



FIRST BAPTIST
MERIDIANVILLE
REAL. FAMILY.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE
BAPTIST
FAITH &
MESSAGE
2000

Baptist Faith and Message 2000

God's Purpose of Grace

“Eternal Security”

Article V



Article V

God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; **yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.**

Key Verses

Romans 8:28-39

1 Peter 1:23 Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22:

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.



Key Verses

John 10:27-29

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Key Verses

John 10:27-29: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

Key Verses

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Key Verses

2 Timothy 2:10: “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”



Major Theological Observations

“All true believers endure to the end.”

- “Once Saved Always Saved” must be grounded in God’s Regeneration not Man’s Ability
- Our salvation is grounded in the action of the Holy Trinity on our behalf. Father, the Son, and the Spirit assure us of our final destiny.

Genuine Belief vs. Believing in Vain

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

Genuine Belief vs. Believing in Vain

1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

Genuine Belief vs. Believing in Vain

The Parable of the Sower / Parable of the Soils

Matthew 13:3-23, Mark 4:3-20, and Luke 8:5-15

Seeds Along the Path: These represent those who hear the message of the kingdom but do not understand it. The evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in their hearts.

Seeds on Rocky Ground: These represent those who receive the message with joy initially but have no root. They endure for a while but fall away when trouble or persecution arises.

Seeds Among Thorns: These represent those who hear the word but are choked by the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches, leading them to be unfruitful.

Seeds on Good Soil: These represent those who hear the word and understand it. They bear fruit and yield a harvest, demonstrating a fruitful and enduring faith.

Major Theological Observations

Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end.

Vance Havner, “The faith that fizzles before the finish was faulty from the first.”

- **The sign of perseverance is continuance in faith. We keep on because we are kept by God.**

Major Theological Observations

“Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves”

- This is why we have warning passages!

Major Theological Observations

- Warning passages!
 - Hebrews 10:26 - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Major Theological Observations

Galatians 5:1-4

1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

Major Theological Observations

“yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.”

- The nature of salvation gives assurance to the saints.
- Salvation is the act of God, not an action of man.
- Salvation includes justification, the declaration that one is righteous based on the righteousness of Christ. This legal declaration cannot be overturned.
- Further, salvation involves the reception of everlasting life.