Resistable Grace	→	Election upon faith	→	Salvation upon Faith
	SACERDOTAL	Anglican	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	General Atonement	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	2 Sacrament Salvation
		Roman Catholic	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	Sacrament of Mass	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	7 Sacrament Salvation
		Orthodox	→	Creation	→	Deprivation	→	Sacrament of Mass	→	Sacramental Grace	→	Sacrament works	→	7 Sacrament Salvation
	NATURALIST	Semipelagian	→	Creation	→	Free Will	→	General Atonement	→	Persuasive Gospel	→	Grace no Works	→	Once saved always saved
		Pelagian	→	Creation	→	Free Will	→	Persuasive Gospel	→	Expiate past sin	→	All good works	→	Salvation upon Works

Falling away from the state of grace?

Q. 79. May not true believers, by reason of their **IMPERFECTION**, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, **fall away from the state of grace?**

A. True believers, by reason of the unchangeable love of God, and his decree and covenant to:

- **Give them perseverance:** "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus" (Rom 15:5 NAS)
- **Their inseparable union with Christ:** "who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1Co 1:8-9 NAS)
- **His continual intercession for them:** "Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Heb 7:25 NAS)
- **The Spirit and seed of God abiding in them:** "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." (1Jo 4:13 NAS)
- **Can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace:** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand." (Joh 10:27-28 NAS)
- **Are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation:** "who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1Pe 1:5 NAS)

Next Lesson – Session 11

- Westminster Confession of faith

- Chapter 18 Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation
- Chapter 20 Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience
- Chapter 26 Of the Communion of Saints

- Catechisms

- Q. 80. Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?
- Q. 81. Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?
- Q. 82. What is the communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?
- Q. 83. What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy in this life?