

←--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 than any one verse!

Little, if any, assurance	Assurance	Full assurance	Assurance	Little, if any, assurance
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Eternal security	Eternal security + Perseverance of the saints		Perseverance of the saints	

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.

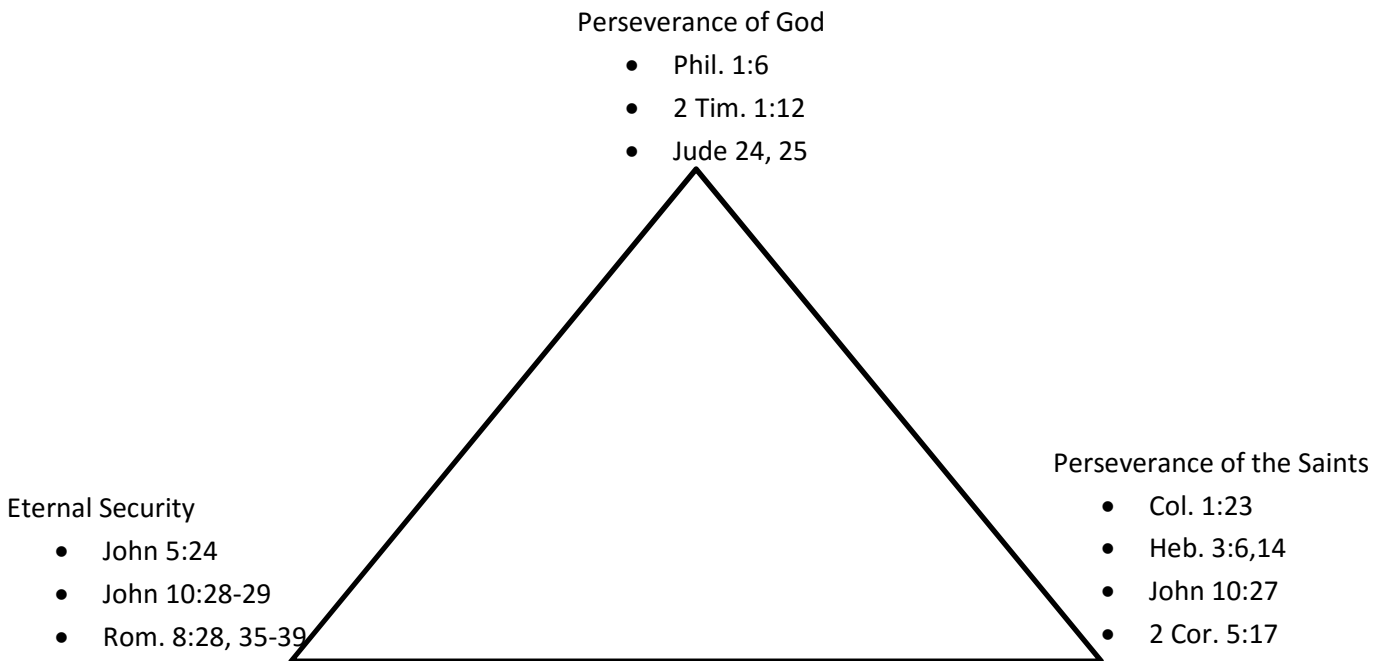
1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again **unto** (εἰς) a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **1 Peter 1:4 To** (εἰς) an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, 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)

The Role of Works in Salvation		
No role Just rewards	Confirmatory role + Basis of rewards	Essential role
Faith (faith eliminates works)	Faith → works	Faith ← works (works eliminate faith)
No role	Double role	Single role
No works	Works	Only works

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6. God's people become godly because of God → this is God's work!

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

1 John 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin (ἀμαρτίαν οὐ ποιεῖ); for (ὅτι) his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin (οὐ δύναται ἀμαρτάνειν), because (ὅτι) he is born of God.

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:

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **Philippians 2:13** For it is **God** which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

7. Lack of godliness means...?

➤ Lack of God &/ grace

John 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed (ἐπίστευσαν) in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. **John 2:24** But **Jesus did not commit** (οὐκ ἐπίστευεν ἑαυτὸν αὐτοῖς) **himself unto them**, because he knew all men, **John 2:25** And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

John 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, **This is an hard saying; who can hear it?**

John 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? **John 6:62** What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? **John 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. **John 6:64** But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. **John 6:65** And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? **John 6:68** Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. **John 6:69** And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 8:30 As he spake these words, many believed on him. **John 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed (ἀληθῶς); **John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? **John 8:34** Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.** **John 8:35** And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. **John 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. **John 8:37** I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

John 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. **John 8:39** They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. **John 8:40** But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. **John 8:41** Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, **We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.** **John 8:42** Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. **John 8:43** Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. **John 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

➤ Lack of maturity

1 John 2:12 I write unto you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. **1 John 2:13** I write unto you, **fathers**, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, **young men**, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, **little children**, because ye have known the Father. **1 John 2:14** I have written unto you, **fathers**, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, **young men**, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could **not** speak unto you as unto **spiritual**, but as unto **carnal**, **even as** unto **babes in Christ**. **1 Corinthians 3:2** I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. **1 Corinthians 3:3** For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, **are ye not carnal, and walk as men?** **1 Corinthians 3:4** For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; **2 Peter 1:6** And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; **2 Peter 1:7** And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. **2 Peter 1:8** For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 1:9** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. **2 Peter 1:10** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: **2 Peter 1:11** For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.