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**Note:** Because we are a research ministry, we do post news articles from various secular and Christian sources along with our own in-house articles if we believe our readers can benefit from the information. We also post video clips from YouTube at times.

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### New Report on Dozens of Studies Show "Cannabis Use Is Associated With Increased Risk of Violence"

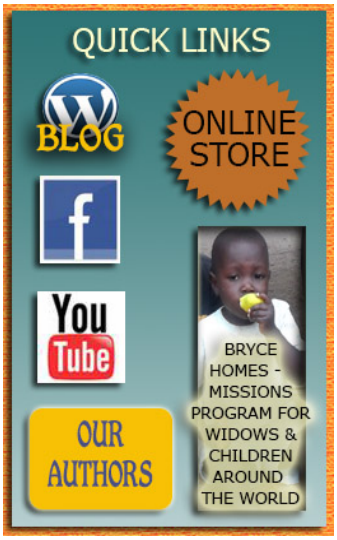


**LTRP Note:** The following news release is from AALM. It is referencing a September 2026 report that examines dozens of studies on the dangers of marijuana use.

**By AALM**

The "marijuana is harmless" narrative is getting harder to defend—and policymakers need to stop treating it as fact.

A new systematic review and meta-analysis published in *Psychological Medicine* examined 63 studies involving more than 265,000 participants. The findings deserve attention:




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Click here for contact information.

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**Warren B. Smith's Booklet on *Return to the Shack***

- Marijuana use was associated with roughly **twice the odds of perpetrating violence** in the general population.
- Among psychiatric patients, the odds were approximately **2.5 times higher**.
- Marijuana use was also associated with **higher odds of becoming a victim of violence**.

These findings challenge the comforting sales pitch that marijuana is simply a harmless way to relax. The researchers recommend considering violence alongside other marijuana-related harms in prevention efforts, public education, and regulatory policy.

The marijuana industry has a product to sell. Elected officials have a public to protect. Those interests should never be confused.

**The Report:** "Cannabis use is associated with increased risk of violence: A systematic review and meta-analysis"

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**Related Information:**

The Cross and the Marijuana Leaf by Linda Nathan

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**"Christian Disagreement With Feminism Has Become Hatred of Women"**



**LTRP Note:** The following is posted for informational and research purposes.

**By Brandon Showalter**
***The Christian Post***

"Feminism is cancer." Across much of the Right-wing alt media, the podcast scene, and social media, this quip and others like it draw countless likes, reposts, and views, including from professing Christians.

Although I understand some of their objections, much of what passes for a critique of feminism online has morphed into something else: a ferocious, boiling contempt for women as a whole. I'll be up front about how I think here. . . . As a socially conservative Evangelical, I can't in good conscience accept many feminists' anthropological and metaphysical claims about human nature or who God is. While abusive men in power do indeed create all kinds of problems, I disagree with the way some feminists tend to blame all the world's ills on "the patriarchy." Click here to read this entire article.

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**"Attacking Israel Worked for Dems but Won't Elect JD Vance"**



**LTRP Note:** The following is for informational and research purposes.

**By Jonathan S. Tobin**

Vice President JD Vance's post-mortem on the Republican Party's midterm disaster is problematic. Attacking Israel may work for Democrats. But if Vance thinks Republicans will profit from emulating that approach, not only will it not help the GOP recover its 2026 losses in future elections, it will definitely not help elect him president in 2028.

In an X post that landed the morning after the GOP rout, Vance was seeking to get out ahead of the intraparty circular firing squads that always follow any election disaster. He wanted to get on record an "I told you so" explanation for the defeat of Republican candidates that would remind the public that he was the most prominent critic of the conflict with Iran earlier this year. **Click here to continue reading this article.**

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**Other articles by JNS**

(Image from a 2-second YouTube video clip; used in accordance with the U.S. Fair Use Act.)

### Update from Philip Zodhiates Since Southern Poverty Law Center's (Opposing Attorneys) Indictment



Photo of Philip and his wife Kathie the day he was released from prison in 2021

**LTRP Note:** Lighthouse Trails has been covering the story of Philip Zodhiates (son of the late Bible scholar Spiro Zodhiates) for many years. Philip spent nearly three years in a U.S. federal prison (2018-2021) for *legally* helping protect a mother (who became a believer in Christ and left a lesbian relationship) and her daughter who was being sexually abused. Philip chronicles the story and his prison years in his book, *Innocent: The Price One Man Paid for Doing What Is Right* (distributed by Lighthouse Trails). At Lighthouse Trails, we have a deep respect for this modern-day persecuted defender of truth and protector of children, whose story is ignored by much of today's Christian media and distorted by secular media. If you would like to support Philip in his ongoing legal battle, you may click here to do that. Please pray that Philip will receive a pardon from President Trump (which he discusses below), which would exonerate his name. The pardon would also most likely help the civil suit against him by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Please feel free to call our office if you have questions about Philip's situation.

## By Philip Zodhiates

Thank you everyone for your prayers and financial support.

I think most know that the judge in the Vermont civil case, who seems dead-set on normalizing adult-child sexual relations, issued a summary judgment against me, denying me a trial. I am appealing the summary judgment to the Second Circuit Court in NYC where my appeal of the criminal conviction was held eight years ago—which I lost. However everything is now on hold in the civil case pending Southern Poverty Law Center's appeal of Liberty Council's dismissal which happened on the same day as the summary judgment against me personally (my company and daughter will still have to stand trial). We are praying the recent indictment of SPLC will work in our favor in our legal proceedings. Since the DOJ is beginning to indict individual SPLC staff we are praying there will be such a mass exodus by their staff attorneys they'll be forced to drop the case against me, my daughter, and my company.

On the criminal side, I filed my Presidential pardon request and understand it is with Department of Justice attorneys. I hope, trust and pray that now that the SPLC has finally been exposed that justice will prevail. Today everyone has seen the consequences of political lawfare, and they are more likely to see the truth, and we are just one more casualty in the war on truth. Trusting always in God's promises, and praying this time my case will be reviewed with political impartiality and with the new information that has now come out about the SPLC.

Praise the Lord, Former Virginia Governor Youngkin however already restored my state civil rights, including voting, right before leaving office so I can vote now, which is good.

On the personal side, we are heading back up to Cleveland Clinic in Ohio this first October weekend for a Monday morning electrocardiogram and appointment with Kathie's cardiologist. He wants to check Kathie's heart again after the Lord healed it earlier this year. They were going to schedule her surgery after her March 2 appointment and then called back to say her heart didn't look nearly as bad on the electrocardiogram they took, conflicting with the two she had done at local hospitals. We told them Kathie had been praying for healing, and that is exactly what He did!

God is good and His mercy endures forever! We fear no move of the devil. God has been with us through this ordeal and and will continue to be. Thank you again for your prayers and financial help not just for us but for all the children of America that will be affected by this case should SPLC's desire to further normalization of adult-child sex prevail.

**Philip**

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**Related Information:**

See interview with Stand Up For the Truth and Philip.

Southern Poverty Lawsuit Against Child Protectors Could Set Precedent for Normalizing Adult-Child Sex

To make an online donation toward Philip's legal expenses, go to https://www.givesendgo.com/PhilipZodhiates. However, your online gift is not tax-deductible. To make your gift tax-deductible, send it postal mail to 419Fund, 1338 Jefferson Way, Forest, VA 24551. You may write directly to Philip at:

Philip Zodhiates
P.O. Box 1842
Waynesboro, VA 22980
pzodhiates@voiceforthechildren.com

### NEW BOOK RELEASE: Operation Human Freedom—Eight Courageous Women & Florida's Battle Against International Sex Traffickers

Lighthouse Trails is pleased to announce the release of Patrick Crough's new book, *Operation Human Freedom: Eight Courageous Women & Florida's Battle Against International Sex Traffickers*. The 186-page book chronicles a state-wide criminal investigation headed by Special Agent Crough. This is the true story of eight women who overcame their fears and assisted the State of Florida in holding their captors accountable. Eventually, this case became known as Florida's largest human trafficking case.

*Operation Human Freedom* describes the shocking personal experiences of the sex trafficking survivors who endured horrific and torturous conditions of prolonged brutalization (sometimes for years) as sex trafficked slaves.

As the book reveals, sex trafficking networks operate under the direction and influence of criminal cartels. This violent human exploitation is carried out in plain sight throughout our country, unbeknownst to the residents of American communities. In the case of the eight women who were discovered in Florida, they were kept hidden by interspersing the brothels throughout the lovely beach-lined communities of Florida.

Once freed from their captivity, the last thing any of these eight women would ever do is identify their captors to law enforcement. Why? Because for years, they were threatened that if they ever tried something like that, their families, usually from other countries, would be hunted down, harmed, and possibly murdered. The sex traffickers knew how to keep their victims quiet.

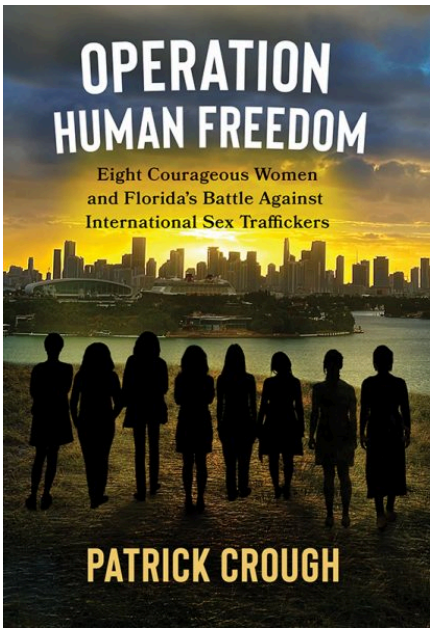
"The women were introduced to me as victims, but as my working relationship with each of them evolved during our sex trafficking investigation, I came to view them more as survivors than victims. These courageous women have my eternal admiration, respect, and loyalty. After you learn their remarkable stories, I am confident you will share the same sentiment."—Patrick Crough

Patrick Crough has over forty-four years of law enforcement experience, including twenty years as a Major Crimes Investigator and Hostage Negotiator with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Rochester, New York. In 2020, Patrick was the recipient of the Florida's Missing Children's Day State/Federal

Law Enforcement Officer of The Year Award for his investigative work against the enslavement and trafficking of children for the purpose of commercial sex and cheap labor.

Operation Human Freedom retails at $14.00 and is available through Lighthouse Trails Publishing as well as many online book outlets including Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Quantity discounts are available through the publisher.

**ISBN:** 978-1-942423-92-8 | **To order through Lighthouse Trails, click here.**




### "America: Not Waving But Drowning"

**LTRP Note**: The following is posted for informational and research purposes.

**By Melanie Phillips**
**Jerusalem News Syndicate**



We should be in no doubt about what's happened with the massive Democratic Party victory in the U.S. midterm elections. A great evil has arisen in the world, and it's now captured the political heart of America.

Hysteria against Israel and the Jews, the murderous obsession that has reversed truth and lies and harnessed conscience itself to the extermination of a country and its inhabitants, has astoundingly become a winning electoral force.

This is not so much a blue wave as a red-green wave, a triumph of the unholy alliance between the left and the forces of political Islam. **Click here to continue reading.**

### Searching for John Foxe and His Book of Martyrs



*Foxe's Book of Martyrs* was first published in English nearly five hundred years ago (1563). Today, there are many editions of this book available because it is in the public domain. When Lighthouse Trails decided to start offering this book to our readers several years ago, we began our search for a suitable edition. Much to our dismay, we discovered that many of the current editions were compromised in one form or another. For example, in one edition by a Christian publisher, front-page endorsements included the names of practitioners of contemplative prayer (a spirituality that thrives from the impetus of the Roman Catholic Church and embraces some of the same beliefs that Foxe's martyrs opposed to the point of suffering cruel persecution and death). It is most troubling to see such names in the cover of an edition of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs.*

In another edition we reviewed in our search, the book was among a special set of "Christian classics." We were once again perplexed to see that some of the other books in that series were written by contemplative mystics.

And yet another edition, published by a secular publisher, advertised mystical and occult practices on the back cover. Such things can happen when a book goes into the public domain.

Worth noting, in John Foxe's original *Book of Martyrs,* Foxe wrote much about persecutions coming from the Catholic Church. But in some of today's editions, you will find stories of this papal persecution omitted. One very popular large Christian organization did such a thing as this quote from The Berean Call documents:

> *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* is best known for its recounting of history and compilation of brief biographies of Christians killed by the Roman Catholic Church. In 2007, the organization Voice of the Martyrs published a volume titled *FOXE: Voices of the Martyrs,* with the authors listed as "John Foxe and The Voice of the Martyrs."
>
> Despite its name, the book *FOXE: Voices of the Martyrs* bears no resemblance to *Foxe's Book of Martyrs.* The modern book omits Foxe's history, with no mention of the Inquisition, of which Foxe said, "In the space of one hundred and twenty nine years, the inquisition deprived Spain of three millions of inhabitants"1 (a subject to which Foxe devoted an entire chapter). It also makes no mention of God sparing England from both the assault of the Spanish Armada and from the "conspiracy by the Papists" to blow up both houses of Parliament and the royal family, a conspiracy known as The Gunpowder Plot of 1605 (these were the subject of another chapter by Foxe).2
>
> When *FOXE: Voices of the Martyrs* makes mention of persons from *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, the writer removes most of Foxe's points. The book even includes at least a dozen Roman Catholics cited as martyrs.3 [VOM's] *FOXE: Voices of the Martyrs* goes so far as to include a section on the Jesuits that begins with the paean, "Founded by Ignatius of Loyola in 1540, the Jesuits have been the most successful missionary movement in the Catholic Church."4 [For those not familiar with the Jesuits, they were a Catholic order set up to bring people into the Catholic Church either by coercion or force and to bring an end to the Protestant reformation.]5

Finally, after an unsuccessful search, for an edition of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* that we could offer to our readers, Lighthouse Trails decided to publish its own edition of this truly incredible and unforgettable account. We released that edition in 2010, which included John Foxe's chapters on the Inquisition and papal persecutions.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. (Colossians 3: 17)

**Below the endnotes is an excerpt from the Lighthouse Trails edition of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*: "Papal Persecution in France"**

**Endnotes:**
1 www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/22400/pg22400.txt, Chapter V, pp. 73-106.
2. www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/22400/pg22400.txt, Chapter XIV, pp. 298-314.
3. John Foxe and The Voice of the Martyrs, *FOXE: Voices of the Martyrs* (Bridge-Logos, 2007), pp. 103, 147, 149, 151, 189, 194, 231, 238, 207, 327.
4. Read Roger Oakland's *The Jesuit Agenda: Understanding the Jesuit Agenda and the Evangelical/Protestant Church*: https://www.lighthousetrailsresearch.com/blog/special-report-the-jesuit-agenda-and-the-evangelicalprotestant-church/.
5. *FOXE: Voices of the Martyrs,* p. 147. The paragraphs in this section are taken from The Berean Call's April 1, 2026 article, "Faithful Scribes" (https://www.thebereancall.org/content/faithful-scribes-part-two).

**From the chapter in the Lighthouse Trails edition of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs:*"Papal Persecutions in France"**

**By John Foxe**

Thus far our history of persecution has been confined principally to the pagan world. We come now to a period when persecution, under the guise of Christianity, committed more extreme acts of violence than ever disgraced the annals of paganism. Disregarding the maxims and the spirit of the gospel, the Roman Catholic Church, arming herself with the power of the sword, vexed the church of God and wasted it for several centuries. This period is most appropriately termed in history, the "Dark Ages." The kings of the earth gave their power to the "beast" and submitted to be trodden on by the miserable vermin that often filled the papal chair.

**The Bartholomew Massacre at Paris**

On the twenty second day of August, 1572, commenced this diabolical act of blood-thirsty brutality. It was intended to destroy at one stroke the root of the Protestant tree, which had only before partially suffered in its branches. Coligny, an admiral and prince of the Protestants, as he was coming from the Council, was shot in both arms. As this was clearly an assassination attempt, he was advised to flee, yet he remained in Paris. Soon after he was slain by Bemjus; who afterward declared he never saw a man meet death more valiantly than the admiral.

The soldiers were appointed upon Admiral Coligny's demise, to burst out instantly to the slaughter in all parts of the city. When they had killed the admiral, they threw him out a window into the street, where his head was cut off and sent to the pope. The savage papists, still raging against him, cut off his arms and private members, and after dragging him three days through the streets, hung him by the heels outside the city. After him they slew many great and honorable persons who were Protestants . . . and falling upon the common people, they continued the slaughter for many days. In the first three days, they slew of all ranks and conditions to the number of ten thousand. The bodies were thrown into the rivers and blood ran through the streets with a strong current, and the river appeared presently like a stream of blood. So furious was their hellish rage that they even slew all papists whom they suspected to be not very staunch to their diabolical religion.

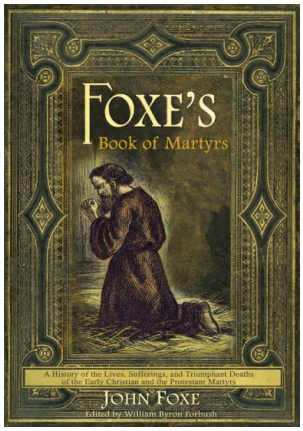
From Paris the destruction spread to all quarters of the realm. At Orleans, a thousand were slain of men, women, and children, and six thousand at Rouen. At Meldith, two hundred were put into prison, and later brought out by units and cruelly murdered.
At Lyons, eight hundred were massacred. Here children hanging about their parents, and parents affectionately embracing their children, were pleasant food for the swords and bloodthirsty minds of those who call themselves the Catholic Church. Here three hundred were slain in the bishop's house; and the impious monks would allow none to be buried.

At Augustobona, when the people heard of the massacre at Paris, they shut their gates that no Protestants might escape, and searching diligently for every individual of the reformed Church, imprisoned and then barbarously murdered them. The same cruelty they practiced at Avaricum, at Troys, at Toulouse, Rouen and many other places, running from city to city, in towns and villages throughout the kingdom.

Some days after this horrid transaction, the French court endeavored to excuse it by forms of law. They pretended to justify the massacre by defamation and accused the Admiral Coligny of a conspiracy, which no one believed. . . .

This horrid butchery was not confined merely to the city of Paris. The same orders were issued from court to the governors of all the provinces in France; so that, in a week's time about one hundred thousand Protestants were cut to pieces in different parts of France!

At Rome the horrid joy was so great that they appointed a day of high festival and a jubilee with great indulgence to all who kept it and showed every expression of gladness. . . . At Bordeaux, at the instigation of a villainous monk who used to urge the papists to slaughter in his sermons, two hundred and sixty-four were cruelly murdered; some of them senators. Another of the same pious fraternity produced a similar slaughter at Agendicum, in Maine, where the populace at the holy inquisitors' satanic suggestion, ran upon the Protestants, slew them, plundered their houses, and pulled down their church.




The duke of Guise, entering into Blois, suffered his soldiers to fly upon the spoil and slay or drown all the Protestants they could find. In this they spared neither age nor sex, defiling the women and then murdering them. From there he went to Mere, and committed the same outrages for many days together. Here they found a minister named Cassebonius and threw him into the river. . . . At Anjou, they slew Albiacus, a minister, and many women were defiled and murdered there. Among these were two sisters, abused before their father, whom the assassins bound to a wall so he could see them, and then slew them and him. . . . At Samarobridge they murdered above one hundred Protestants after promising them peace; and at Antsidor one hundred were killed and cast part into a public toilet and part into a river. One hundred put into a prison at Orleans, were destroyed by the furious multitude.

The tragic sufferings of the Protestants are too numerous to detail.

**Editor's Note:** This is just a small section of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* that describes papal persecutions.

Lighthouse Trails edition of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs:*

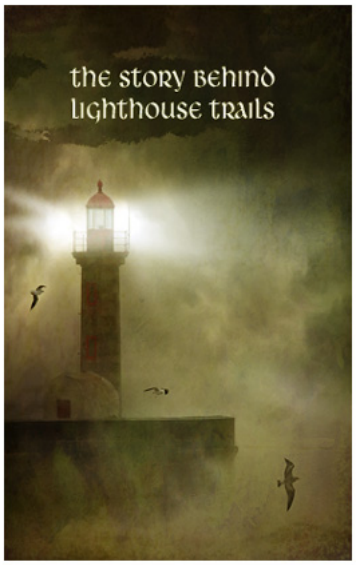
**In Honor of Ray Yungen (1952-2016) – The Man Who Inspired the Birth of Lighthouse Trails**

Ten years ago, in October of 2016, Ray Yungen passed away after contracting sepsis during a hospital stay for treatment of leukemia. There's not a day that goes by at the office of Lighthouse Trails where Ray's name does not come in at least one conversation. We still miss him so much. Without him, we don't believe there ever would have been a Lighthouse Trails. In honor of Ray, during this ten-year mark, we are re-posting below our booklet, *The Story Behind Lighthouse Trails*.

***The Story Behind Lighthouse Trails***

**By Deborah Dombrowski and the Editors at Lighthouse Trails**

**"It Was a Dark and Stormy Night."**




Every good mystery starts off with "It was a dark and stormy night." But this is a different kind of mystery. It's about a church, a Bride, that was mysteriously kidnapped by a dark, deceitful stranger who came as an angel of light and promised her many great things if she would just follow him. And it's about a small insignificant publishing company who teamed up with members of the Bride who did not succumb to the angel of light, in an effort to find out what happened the Bride and how to bring her back to safety.

In the summer of 2000, there was no Lighthouse Trails Publishing. There wasn't even a glimmer in anyone's mind about it. Dave and I were nearing the final round of raising a half a dozen kids in a small town in Oregon, one nestled in the Cascade foothills. We had been alerted in 1997 to a thing called Y2K and helped put together a task force in our little town. Not because we thought the world was coming to an end on December 31, 1999. We didn't. But we were stirred from our every day lives of soccer games, raising kids, going to church, small time campaigning to keep the homosexual agenda out of the schools, helping friends in need, supporting ministries like Focus on the Family—you know, just the regular stuff a good Christian family does. In twenty-five years of being part of the church after getting saved in the '70s (I in a barn with a Bible and some cows, Dave in army barracks in Germany), there were a lot of things we had never heard about in the pulpits. At first, in the '70s, we heard a lot about Jesus' return, and it wasn't unusual to hear the Gospel preached on Sundays with people going forward in altar calls and getting saved. It was exciting, and there was anticipation in the air that the rapture could happen at any time. But over time, that kind of talk ceased, altar calls died down and were replaced with lots of other things: signs and wonders that were said to all be from God, boycotts and legislation efforts to turn our country into a "Christian" culture, songs that started leaving Jesus and the Cross out, and in many cases drums so loud, you wouldn't be able to hear the words anyway, or songs about all the great things we could do if we would just unite together.

When Y2K came, it jolted us and reminded us that our time on this earth is very temporal, and the Bible talks about a time where people will become very deceived, not realizing the times in which we live. While we did not believe that the culmination of time would end at the strike of midnight on New Year's Eve 1999, we did believe God wanted to get our attention. We just weren't sure what for at the time. 2000 rolled in rather uneventfully, and life continued. However, in 1998 an elderly acquaintance we met during Y2K had told us about an author she knew in Salem (Oregon) who wrote about how the New Age was coming into the evangelical church. While we knew something about the New Age, it was a term that was never mentioned in the pulpit of any church we had ever been to, so the remark slipped quietly away for two years.

In the fall of 2000, our then sixteen-year-old daughter was a Young Life intern. Young Life is a national organization that reaches out to young people in public schools with a Christian message. One day in October, she brought home a list of required reading for the year. It contained books by twelve authors, most of whom we nor our daughter had ever heard of. Four of them would soon change our lives forever: Thomas Merton, Richard Foster, Henri Nouwen, and Brennan Manning.

About a week later, a local pastor called because he was trying to get some information about a college his kids wanted to go to. "Deborah, remember you told me a couple years ago about an author around here who wrote about the New Age coming into the church? I wonder if you can find out about that." After that call, I contacted my friend who had told me about this author, and she immediately said, "Deborah, it's time you met Ray Yungen."

A week later, I sat in a Keizer, Oregon coffee shop, a few minutes early for my appointment with Mr. Yungen. Right on time, in bounded a 6'4" pleasant looking kind of guy carrying in each arm bundles of magazines, newspaper clippings, and books. After plopping down his obviously well-read stacks of materials, he bought me a fifty-cent cup of house coffee then proceeded to talk to me for over an hour. When early in the talk, he mentioned Thomas Merton and Richard Foster, something told me this was a providential meeting. And when a little later he mentioned Brennan Manning and Henri Nouwen, I was beginning to get the picture. This man had been sent to save my daughter from reading books by men who called themselves Christians but who, in reality, were bringing a mystical spirituality under the guise of Christianity. Before I left that meeting with Ray, he handed me a brown envelope. "I've written a book about this, but it isn't published yet. I call it *A Time of Departing.* I've been carrying it around for two years. I wonder if you and your husband would like to read it." I took the package and left.

It would be an understatement to say that reading that manuscript opened our eyes and changed our lives forever. And if someone had told us back then that in less than two years from that day in the coffee shop we would start a publishing company and eventually take on the Christian leaders in North America, we probably would have run the other way. Frankly, at the time, we thought Ray Yungen's book came just in time to help warn the church so contemplative spirituality would not enter it. We thought that there could be no way that too many Christians would even consider going down the contemplative path. It just seemed so obvious to us how dangerous and anti-biblical it was. We thought that if we could warn some of the more influential leaders (like Rick Warren), they would be so happy to be warned, they would probably go out and write their own books warning about contemplative prayer, and we could just go back to our "normal" lives and leave this kind of thing up to them.

We had a lot of misconceived thoughts in those days, and we had no idea what was about to happen.

**Part 2**
**A Ministry Is Born**

After reading the unpublished manuscript, *A Time of Departing* by Ray Yungen (our newfound brother in the faith) in the fall of 2000, the first thing that seemed reasonable to do was to meet with the Young Life Director of Training for Oregon. I was concerned about my own daughter's involvement with Young Life but also was thinking about all the thousands of Young Life leaders and interns who might be introduced to contemplative spirituality through Young Life's recommended reading list.

I called the Young Life office in Portland and made an appointment. During the week or so interim before the meeting, I began researching contemplative spirituality on the Internet. The only problem was, there was virtually nothing opposing it or critiquing it. But there was plenty supporting it. Finally, I found an article by a John Caddock (from Oregon). His article was written in 1997 and was titled "What is Contemplative Spirituality, and Why is it So Dangerous?" It was actually a review of Brennan Manning's book, *The Signature of Jesus.* That was one of the books Ray had discussed in his manuscript. John Caddock's article and one other one were the only things on the Internet refuting this mystical prayer that was being called Christian. Essentially, the contemplative issue was not being challenged. Little did we know at the time, it had been simmering in the background within the evangelical church for at least two decades by then and was about to explode wide open.

The day before Ray and I were to meet with the Young Life Director, I stumbled upon Peter Marshall Jr.'s name on the Internet and saw where he was promoting Henri Nouwen. I didn't know a lot about Marshall Jr., but I had loved the movie of his father Peter Marshall, *A Man Called Peter*, a Scottish minister who eventually became U.S. Senate Chaplain back in the '50s. When I saw the endorsement of Nouwen by Peter Marshall Jr., I e-mailed his office with my concerns and got a rather scathing reply back. In my naivety at the time, I couldn't believe the e-mail was really from Mr. Marshall. So on the morning I was to leave for my appointment with Ray and the Young Life Director, I called the Peter Marshall office. Lo and behold, Peter Marshall, Jr. answered the phone. He acknowledged that it was indeed he who had written the e-mail, and he told me that anyone who would say anything bad about Henri Nouwen or Brennan Manning was committing "Satanic slander." Marshall expressed strong anger about my having questioned the two contemplative men. I was very taken back by the angry response to what I had thought was an amiable and mild challenge on my part. When Marshall was finished reprimanding me, we said good-bye and hung up. I never had another chance to talk to Peter Marshall Jr., and he died in 2010 at the age of seventy.

When I arrived at the coffee shop in Portland later that morning, Ray was standing in the foyer waiting for me. As I approached him, I said, "You'll never believe who I just talked to." I will never forget Ray's reaction as I shared what had happened. His eyes filled with tears, and he said, "Peter Marshall is a

conservative Christian. I am shocked that he would have such a view." I knew then that Ray Yungen was a brother who did not hate these people but rather had a genuine desire to help people. And as for Marshall's angry reaction, I later came to find out that an angry reaction was a common denominator from those who promote contemplative spirituality when challenged by someone about it. While not all of the following names had angry responses, the list of those I would someday talk to either by phone, e-mail, or letter began with Marshall but would later include: Philip Yancey, Dan Kimball, Shane Claiborne, Rick Warren, Ken Blanchard, David Jeremiah, Gary Thomas, Keri Wyatt Kent, Richard Foster (indirectly), Kay Arthur's personal assistant, personnel from Focus on the Family, Beth Moore's top assistant as well as Charles Stanley's close assistant, and many others.

From the fall of 2000, when we met Ray, until the end of 2001, we tried to find a publisher who would publish *A Time of Departing.* We put together a proposal and sent it out to several Christian publishers.

As one rejection letter after the next came in, we grew more and more skeptical that we would find a publisher for *A Time of Departing.* In the meantime, Ray read in an article somewhere that the top forty Christian publishers would only publish books written by authors who had "significant national platforms." We knew this left Ray out. He was unknown.

As for Ray's writing background, he had written *For Many Shall Come in My Name* (1st edition) in the early nineties, which was published by a small publishing company that eventually went out of business. The book was an exposé on the New Age movement in our society. Several thousand copies of the book had sold, and Ray did a national tour that included interviews with places like Southwest Radio Church, but when Ray's publisher went under, he was left without any representation.

Then, in 1994, a few years after Ray wrote *For Many Shall Come in My Name*, he was asked by a Salem (Oregon) Missionary Alliance youth pastor to research a man named Richard Foster who would be coming to the pastor's church soon. Ray had not heard about Foster prior to that time, so before the seminar took place, he read *Celebration of Discipline.* Ray had been studying the Catholic monk and panentheist Thomas Merton for some time, and as he read Foster, he felt there was a connection between him and Merton. Ray attended the seminar and afterwards went to the front where Foster was standing and talking to people. Ray describes the brief conversation he had with Foster that evening:

> After the seminar ended . . . I approached Foster and politely asked him, "What do you think of the current Catholic contemplative prayer movement?" He appeared visibly uncomfortable with the question, and at first seemed evasive and vague.
>
> He then replied, "Well, I don't know, some good, some bad (mentioning Matthew Fox as an example of the bad)." In defense, he said, "My critics don't understand there is this tradition within Christianity that goes back centuries." He then said something that has echoed in my mind ever since that day. He emphatically stated, "Well, Thomas Merton tried to awaken God's people!" I realized then Foster had waded deep into Merton's belief system.1

Ray began to study Richard Foster in depth after that, and in early 1999, he finished the manuscript of *A Time of Departing*, with Richard Foster and Thomas Merton as key figures in his critique. Nearly two years later, we met Ray.

While we were seeking a publisher for *A Time of Departing* and getting a growing stack of rejection letters, Ron, the Salem youth pastor who had invited Ray to the Richard Foster seminar, was at a church conference and found himself sharing a dining table with John Armstrong, a pastor, author, and an adjunct professor at Wheaton College Graduate School. Ron happened to have a copy of Ray's manuscript with him, and after striking up a conversation, asked Armstrong if he would take the manuscript with him and read it. Armstrong agreed.

Within a couple weeks, Armstrong contacted Ron and said that *A Time of Departing* was fantastic. He said if Ray would remove chapter six ("Could This Really Be the End of the Age?"), he could probably get Harvest House to publish the book. At first, we were excited, but after prayer and deliberation, Ray, Dave, and I decided that removing that chapter would seriously diminish the message of the book. It is in that chapter that Ray talks about occultist Alice Bailey (who coined the term New Age) and her prediction that the Age of Aquarius (a supposed age of enlightenment for man when he realizes his divinity) would come *through* the Christian church by mystical practices and signs and wonders. Chapter six also talks about what the Bible refers to as Mystery Babylon (Revelation 17:5) where seducing spirits will deceive the whole world into embracing a new system of spirituality (a one-world religion). Quoting from that chapter, Ray stated:

> [I]nstead of opposing Christianity, the occult would capture and blend itself with Christianity and then use it as its primary vehicle for spreading and instilling New Age consciousness!2

No, we knew that chapter had to stay. Sadly, and ironically, John Armstrong eventually came out as an advocate for the emerging church.

One day, after we turned down John Armstrong's offer to help publish *A Time of Departing* and after we were beginning to think we would never find a publisher for this vitally important book, a little light came on, so to speak, and I said to Dave, "Why don't we start our own publishing company and publish the book ourselves?" We prayed that God would open the door if that's what He wanted us to do, and after talking to Ray, we mutually agreed that this was how we could get the book published.

We knew nothing about publishing. I was a small-time free-lance writer and had written, *Laughter Calls Me,* my own biography, and Dave had a degree in English from Portland State University. But that hardly prepared us to start a publishing company. I bought a bunch of books from Amazon, one of which was called *How to Publish a Book and Sell a Million Copies*. It seemed only logical that if we were going to publish a book, selling a million copies would certainly get our message out. However, when I read that book, one of the things it advised was, *don't publish anything "controversial"* if you are interested in "large sales." It was then I knew that Lighthouse Trails would never be a big publishing company that sold millions of books. We started off controversial, and nearly twenty-five years later, we are still considered controversial. Sadly, "controversial" is increasingly coming to mean "something devoted to the biblical Gospel."

In March of 2002, we opened a business bank account with one hundred dollars and officially started Lighthouse Trails Publishing. Our motto would be "bringing light to areas of darkness." Six months later, we released the first edition of *A Time of Departing.*

**Part 3**

**"A Hot Topic" That Just Wouldn't Go Away"**

Right about the same time as *A Time of Departing* was being released, another book, by a large Christian publishing house, was also being released. While *we* were picking up the first printing of our new release from a small printer in Washington state, unbeknownst to us at the time, Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life* was being released as well and would soon be a *New York Times* best seller, eventually reaching sales of over 35 million copies. It would turn into a rabbit versus a turtle race to get our messages out, but because we believed that contemplative spirituality would draw people away from the Gospel rather than to it, we felt our efforts were necessary and that God would get our warning out as He saw fit.

In the spring of 2003, we sent a copy of *A Time of Departing* to Rick Warren thinking we should warn this now-popular pastor of the contemplative prayer movement. He wrote back a personal note on a card saying:

> Just a note to say thanks for the copy of *A Time of Departing* by Ray Yungen. It definitely will be a useful addition to my personal library and resource in my studies. I agree this is a hot topic.
>
> Sincerely, Rick Warren

When we received Rick Warren's reply, we felt a sense of relief that he seemed to have appreciated our warning. But that was before a lot of things happened:

- It was before we read *Deceived on Purpose: The New Age Implications of the Purpose Driven Life* by former New Age follower Warren B. Smith.

- It was before we learned that Rick Warren had been promoting Richard Foster, Dallas Willard, and the spiritual formation (i.e., contemplative spirituality) movement as far back as the early nineties in his first book, *The Purpose Driven Church*.3
- It was before we read George Mair's book, *A Life With Purpose: Reverend Rick Warren—the most inspiring pastor of our time* which identified Rick Warren's plans to use New Age sympathizer Ken Blanchard for his global P.E.A.C.E. Plan in training leaders around the world.4
- It was before George Mair was advised by an acquaintance at the Attorney General's office in California to file a hate crime against Rick Warren for his assault against Mair for his book (but Mair called me, and I advised him against filing).5 Ironically, when Mair wrote his book, it was meant to be a testament of praise to Rick Warren as "America's Pastor" not realizing that at the same time New Age connections had been unveiled.
- It was before Rick Warren wrote his damage-control "midnight e-mail" to me in the spring of 2005, an e-mail that was filled with inaccuracies to cover up the truth, but yet he had his chief apologist at the time post it all over the Internet within hours of sending it to me.6

- It was before Saddleback sent out e-mails to an undisclosed number of people saying that Lighthouse Trails and Ray Yungen were "sitting on a pile of money" (and we just wanted to know where it was because we could really have used that pile of money to pay the bills that month).
- It was before Saddleback accused Lighthouse Trails of "publishing lies" and inferring that we had broken into their website server and "federal agents" were on the case.7
- It was back when we thought there was no way the majority of Christian leaders could be right in the middle of helping to bring in a mystical spirituality that would take millions into the arms of outright apostasy.

Needless to say, by the time we went to press with the second edition of *A Time of Departing* in the spring of 2006, the book now had an entire chapter devoted to Rick Warren and his contemplative prayer propensities. And it had a chapter devoted to something everyone was calling "the emerging church." Vicious and unscrupulous efforts were already underway to stop Lighthouse Trails. Had it been just our own strength and wisdom to keep us going, we never could have continued. But, in spite of our own human frailties and weaknesses, and in spite of efforts to stop us, God showed mercy and justice and kept Lighthouse Trails afloat. And while there's no question that contemplative spirituality has skyrocketed exponentially throughout the world, thanks largely to big name advocates of the movement, tens of thousands of people have now read *A Time of Departing* as well as our 2007 book on the emerging church, *Faith Undone* by Roger Oakland; and we believe these books have made a difference in helping to defend the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and identifying the mystical spirituality that is working to blind the eyes of millions.

There's much more to our story, and you can read about most of the episodes on our site. When we first began, we wondered if there were other Christians who saw what Ray, Dave, and I saw. Surely, we can't be the only ones, we thought. We are so happy to report that we aren't by a long shot. Through the thousands of e-mails, letters, and phone calls from readers, customers, and newsletter subscribers, we have learned that God has faithfully shown many believers what is happening in today's church and world. We are privileged and humbled to have a small part in this work. As we have said many times before, Lighthouse Trails exists as a service to the body of Christ, for the sake of the Gospel, and we pray and hope, to the glory of God.

> But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (1Thessalonians 5:1-6)

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**Endnotes:**
1. Ray Yungen, *A Time of Departing* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2nd ed., 2006), pp. 76-77.
2. Ibid., p. 123.
3. Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995), pp. 126-127.
4. http://www.lighthousetrailsresearch.com/PressReleasekenblanchard.htm.
5. Read our article "Rick Warren Biographer, George Mair, Passes Away at 83 – The Rest of the Story" for this full story.
6. http://www.lighthousetrailsresearch.com/furtherinformation.htm.
7. In December of 2005 a woman sent us an e-mail she had received from Rick Warren's personal e-mail address, which stated:

> The website you refer to [Lighthouse Trails] below is well-known for publishing lies, which can easily be proven false…. The Bible says "Satan is the father of lies", so those who intentionally spread them are doing Satan's work for him. That is evil. We suggest you avoid listening to evil people who have a habit of lying about ministers of the Gospel. Study the Scriptures every day and flee from those who make their reputation by lying.

We contacted Saddleback about the e-mail, and we received the following reply, suggesting that the e-mail had been written by a computer hacker: "We are sorry that this public mailbox has been written by a computer hacker: "We are sorry that this public mailbox has been shut down due to vandalism and stolen identity. Federal enforcement officers are tracking down the source in either Africa or the Pacific Northwest." At first, we thought this was a joke because we (who live in the Pacific Northwest) had recently issued a press release about an evangelist in Africa who had been opposing Purpose Driven. Hearing that Federal officers had narrowed down an investigation to either our location or the evangelist's location seemed preposterous. We contacted Saddleback by phone requesting the names of these Federal agents because of the threatening nature of the "anonymous" email. A few days later a Saddleback staff member called and told us that Federal agents were doing an investigation on their web server being broken into and that Saddleback (and the agents) suspected Lighthouse Trails. We again asked for the names of the Federal agents as well as the Saddleback communications director that was handling the case. However, we were told they would not give us any names. We have not heard anything from Saddleback since.

**Related Articles by Ray Yungen:**

**The Mystical Revolution: How Millions of People Have Been Introduced to the Aquarian Age**

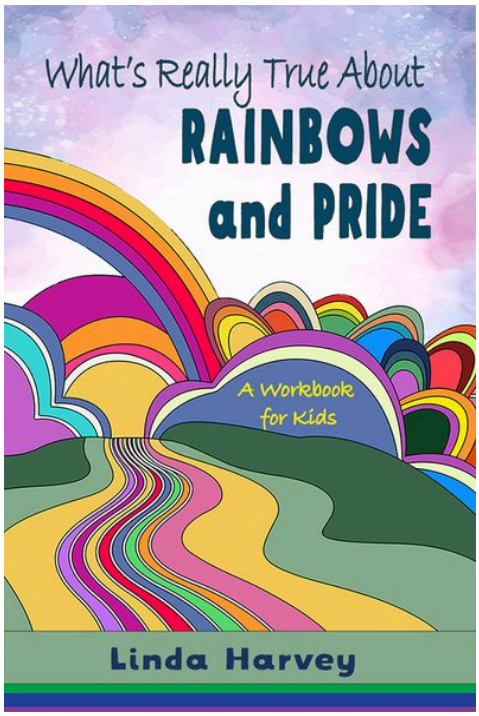
**The Truth About Reiki, Chakras, & Energy Healing**

**Evangelical Christianity Catapulted into Seeing "God" with New Interspiritual Eyes**

### "Teaching Our Children the Truth About Rainbows and Pride"

**LTRP Note:** Lighthouse Trails recently released Linda Harvey's new book for children ages 9-13 titled *What's Really True About Rainbows and Pride.* Please don't think for a moment that your children or grandchildren don't need to know about "this stuff." They WILL hear about it; the question is, *who* will be telling them? Before they get pulled into an evil, life-destroying agenda, make sure they hear the truth. Linda Harvey has a heart for kids, and for

decades, she has put that love into action by writing and speaking extensively about the dangers our children are being subjected to in public schools, and unfortunately, in many churches now.




Incidentally, even though Linda has always presented the truth in a non-hateful manner, a number of years ago, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) placed her on their "hate" group list. Remember darkness hates light, and the power of sin lies in its secrecy. That is why Bible-believing Christians must speak the truth, no matter the cost.

Linda recently wrote the following article for AFA, describing how her book came about. Lighthouse Trails feels honored and privileged to publish this book because we care about kids too!

**"Teaching Our Children the Truth About Rainbows and Pride"**

**By Linda Harvey (Mission America)**
It was the middle of the month of June. As we know, June in recent years is the month America is supposed to celebrate "pride" about sexual sin. Flags with counterfeit rainbows wave from porches in peaceful neighborhoods. Banners drape around store merchandise, icons pepper home pages. Until students are dismissed for the summer, our schools will often infuse this deception into classrooms, confusing the innocent.

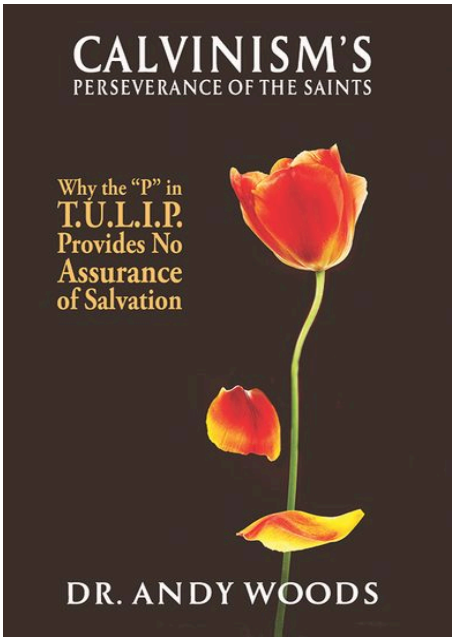
A semi-hopeless malaise is my usual June mindset. But as God often works in our hearts, that dismay led my hands this year to start typing as I put together a column about how Christians might talk to our children about "pride" and explain the theft of the rainbow.

Educating our young is critical. The reason phony rainbows and "pride" have achieved their current level of respectability in many circles is largely due to Christian silence. Few churches are equipping their congregations to honor God's Word and feel empowered to stand up against homosexual and gender confusion propaganda. Those pastors who bravely tackle this are a tiny minority. For most congregations on most Sundays, the sin of Sodom is a subject that never comes up. Click here to continue reading.

**View a PDF before purchasing of *What's Really True About Rainbows and Pride***

**Click here for more information or to Order a printed copy of *What's Really True About Rainbows and Pride***

**NEW BOOKLET BY ANDY WOODS: Calvinism's Perseverance of the Saints—Why the "P" in T.U.L.I.P. Provides No Assurance of Salvation**




Lighthouse Trails is pleased to release our latest topical booklet, *Calvinism's Perseverance of the Saints—Why the "P" in T.U.L.I.P. Provides No Assurance of Salvation* by Dr. Andy Woods. The booklet is 18 pages long and sells for $1.95 for single copies. Quantity discounts are available. Our booklets are designed to give away to others or for your own personal use. Below is the content of this new booklet. To order copies of *Calvinism's Perseverance of the Saints—Why the "P" in T.U.L.I.P. Provides No Assurance of Salvation* in booklet format, click here.

**Calvinism's Perseverance of the Saints—Why the "P" in T.U.L.I.P. Provides No Assurance of Salvation**

**By Dr. Andy Woods**

> Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

In this booklet, we will be examining the "P" in the Calvinist T.U.L.I.P. acronym. For the Calvinist, the big question is, how do you know you're one of the elect? The answer is, you can't know. You can hope, but you really don't know unless you get to the end of your life and you are one of those saints who has *persevered in doctrine and good works*—both of which are very subjective. I mean, how do you know you've crossed the finish line? If that's true of *you*, then on your dying breath, you can just say, *I guess I'm one of the elect* because I persevered. But until you reach the end of your life, you really don't know if you are one of the elect. So, the bottom line in this, as I'll be showing you, is that there is no assurance of salvation in the Calvinist teaching. And this is what we mean by "perseverance of the saints."

## The Calvinistic Definition of Perseverance of the Saints

With perseverance of the saints, the first thing to understand is we are not talking about *eternal security.* If all that is meant by perseverance of the saints is the doctrine of eternal security, I would be aligned with them. In fact, one of the things that kept me in Calvinism for a long time was my confusion on this. I thought, *Well, I believe in eternal security. Once saved, always saved. So, I'm certainly not Arminian, which teaches that you can lose your salvation. So I must be a Calvinist.* Because if you're a Calvinist, you can't be an Arminian. And if you're an Arminian, you can't be a Calvinist.

That's how my brain worked. That's how I was looking at Calvinism for years and years. And it was people like Loraine Boettner, a very Calvinistic teacher and author, who helped confuse me on this where he writes:

> It must be evident that there are just two theories which can be maintained by evangelical Christians upon this important subject; that all men who have made any study of it, and who have reached any settled conclusions regarding it, must be either Calvinists or Arminians. There is no other position which a "Christian" can take.1

When I would read this, I would say to myself, *I'm certainly not Arminian, so I must be a Calvinist because I believe in eternal security.* And in the process, I really didn't understand what was meant by perseverance of the saints. But in time, I came to see that perseverance of the saints has nothing to do with eternal security. What it has to do with is the notion that you cannot actually believe you're one of the elect possessing eternal security because nobody knows if they're going to make it across the finish line.

If you're one of the elect, it means God infused into you the "gift of faith"2 so that you *can* believe because you can't believe any other way because you're a rock.* And how do you know if your faith is from you or from God? How do you know if it's an *authentic* faith, as they call it, or a spurious faith? Well, it always must persevere until the end. How do you know you're going to persevere until the end? You *don't* know until your dying breath. That's why you can never have assurance of salvation or eternal security in Calvinism. In their book, *Calvinism, Hyper-Calvinism, and Arminianism*, Talbot and Crampton state:

> [I]t should be obvious that the Calvinist doctrine of the perseverance of the saints is not one and the same as "once saved, always saved."3

Here at Sugar Land Bible Church, we reject the teaching of perseverance of the saints because people can backslide. We reject perseverance of the saints, but we embrace eternal security. It's important to remember: just because you're an advocate of eternal security does not make you a Calvinist. What I believe is not in the *perseverance* of the saints. I believe in the *preservation* of the saints. What that means is, God preserves you till the end. Now, that puts the onus on who? On God. It takes the onus off who? Off me.

If you want to talk about *preservation* of the saints, which is a synonym for eternal security, I'm on board with that, but I'm not on board with *perseverance* of the saints. Peter describes perfectly the preservation of the saints:

> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are *kept by the power of God* through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:4-5; emphasis added)

This verse is describing how we're reaching into the next life, an undefiled inheritance. How do I know I'm going to get there and obtain that inheritance? Well, because God has made me a promise that I'm *going* to get there. That's how I know. And it has nothing to do with my up days or down days. It has nothing to do with whether I die in a victorious state or not. Because the whole onus is on God's shoulders, not mine.

Don't get me wrong; we want to die in a victorious state; that has a bearing on rewards at the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ. Plus, walking in a victorious state allows us to escape a lot of temporal consequences associated with sin. But whether our lives end on an upswing or a downswing, it has nothing to do with our arrival in Heaven because of the doctrine of the *preservation* of the saints and eternal security.

Now, if you were in a church that was teaching perseverance of the saints, they would call that kind of a statement above heresy. They would basically say I was creating a climate for loose licentious living because in their minds, you have to scare *hell* out of people every Sunday. The Arminians will scare hell out of you every Sunday by telling you you're going to *lose* your salvation. The Calvinists will scare hell out of you every Sunday by telling you that you never *had* salvation.**

And we wonder why people in the body of Christ are so psychologically and emotionally messed up having these two doctrines rammed down their throats week after week. I'm not going to tell you anything like that because it's not in the Bible. I'm not going to tell you that you never had salvation. I'm not going to tell you that you lost your salvation. What I'm going to tell you is you're being kept and protected by the power of God. And whether you die in an upswing or a downswing, it has nothing to do with eternal security because your eternal security never rested on your shoulders to begin with. It wasn't you that got you in the door. It was the grace of God. So the grace of God that got you in the door is the grace of God that *keeps* you. Grace means unmerited favor.

Therefore, I have a hundred percent assurance of my salvation because of my right understanding of the preservation of the saints as opposed to the perseverance of the saints. I know one hundred percent that if I were to die today, I'd go to Heaven. Now, I didn't always think that way because I was an acolyte of the perseverance of the saints, which says, "I don't know. I've got to die on a good note or an upswing, or I'm not in. I don't have enough proof to demonstrate I'm one of the elect."

The truth of the matter is our arrival in Heaven and the reception of our heavenly inheritance are being protected by the power of God. Notice that expression, "the power of God" (1 Peter 1:4-5), *not* the power of you—"the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed at the last time." So don't confuse perseverance of the saints with *preservation* of the saints. Don't confuse *perseverance* of the saints with eternal security because those are two completely different teachings. Perseverance of the saints equals perseverance in good works to the end of one's life to prove he is one of the elect. Bob Kirkland sums up the Calvinist position as follows:

> The P [in T.U.L.I.P.] stands for perseverance of the saints. This is what Calvinists say gives them assurance of eternal security but in actuality, "the emphasis is upon the believer's faithfulness in persevering—not upon God's keeping power . . . uncertainty as to one's ultimate salvation is, in fact, built into the very fabric of Calvinism itself."4

Calvinism teaches uncertainty.

On July 14, 2025, John MacArthur, one of the biggest promoters of Calvinism within evangelicalism, passed away. I remember back when a couple of friends of mine were working on their dissertations and had been given interviews with him; the question was asked, "What is your assurance of salvation on a scale of zero to one hundred?" MacArthur gave a number of about 97 percent. So even the biggest names in Calvinism itself really don't know if they're saved. And as they turn around and teach this stuff over and over and over again to the body of Christ, the body of Christ doesn't know whether they're saved or not. And that has a massive emotional and psychological negative impact on people.

I'm not a big fan of the integration movement (integrating psychology and the Bible), but Minirth and Meier did a study on this. It was called "The Psychological Effects of Lordship Salvation."*** They were trying to figure out what this doctrine is doing to people emotionally. It was their conclusion that it was destroying people.5 I'll use this example by Dennis Rokser: When people were working on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco when it was being built, there was fear among the workers that they would fall to their deaths. Somebody had a bright idea to put a safety net under these people so they wouldn't fall to their deaths, and they would feel secure. And guess what they discovered? The productivity of the workers went way up because if you know you're secure, you're more productive in your calling. How in the world can you be productive in your calling for Jesus when you don't even know if you're going to make it to Heaven or not?6

That kind of teaching is very similar to what you get in Islam, where Muslims really don't know if they've done enough good to outweigh the bad, and they don't know if Allah, whose name means *deceiver*, is going to lie to them and rip the carpet out from under them at the final judgment. There is no assurance of salvation in Islam. Once you understand that, you start to have pity on them instead of being mad at them. This is why they would fly a plane into a building. If you fly a plane into a building, that's a guarantee you're in. So Muslims do what they do because they have zero assurance of salvation.

How is Calvinism any different in this regard? It is teaching this doctrine of uncertainty, which is emotionally crippling and emotionally destroying people. Because how can you work for Jesus when you don't trust Him? And if the trust isn't in Him, maybe I don't trust myself. Maybe I'm going to mess something up.

So, how can I be productive for God? Well, I'm *very* productive for God because I've got this issue fixed. Jesus is one hundred percent reliable. You might say, "Yeah, but what if I mess things up?" Well, you probably will, and I will, too. But this whole thing doesn't rest on *your* shoulders anyway. It's grace that got you in the door. It's grace that keeps you in the door. It's grace that sustains you even when you foul things up.

This is what is meant by the perseverance of the saints. You may be saying, "Well, they don't really teach this, do they?" That's why I labored to produce these quotes for you to show you that, yes, they really do teach this.

## Examples of Those Who Teach Perseverance of the Saints

**John Calvin (1509-1564)**
John Calvin writes, "Those who do not persevere unto the end belong not to the calling of God."7 There it is in black and white. If you don't persevere till the end (no*t God preserving you* to the end), but if *you* don't persevere, then you don't belong to God because you're not one of the elect. Calvin also stated:

> What they [the Christians at Corinth] had attained so far is nothing, *unless* they keep steadily on; because it is not enough that they once started off in the way of the Lord, *if* they do not make an effort to reach the goal.8 (emphasis added)

That looks like the onus is on who? *You Corinthians, you started off the right way,* Calvin says in his commentary on the Corinthians, *but if you guys stumble along the way, you're not persevering. So whatever faith you had was not real. It was spurious. It was your own faith rather than receiving the gift of faith.*

Were the Corinthians saved? Well, what does Paul say at the beginning of the book? "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified" (1 Corinthians 1:2). That sounds pretty spiritual. And "called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours." (v. 2)

Paul is basically saying, *Your salvation, you Corinthians, is just like mine.* If you don't think the Corinthians were saved, then Paul wasn't saved. See that? It just gets crazy. And as you go through the book of First Corinthians, they weren't acting very saintly. Chapters one through four, they're divided over their favorite Bible teachers. Chapter five, they're involved in incest. Chapter six, they are suing each other in front of unbelieving judges and visiting temple prostitutes. Chapter seven, there's rampant divorce and remarriage. Chapters eight through ten, those who understood their freedoms in Christ were flaunting their freedoms in the presence of weaker brothers with less understanding, which was causing division. Chapter 11, they're drunk at the Lord's table. Chapters 12 through 14, they are all imbalanced in the area of spiritual gifts. They're putting tongue talkers on a pedestal with no interpretation. And Paul is saying, "If people came into your church right now, they would think you're stark raving mad." In chapter 15, they're throwing overboard the doctrine of the resurrection.

I challenge you to find one place in that whole book where Paul says, "You guys aren't saved because you're not persevering." They had been born spiritually. They were stumbling in growth but not stumbling in birth and being born. Birth truths and growth truths are two different things that Calvinists do not separate.

John Calvin could write a commentary on First Corinthians with all of this powerful language and say, *Well, we don't really know if they're saved until we see if they persevere in their calling. That's* the perseverance of the saints. Then after that whole mess in the first book of the Corinthians, Paul calls them saints at the beginning of the second book: "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia." That's the same group he just finished talking about. And John Calvin just skipped right over these verses and put a big question mark as to whether these people are saved at all because we don't know if they're going to persevere. Now, if they do persevere and they are the elect, then once saved always saved, but we just don't know if they're the elect yet because they haven't persevered.

**Paul Washer**
Everybody loves Paul Washer. But just because someone has the gift of gab doesn't mean he's teaching the right stuff. Just because someone is eloquent on YouTube doesn't mean he's arrived at truth. People quote Paul Washer because they like the way he talks. But when Paul Washer talks, he just rehashes over and over and over again this Calvinistic perseverance of the saints. And he says things like, "The doctrine of the carnal Christian has destroyed more lives and sent more people to hell than you can imagine."9 Now I didn't know the carnal Christian was a doctrine. Some call it a doctrine; I just call it reading comprehension because the apostle Paul calls the Corinthians carnal, but Washer says it's a doctrine, meaning that it's some kind of thing floating around out there. Carnal Christianity is, as much as it's unfortunate and we don't promote it, what we would call an unfortunate possibility.

I guess in Paul Washer's mind, we teach the doctrine of the carnal Christian, and we're giving people permission to live licentiously, which, of course, proves they're not one of the elect. That's what he's basically saying here. But we *don't* promote carnal Christianity. We warn against it. But you can't warn against something that's not a possibility. If you really get into what they're teaching, folks like Paul Washer don't believe in carnal Christianity. They don't think it's such a thing. Yet Paul clearly talks about it in the third chapter of First Corinthians (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

**A.W. Pink (1886-1952)**
A.W. Pink said, "Reader, if there is a reserve in your obedience, you are on the way to hell."10 He means that if God has told you to do something and there's *any* hesitancy in your life about it, then that's just evidence you're not one of the elect because you're not persevering. I hope you see that.

To say something like that, A.W. Pink must reject eternal security. *Oh, I teach eternal security. I'm just not going to let you know whether you have it or not because I don't know if you persevered.* Of course, he has persevered perfectly, right? We could talk a lot about that. Here's a guy who died as an angry person at the end of his life, lashing out at everyone in his writings, which you can see if you read them. And what did Jesus say? The standard you use will be used against you. If I took Pink's standard and used it against him, I could question whether *he* was a believer or not because I'm not sure he persevered at the end exactly like he should have.

A.W. Pink says this concerning salvation, "Something more than believing in Christ is necessary to ensure the soul's reaching heaven."11

So, you believe in Jesus. That's great. But we've got to see more. Well, why do I have to see more? I have to see more because I don't know if you're one of the elect or not. I don't know if you really have the "gift of faith" unless you persevere. Because if you don't persevere, you were never given the gift of faith by God in the first place. And so, your faith is just your own. And therefore, it's spurious and not real. Wow. I have no idea why people read this and don't just denounce it as heretical because to me it's faith plus what?—perseverance equals salvation.

By the way, is that what Jesus told the thief on the cross? A guy who trusted in Christ at the end of his life. In Luke 23, there's nothing about *you better commit, obey, persevere, serve, get baptized*. Jesus just immediately granted him the assurance of salvation upon faith by saying, " Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (v. 43).
In his book *The Doctrine of Sanctification*, Pink writes:

> [H]oliness in this life is such *a part* of our salvation that it is *a necessary means* to make us meet to be *partakers of the inheritance* of the saints in heavenly light and glory.12 (emphasis in original)

So, according to Pink, if you're going to get your inheritance in glorification, then we have to see holiness in this life. How much holiness? They don't say. It's very subjective. And once you buy into this, you have to spend the rest of your life wondering if you've manifested enough holiness. In the verse I gave you earlier (on page 5) from the apostle Peter, you can see that Peter didn't teach that. Peter taught how God *preserves* us and keeps us by the "power of God." Peter never says that this is conditional upon your being on probation. That would make it conditional upon production of holiness. Peter never said that in 1 Peter 1:4-5, but Arthur Pink teaches that.

**John Otis**
John Otis, a reformed minister, states that "maintaining an unforgiving spirit . . . will surely destroy your souls in hell."13

So if you're not following the biblical command to forgive as you've been forgiven (Ephesians 4:32), that's just evidence you're not one of the elect. And if you die in that state, you're on your way to hell. Now, should we forgive as we've been forgiven? I would recommend it because God told us to do that, and our lives and emotions will be in a lot better state of equilibrium if we live that way. But what if at the end of your life you haven't yet gotten rid of one of your grudges against somebody who hurt you in the past? And you're unforgiving towards that person. Well, in John Otis' eyes, that proves you're not one of the elect because you're not persevering. And so you're in danger of hellfire. This is taking relational forgiveness, and instead of putting it in the category of Christian growth, Christian reward, they're putting it in the category of Christian birth, which is another gospel.

**John Murray (1898-1975)**
John Murray, a Calvinist theologian who helped found the Westminster Theological Seminary, writes:

> The crucial test of true faith is endurance till the end, abiding in Christ, continuance in the word. . . . He cannot abandon himself to sin.14

Oh, you mean like David did? Yeah, but David came back, didn't he? Yes, he did. But what if David had died before he came back? Well, he's out. Murray continues:

> He cannot come under the domination of sin. He cannot be guilty of certain kinds of unfaithfulness.15

Certain kinds? What kinds? Are you talking about profanity? Are you talking about an anger problem? Are you talking about gambling? Are you talking about substance abuse? Well, they don't define it. So the poor sheep are always trying to figure out if they have crossed the line when no one tells them where the line is? They cannot be guilty of "certain kinds of unfaithfulness." Murray continues:

> Let us appreciate the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints and recognize that we may entertain the faith of our security in Christ only as we persevere in faith and holiness to the end.16

Translation: You have *no* assurance of salvation at all—unless your life is in some kind of upward trajectory spiritually. Your assurance in his mind doesn't come from God's promises and God's commitment to keep you. It comes from *your* performance. And that performance better be in an upward ascent to the end, or you're not one of the elect because you haven't persevered. Murray goes on:

> The perseverance of the saints [see how he keeps saying that over and over again] reminds us very forcibly that only those who persevere to the end are truly saints.17

See that word truly? I mean, there's believers, but who are the *true* believers? That's what he's saying.

That's why our missions committee here at Sugar Land Bible Church took out some of that language in our missionary questionnaire about *truly saved*. We don't use that type of language around here because that's Calvinistic. You're either saved, or you're not. You either have trusted in Christ for salvation, or you haven't. Calvinists create this whole new category of believers—there are people who believe, but are they truly believers? Maybe it's just their *own* faith rather than the gift of faith. And if you start thinking that way, not only does it destroy you individually because you're always looking at yourself, you're also not looking at the Cross anymore. It's always all of this introspection. And I can't think of a more depressing subject than looking at myself all day long. I mean, I don't want to look at myself. I want to look at Jesus. But this whole system gets your eyes off Jesus, and it gets them onto yourself. And not only are you looking at yourself all the time, you're also looking at other people. *Uh-oh. Sister so-and-so skipped choir rehearsal two Wednesdays in a row. I don't know. Maybe she's not quite in.* It leads to this really hypercritical judgmental spirit against other Christians who are having problems.

**John MacArthur (1939-2025)**
I agree with John MacArthur on many things but disagree with him on the biggest thing, which is the Gospel. He wrote a book called *Saved Without a Doubt,* which is the most misnamed book in the history of Christianity. If you read his book, you will not think you're saved without a doubt. You'll spend your whole life doubting whether you *are* saved. So, how does John MacArthur give people assurance of salvation? It's not based on what Jesus promised you at the point of faith. It's based on what you're doing. Here is a statement from his book:

> If a person fails to love and obey the Lord through the trials of life . . .18

Stop the quote right there. Have you ever gotten discouraged with the Lord on the trials of life? I sure have. I've had days where I'm so upset by something going on in my life, I just throw a little pity party. I can identify with people who get upset with the Lord, fail to obey the Lord in the trials of life. Now, when people do that, that's a growth problem. That's a rewards issue. That's not a *maybe you're not a child of God* problem because these kinds of things don't keep you as a child of God. What keeps you as a child of God is God's promises and God's grace. And once that net is built (like the one I mentioned earlier under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco), watch your productivity for the Lord accelerate because you've got this issue fixed. But MacArthur says:

> If a person fails to love and obey the Lord through the trials of life, then there is no evidence that he or she is a true believer. How many people do you know who followed Christ for a while, had some trouble in their lives, and then went away from him? Although they may have made a profession of faith in Christ, they cannot be identified as those who love Him, because their lives are not characterized by an enduring obedience.19

See what he's saying here? Their faith isn't real if they're not persevering, not enduring, not obedient. And if they're not persevering, maybe they have spurious faith rather than God's faith. Maybe they're not one of the elect. That's exactly what John MacArthur is saying. All he's doing is reaching back in years to John Calvin and recycling the perseverance of the saints into modern evangelicalism. And all John Calvin did is reach back over a thousand years and grab these distorted doctrines from Augustine (Augustine being the Catholic's Catholic).

**Charles Hodge (1797-1898)**
Calvinist theologian Charles Hodge stated, in referring to evidence of being elected:

> The only evidence of election is effectual calling, that is, the production of holiness. And the only evidence of the genuineness of this call and the certainty of our perseverance is a patient continuance in well doing.20

You better be producing holiness, and you better not let it up, or you're not one of the elect because you're not persevering. And the only evidence of the "genuineness of this call" means some have true faith, some have false faith.

There it is in black and white by one of Calvinism's premier theologians—your genuineness, the authenticity of your salvation, is found in your personal subjective life experiences. It's not on the objective promises of God. It's on the subjective, which can vacillate from day to day in your own personal experiences.

If someone who is caught up in a cycle of sin comes to me for counseling, the first thing I'm going to ask him is, "Are you saved? Have you ever trusted Christ for salvation?" And if he says he's never done that, I'm going to try to lead him to salvation through Jesus Christ. But here's what I'm not going to tell him, "Yeah, I know you're *telling* me you're saved, but you have to prove to me you're saved because if you don't prove to me you're saved, you're not going to Heaven." Instead, what I'm going to tell him is, "God has given you resources at the point of faith alone in Christ alone that will help you overcome your cycle of sin. And I exhort you to overcome your cycle of sin because that has a bearing on rewards and a bearing on sparing yourself from a lot of temporal consequences. If you don't overcome your cycle of sin and you're telling me you are a saved person, I'm not going to second guess whether you're saved or not because I know the reality of a non-persevering Christian." Calvinism says there's no such thing as a non-persevering Christian. The Bible says there is. Not that it's good. But it's what we call an unfortunate possibility.

**John Piper**
In an article that once sat on his website, Calvinist author and now-retired pastor John Piper said the following:

> No Christian can be sure that he is a true believer. Hence there is an ongoing need [perseverance] to be dedicated to the Lord and to deny ourselves so that we *might* make it.21 (emphasis added)

Just compare that to what Jesus said to the thief on the cross. "Today, you'll be with me in paradise." Notice where Piper says "might." Piper comes along and says, *Maybe you're going to make it. Maybe you're not going to make it. Because I really don't know if you're one of the elect until you persevere till the end.*

In an article by Piper that is *still* on his website today, he says that what he means by the "doctrine of the perseverance of the saints" is that "the saints will and must persevere *in faith and the obedience which comes from faith*" and that "Our faith must endure to the end if we are to be saved . . . We must endure

to the end in faith if we are to be saved."22 (emphasis in original) The question is, how much persevering and how much enduring must we do? We are not told.

**Thomas Schreiner**
Thomas Schreiner, a Calvinist academic, introduced something called "final justification." You'll find this language of "final justification" or "final salvation" in Schreiner, in John Piper, in Michael Horton,23 and many other Calvinist writers. Schreiner says, "The [New Testament] clearly teaches that bare faith cannot save."24

Bare faith cannot save? I thought that was the whole deal. Faith alone in Christ alone. I thought that's what the whole exchange with the thief on the cross was about. I thought the thief on the cross had nothing to offer but trust in the provision of Jesus. And Schreiner comes along and says, *that's not enough.*

Schreiner continues in that quote saying that "works are necessary for final justification and final salvation."25 Isn't that faith plus works? And what in the world is he talking about here when he says, "final salvation and final justification"? Basically, what it means is information needs to be collected on you throughout the course of your life to determine if the faith you have is really from God. Because if it's really from God (and remember the Calvinists teach that faith is from God because we are rocks and can't have faith of our own), it's always going to endure. It's always going to persevere. So, what God is doing is He's collecting data on you as your life progresses. You're going to get to the very end of your life, and God is going to look at all the data and say, "Check; they're in. They persevered enough."

In this Calvinistic view, your justification is not declared at the *beginning* of salvation, but at the end of salvation. Have you ever heard of such a doctrine? It's just flatly and patently unbiblical. But this is what Calvinists teach. You get to the end of your life, maybe the good deeds outweighed the bad, and you're in. Your declaration of innocence doesn't come at the point of faith like Jesus gave to the thief on the cross. It comes at the end.

What do they say about justification? *We* say justification is the declaration of innocence that the lost sinner receives at the point of faith in Christ alone. It means we are justified before God. It's an announcement of our innocence that happens at the beginning of salvation when we first trust in Christ. The *Calvinists* say, "No, justification actually happens at the end. God is going to collect information on you throughout your Christian life. And if you persevere, demonstrating you're one of the elect, then you get your grant of justification at the end rather than the beginning."

And we wonder why so many people in the church have emotional problems and everything else. Well, they have no security. They have no assurance. They have nobody who has built the net, like the one underneath the builders at the Golden Gate Bridge. It's just tragic.

## Eight Problems With the Calvinistic Perseverance Definition

This booklet is taken from my 54-part lecture series on Calvinism. After my introduction to analyzing the P in T.U.L.I.P. (Perseverance of the Saints), on which this booklet is based, I list eight problems with the Calvinistic definition of perseverance of the saints. For an in-depth study on each of these points, I encourage you to watch the series on the Internet (see the links on the copyright page). Below are these eight problems with a brief explanation of each.

1. **Final Salvation is unbiblical.** What in the world is this final salvation thing? Well, it's the idea that information is being stored on you. And if you make it to the end of your life in perseverance, then guess what? You were one of the elect. Your justification is declared about you or to you at the end of the process rather than the beginning. Final salvation is an outworking of the perseverance of the saints.
2. **Scriptural examples of non-persevering saints.** One of the easiest ways to debunk this perseverance of the saints doctrine is to show you all the examples in the Bible of people whose salvation is clearly not in doubt. And yet their life didn't end on a note of victory. At the end of their lives, they obviously weren't persevering. Yet there's no doubt they were saved. Some examples from the Old Testament are Noah, Lot, Moses, the Exodus generation, Samson, Saul, Solomon, and there are several examples from the New Testament such as Simon the sorcerer and as I discussed earlier, the believers in Corinth.
3. **Support only found in out-of-context verses.** Support for the teaching of perseverance of the saints is found in verses that have been ripped out of their context completely and totally. When someone quotes the Bible, we shouldn't be overly impressed with that because the devil quotes the Bible (Luke 4:9-12). We have to ask ourselves as good Bereans, are they using the Bible properly? You can make the Bible say whatever you want it to say if you don't care about context. There are typically seven verses used to support perseverance of the saints.**** But when read in context, none of them have anything to do with the Calvinistic understanding of the perseverance of the saints.
4. **Subtle form of works salvation.** The doctrine of perseverance of the saints is actually a subtle form of works salvation: If you *really* are a Christian and you *really* are regenerated and you *really* are saved (and in the Calvinistic way of thinking, if you *really* are one of the elect), then we need to see commitment, obedience, perseverance, and service. Contrary to that, God gives one condition for eternal life, which is faith in Jesus Christ alone. The Bible says this 160 times.
5. **Preferability of immediate death following conversion.** With perseverance of the saints, it would be better if someone just died immediately following conversion because if his life does not end on an upward swing, if he is not persevering enough at the end of his life, then he is not one of the elect.
6. **Lessens the importance of practical sanctification.** If the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints is true, and all the elect will ultimately persevere in good works and doctrine, then as a pastor, I do not have to teach on progressive sanctification anymore. I do not have to teach on the need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit via progressive sanctification because it is all going to happen automatically for the elect. And since progressive sanctification is all going to happen automatically for the elect, why waste my time talking about it?
7. **Lessens the importance of the Bema Seat warnings.** The Bema Seat Judgment of Christ26 is no big deal if you believe in the perseverance of the saints. According to the perseverance of the saints teaching, everybody (who's elect) is going to persevere. Everybody gets a participation ribbon. There is nothing to lose. There is nothing to shun. There is nothing to avoid. If I end up a loser at the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ, that just means I was never saved to begin with.
8. **Destroys the assurance of salvation.** If you believe in perseverance of the saints, the way the Calvinists teach it, you will go through your whole Christian life with no assurance of salvation because you are always wondering, "Am I persevering enough?" And the Calvinists do not define what the bar is. "Maybe I am not persevering enough." That is what your mind is satanically open to, once you buy into this perseverance of the saints. You might be crystal clear on eternal security. You might believe in it—"once saved, always saved." But you just do not know if you have it or not. Perseverance of the saints annihilates the assurance of salvation.

   Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)

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*Calvinists erroneously teach that total depravity (the "T" in T.U.L.I.P.) means that man is in some kind of insensate state like a rock unable to respond to God at all even when God convicts them. So God does a work on the front end where He regenerates those who are elect, and He imparts the "gift of faith" because man can't believe on his own.

**A person receives salvation and eternal life by believing in Jesus Christ alone and trusting in what He accomplished (e.g., Acts 16:30-31; Ephesians 2:8-9)

***Lordship Salvation "refers to that belief which says the sinner who wants to be saved must *not only* trust Christ as his substitute for sin, but must *also* surrender every area of his life to the complete control of Christ." (emphasis added) (see endnote #6 below for source citation)

****The discussion on these seven verses begins #42 of Dr. Woods' Calvinism series, starting at minute mark 13:00.

**Editor's Note:** The content of this booklet is taken from Dr. Woods' 54-week series on Calvinism that can be watched on the Sugar Land Bible Church YouTube channel (under Playlists at https://www.youtube.com/@SugarLandBibleChurch) and on the Andy Woods Ministries website at

https://www.andywoodsministries.org/media/series/3czk2kq/neo-calvinism-vs-the-bible.

**To order copies of *Calvinism's Perseverance of the Saints—Why the "P" in T.U.L.I.P. Provides No Assurance of Salvation* in booklet format, click here.**

**Endnotes:**


1. Loraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* (Ontario, Canada: Devoted Publishing, 1932), p. 142.
2. Dr. Woods discusses the "gift of faith" in #21 of his Calvinism series: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osed2Zk8cMg.
3. Kenneth G. Talbot and W. Gary Crampton, *Calvinism, Hyper-Calvinism, and Arminianism* (Edmonton, AB: Still Waters Revival Books, 1990), p. 52.
4. Bob Kirkland, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy* (Roseburg, OR: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2018), p. 34. Part of Kirkland's quote is from Dave Hunt's book, *T.U.L.I.P. and the Bible* (Bend, OR: The Berean Call, 2012), p. 171.
5. "The Psychological Effects of Lordship Salvation" (see a copy at: https://faithalone.org/journal-articles/the-psychological-effects-of-lordship-salvation/).
6. Robert Lightner, *Sin, the Savior, and Salvation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1996), p. 202. (This endnote is for the quote above with the *** at the end of this post).
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12. A.W. Pink, *The Doctrine of Sanctification* (Zeeland, MI: Reformed Church Publications, 2009), p. 16; citing Puritan Walter Marshall 1692 book, *The Gospel-Mystery of Sanctification*, p. 127.
13. John Otis, "Who is the Genuine Christian?" (The Council of Chalcedon, 1988), p. 20; article on file with publisher.
14. John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2015), pp. 152, 154-155, 165.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. John MacArthur, *Saved Without a Doubt: Being Sure of Your Salvation* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2011 edition; original edition was in 1992 by Victor Books), p. 176.
19. Ibid.
20. Charles Hodge, *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* (Philadelphia, PA: Grigg & Elliot, 1835 edition), p. 366.
21. This quote was originally on John Piper's website in a positional paper titled, "What We Believe About the Five Points of Calvinism," published in 1997 (https://web.archive.org/web/19981203162727/http://desiringgod.org). In Dave Hunt's book, *What Love is This?* (The Berean Call, 2013, 4th edition), p. 483, Hunt cites this quote by Piper, referencing Bob Wilkin in *The Grace Report* (July 2000) who heard, firsthand, Piper make this statement at R.C. Sproul's Ligonier National Conference in June of 2000 in Florida.
22. From the current version of "What We Believe About the Five Points of Calvinism" on John Piper's website: https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-we-believe-about-the-five-points-of-calvinism#Perseverance.
23. Michael Horton, *Introducing Covenant Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006), p. 182.
24. Thomas Schreiner, *Faith Alone—The Doctrine of Justification* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015), p. 191.
25. Ibid.
26. Dr. Woods explains the Bema Seat Judgment in his Soteriology Series, #058, which can be viewed on the Sugar Land Bible Church YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/@SugarLandBibleChurch) or at www.andywoodsministries.org.



Dr. Andy Woods graduated with High Honors earning two Baccalaureate Degrees in Business Administration and Political Science (University of Redlands, CA.) and obtained a Juris Doctorate at Whittier Law School. He earned a Master of Theology degree with High Honors (2002) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Bible Exposition (2009) at Dallas Theological Seminary. Formerly a professor of Bible and theology at the College of Biblical Studies in Houston (2009-2016), Andy now serves as president of Chafer Theological Seminary and senior pastor of Sugar Land Bible Church. He lives with his wife, Anne, and daughter, Sarah. Dr. Woods has contributed to numerous theological journals and Christian books and has spoken on a variety of topics at Christian conferences. His website is https://www.andywoodsministries.org. You can also see many of his talks on YouTube on the Sugar Land Bible Church channel.


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**A note to our Canadian readers:** As many of you know, in 2019, we were informed by the Canadian government that some of our booklets cannot be sent across the border into Canada because they would be considered "hate propaganda" according to Canadian law changes on homosexuality, same-sex marriage,and transgenderism. However, we also learned that it is currently *not* illegal for Canadians to have possession of these booklets (we just can't send them across the border). Therefore, Canadian readers may call 866-295-4143, the number of our Canadian distributor, to obtain copies of all of our booklets.

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