

←--Arminianism-----Calvinism-----Hyper-Calvinism--→		
No Assurance	Full Assurance	Little, if any, Assurance

I grew up on “eternal security” preaching. I loved it and still love those texts. They gave me then and still give me both hope and strength!

**John 5:24** 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 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. **John 10:29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.

**2 Timothy 1:12** For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

**Romans 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **Romans 8:36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. **Romans 8:37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **Romans 8:38** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **Romans 8:39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As a young man (18-20), I was challenged with and by Arminian views. I soon recognized the handful of texts that taught “losing your salvation.” As a Pastor I started to wrestle with perseverance and how faith and works related to salvation.

### **Introductory thoughts:**

- 1. Christians rarely see this as a system – that is that God speaks with one voice!**
- 2. Christians usually think one or two verses are sufficient to know “what the Bible says / teaches,” &/ “what I believe!”**

**Matthew 24:13** But he that shall endure unto the end (εἰς τέλος), the same shall be saved.

**This verse settles many things for a large swath of Christians but completely fails to consider the context:**

- End of what?
- Saved from what?
- Endure for what?

**Matthew 24:3** And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end (τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος) of the world?

**Matthew 24:6** And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end (τὸ τέλος) is not yet.

**Matthew 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end (τὸ τέλος) come.

**Matthew 24:15** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) **Matthew 24:16** Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: **Matthew 24:17** Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: **Matthew 24:18** Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. **Matthew 24:19** And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

**Matthew 24:10** And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. **Matthew 24:21** For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was **not** since the beginning of the world to this time, **no, nor ever shall be. Matthew 24:22** And **except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

**John 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. **John 10:29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

**John 10:27** My sheep **hear** my voice, and **I know** them, and **they** follow me:

Remember:

One / two verses do not establish a doctrine.

The correct understanding of one verse does not disprove the opposite / other doctrine!

**3. Most assuredly this is more complex that any one verse!**

<b>Little, if any, assurance</b>	<b>Assurance</b>	<b>Full assurance</b>	<b>Assurance</b>	<b>Little, if any, assurance</b>
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<b>Eternal security</b>	<b>Eternal security + Perseverance of the saints</b>		<b>Perseverance of the saints</b>	

**John 5:24** 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.

**1 John 2:3** And hereby we do know that we know him, **if** we keep his commandments.

**1 John 3:10** In this the children of God are manifest, **and** the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is **not** of God, **neither** he that loveth not his brother.

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

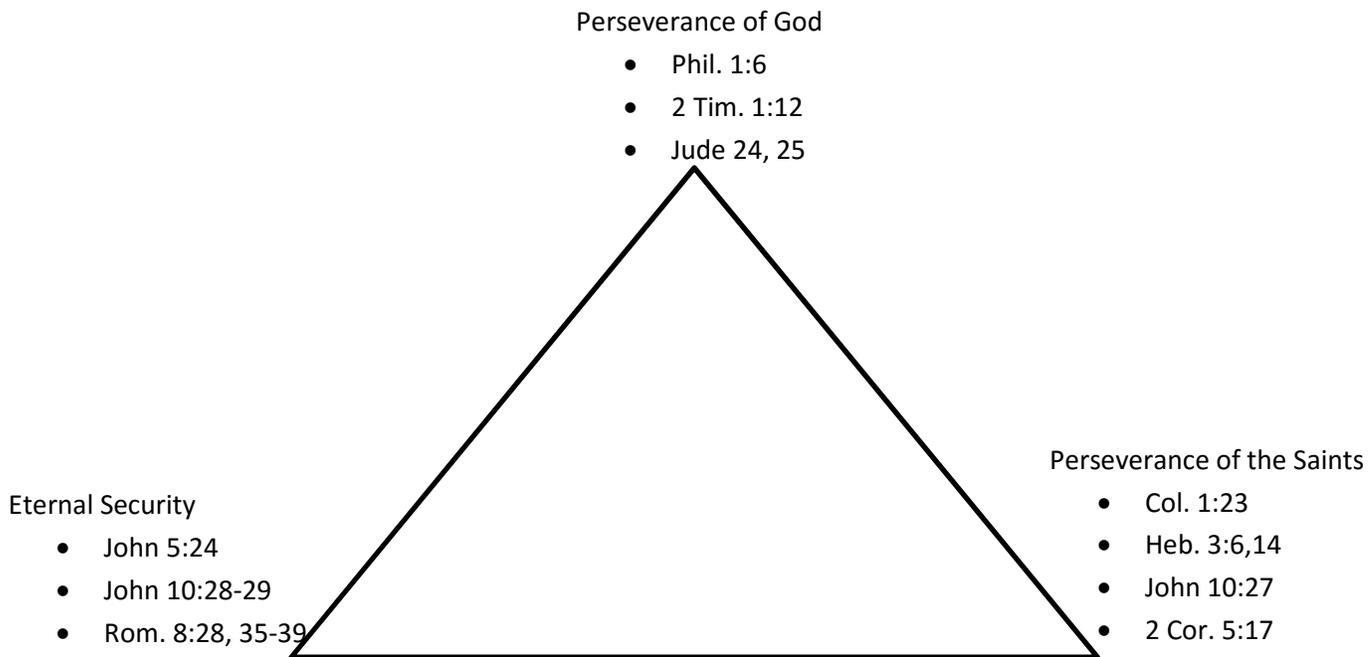
**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again **unto** (εἰς) a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **1 Peter 1:4 To** (εἰς) an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **1 Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith **unto** (εἰς) salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**Romans 11:29** For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Strangely, both Arminians and High / Hyper-Calvinists end up with little, if any, assurance. Both emphasize the absolute necessity of perseverance and in the end look a great deal alike.

Obviously, there are multiple positions → this is a continuum!



### Thoughts:

**1. Both concepts are repeatedly taught in the Scripture.**

**2. Both are obviously true**

**3. Both are true because of God's perseverance and not ours!**

**Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author (ἀρχηγόν) and finisher (τελειωτήν) of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**4. At the moment of salvation we are eternally secure**

**1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again **unto (εἰς)** a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **1 Peter 1:4 To (εἰς)** an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **1 Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith **unto (εἰς)** salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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**Romans 11:29** For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

**John 6:37** All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

## **5. God's people also become...godly!**

**Proverbs 4:18** But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. **Proverbs 4:19**

The way of the wicked is **as** darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

**John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, **and they follow me:**

**Galatians 5:6** For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; **but faith which worketh by love.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**1 John 2:3** And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **1 John 2:4** He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **1 John 2:5** But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. **1 John 2:6** He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

**1 John 2:9** He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

**1 John 2:10** He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. **1 John 2:11** But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

**1 John 3:10** In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

**Godliness can be called many different names / go by many different names: follow(ing), obey, obedience, Christ-like, works, good works, fruit of the Spirit, growth in grace....**

**Logically, salvation can only have 1 of 4 relationships with faith and works:**

**1. Works → salvation (no Christian group believes this)**

**2. Faith + works → salvation**

**3. Faith → salvation + no necessary good works (faith is shorthand for faith alone in Christ alone)**

**4. Faith → salvation → good works (faith is shorthand for faith alone in Christ alone)**