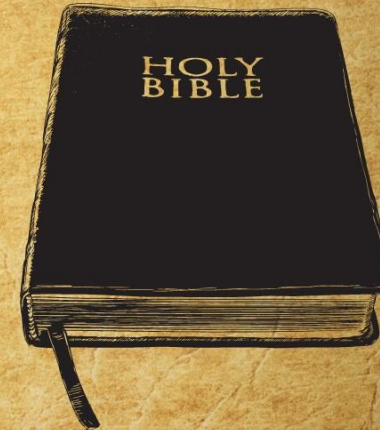


# NEO CALVINISM

# THE BIBLE



★ VS ★



★ THE FIGHT OF THE AGES ★



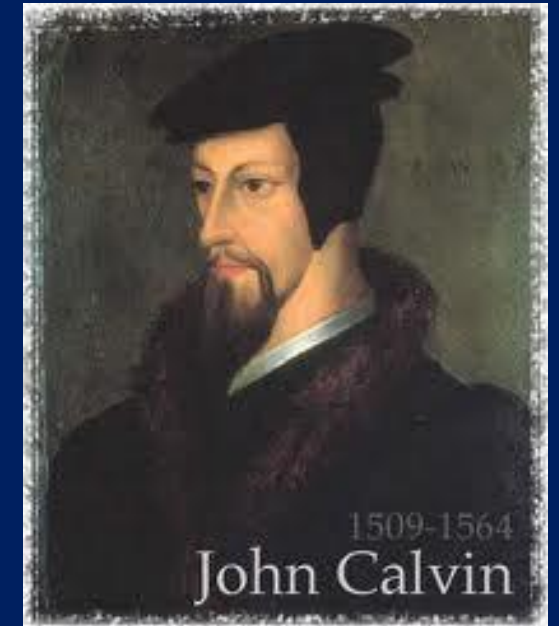
Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

# Neo-Calvinism vs. The Bible

- I. Calvinism's Mixed Blessing
- II. Why Critique Calvinism?
- III. The Source of Calvin's Theology
- IV. Calvin's Manner of Life
- V. **TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture**
- VI. Conclusion



## V. Running TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture

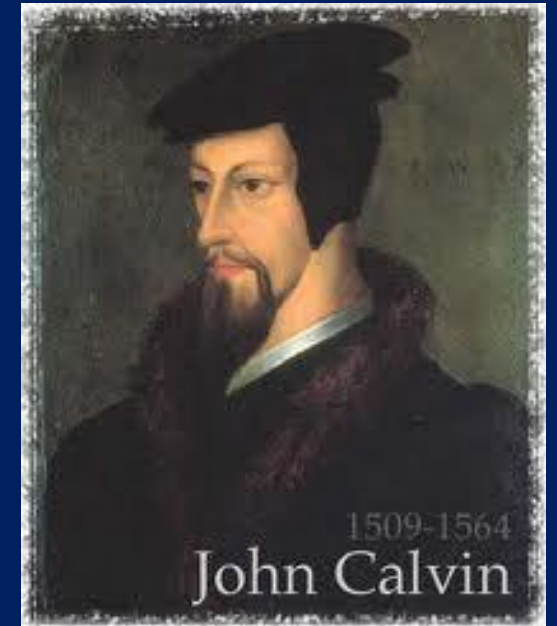
- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



**T Total Depravity**  
**U Unconditional Election**  
**L Limited Atonement**  
**I Irresistible Grace**  
**P Perseverance of the Saints**

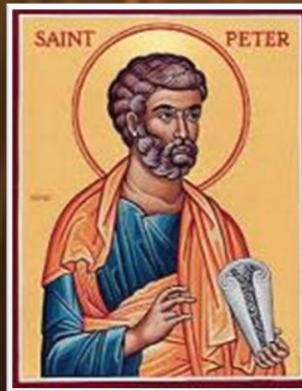
## E. Perseverance of the Saints

1. Calvinistic definition
2. Examples
3. Problems with the Calvinistic understanding



## 1 Peter 1:4-5

“<sup>4</sup> to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”



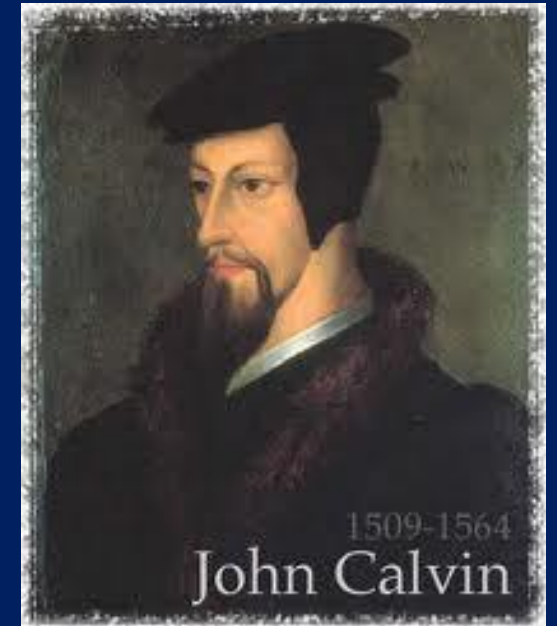
## Perseverance of the Saints = Perseverance in Good Works to the End of One's Life to Prove that He is One of the Elect

**“P”** stands for “Perseverance of the Saints.” This is what Calvinists say gives them the 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.”

Bob Kirkland, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy; Spotlight on the Life and Teachings of John Calvin* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails, 2018), 34.

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# John Calvin

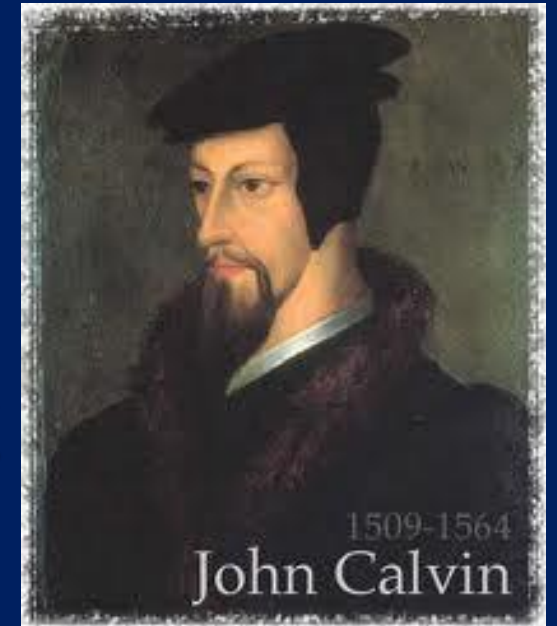
John Calvin, *Calvin's Calvinism: God's Eternal Predestination and Secret Providence* (Reformed Free Publishing Association, Kindle edition from the 2009 2nd edition), Kindle location 532.

Calvin said: “[T]hose who do not persevere unto the end belong not to the calling of God. The Fall of Adam was not by accident, nor by chance, but was ordained by the secret counsel of God.”



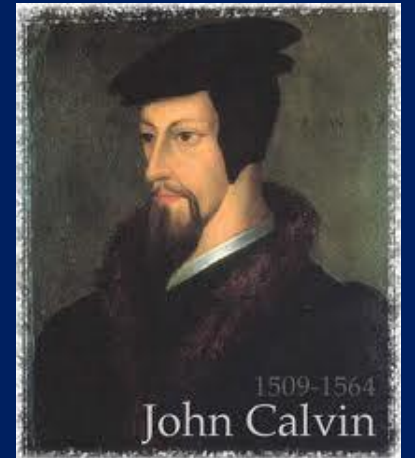
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### 3. Problems with the Calvinistic Perseverance Definition

- a) Final salvation is unbiblical
- b) Scriptural examples of non-persevering saints
- c) Support only found in out of context verses
- d) Subtle form of works salvation
- e) Preferability of immediate death following conversion?
- f) Lessens the importance of practical sanctification
- g) Lessens the importance of the Bema Seat warnings
- h) **Destroys the assurance of salvation**

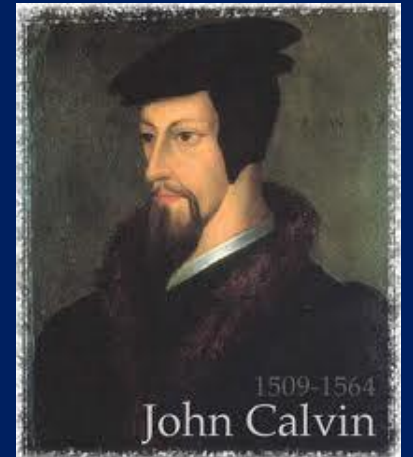


## h) Destroys the Assurance of Salvation

### 1) The Biblical View of the Assurance of Salvation

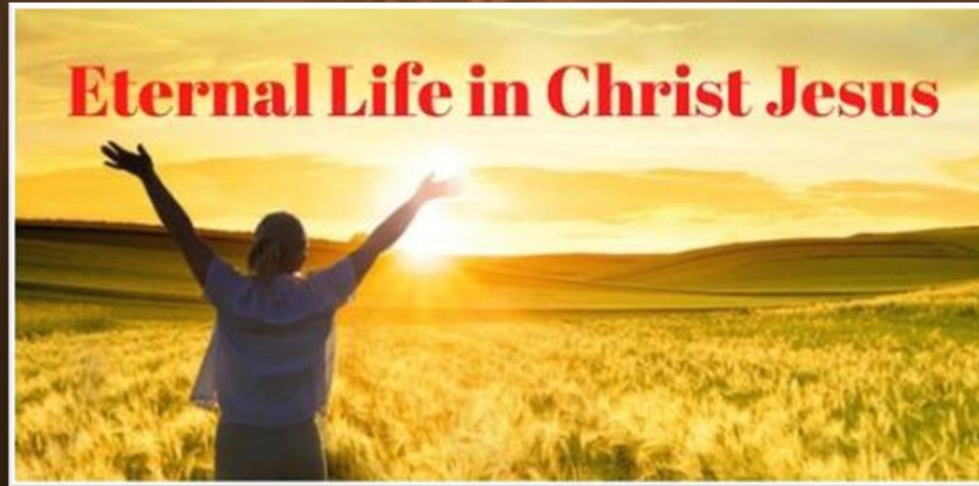
2) Examples of How the “Perseverance of the Saints” Destroys the Assurance of Salvation

3) Calvinism’s “Two Kinds of Faith” Doctrine damages the Assurance of Salvation

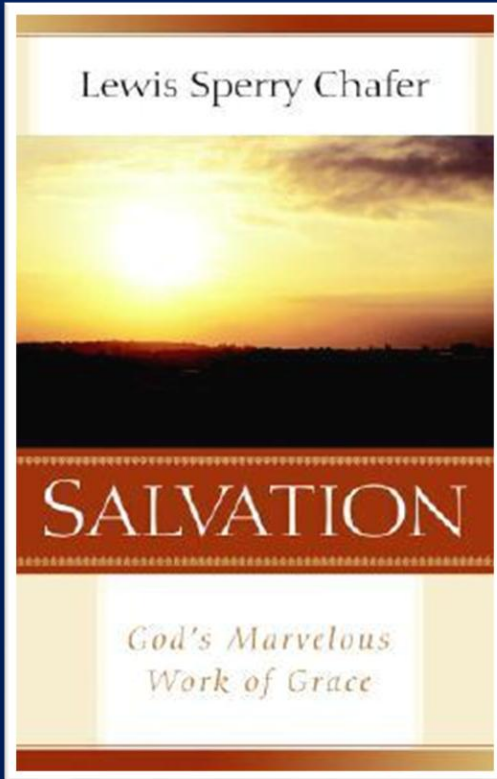


# 1 John 5:13

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”



# Lewis Sperry Chafer

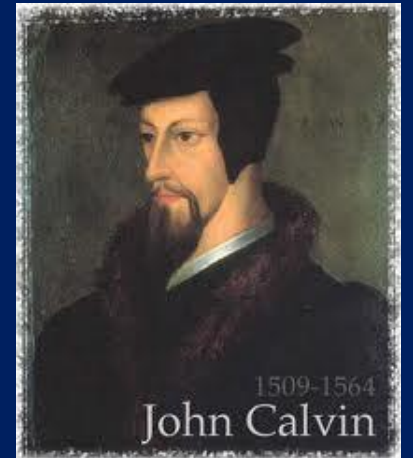


“There is a normal Christian experience. There are new and blessed emotions and desires. Old things do pass away; and behold all things do become new; but *all such experiences are but secondary evidences*, as to the fact of salvation, in that they grow out of that positive repose of faith which is the primary evidence.”

Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Salvation: A Clear Doctrinal Analysis*  
(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977), 60. Italics added

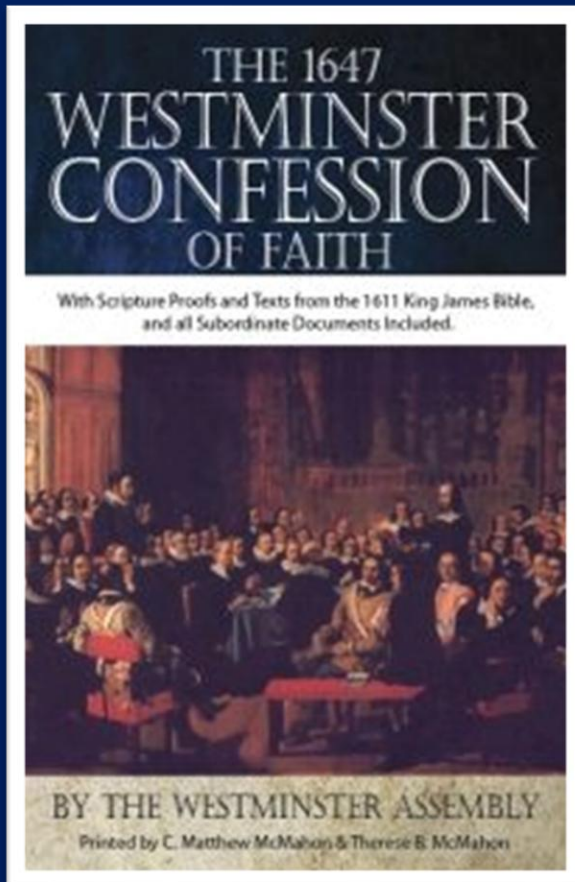
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# Westminster Confession Chapter XVIII, Article III

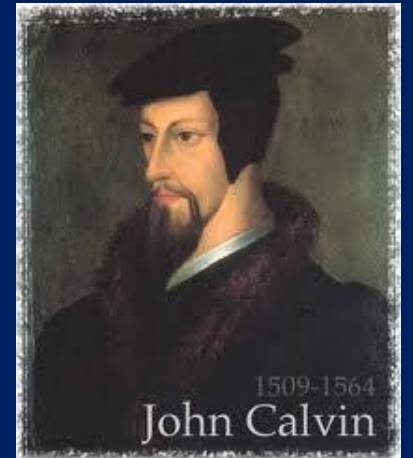
## – Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation



“This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer will wait long, and conflict with many difficulties before he be a partaker of it.”

## h) Destroys the Assurance of Salvation

- 1) The Biblical View of the Assurance of Salvation
- 2) Examples of How the “Perseverance of the Saints” Destroys the Assurance of Salvation
- 3) Calvinism’s “Two Kinds of Faith” Doctrine damages the Assurance of Salvation



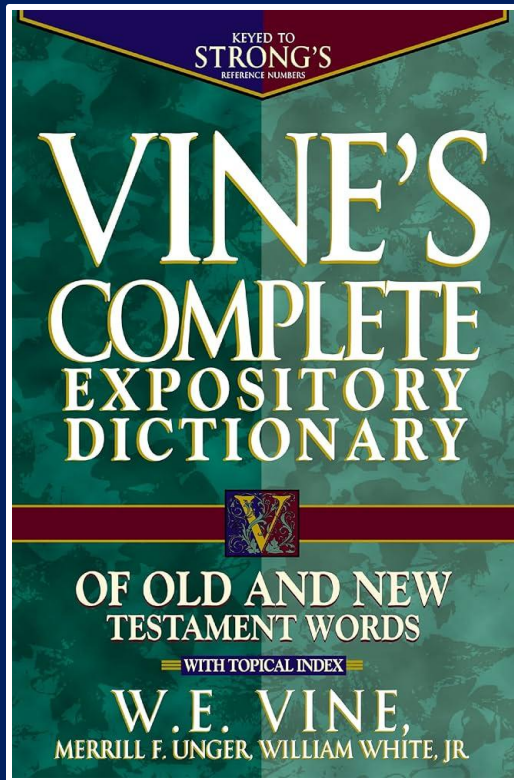


## William Hendriksen

William Hendriksen, *A Commentary on the Gospel of John*, 3d ed. (London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1964), p. 127. (1978). *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 135. (1978). *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 135.

“Many trusted in his name; i.e., because of the manner in which his power was displayed they accepted him as a great prophet and perhaps even as the Messiah. This, however, is not the same as saying that they surrendered their hearts to him. Not all faith is saving faith...”

# “Believe” Defined

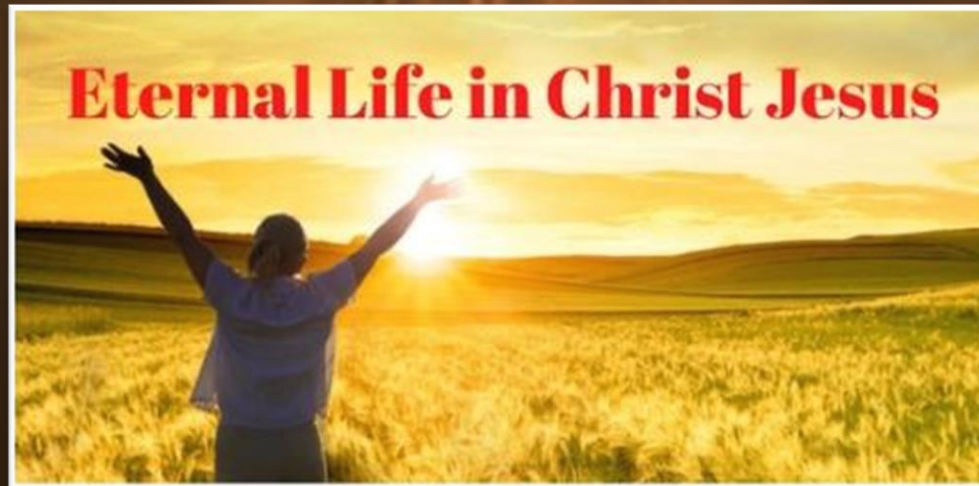


“*pisteuō*...’to believe,’ also ‘to be persuaded of,’ and hence, ‘to place confidence in, to trust,’ signifies, in this sense of the word, reliance upon, not mere credence. It is most frequent in the writings of the apostle John, especially the Gospel. He does not use the noun...Of the writers of the Gospels...uses of the verb...John ninety-nine.”

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Nelson, 1996), 61.

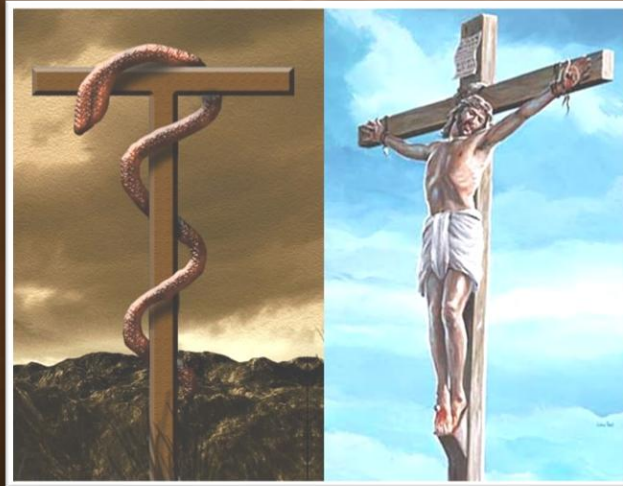
## Romans 4:5

“But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”



## John 3:14-15

“<sup>14</sup> As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; <sup>15</sup> so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.”



## Numbers 21:8-9

“<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live.’ <sup>9</sup> And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.”



## Robert Gromacki

*Salvation is Forever*, p. 88

“How many times did the people have to look at the serpent to be healed? **Just once**. One look prompted by faith was enough. So it is with Calvary. How many times must one look at Christ in faith to be saved? **Just once**. The faith that heals or saves is an act, a completed event, not an attitude.”

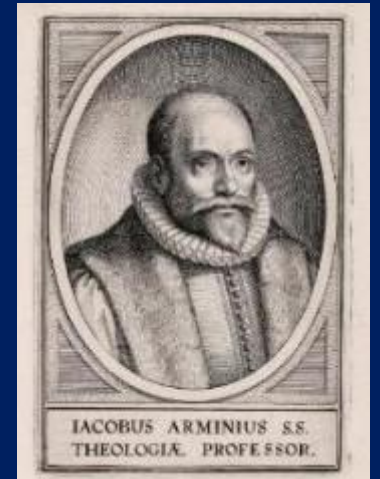
## John 20:30-31

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”



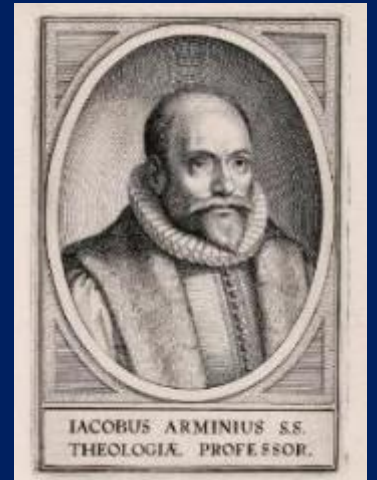
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2. Abuse of the present tense
3. Present tense does not always require continual behavior
4. Mark 6:14
  - a. John the “*the one continually baptizing?*”
  - b. John already dead!
  - c. Not describing continual baptizing
  - d. Just describing him
5. How many times do you have to **MURDER** before you are a **MURDERER**? Once! Same with a FISHERMAN & BELIEVER



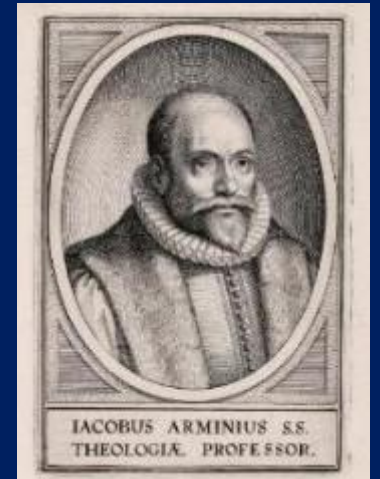
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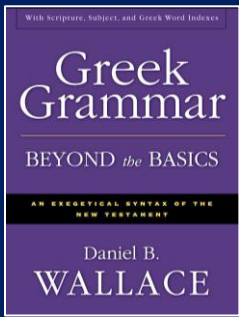
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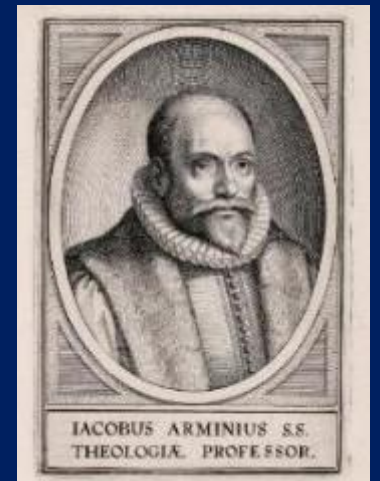
# Believing Forever? – No!

## Take Off Your Theological Lenses!

“The aspectual force of the present *ho pisteuōn* seems to be in contrast with *ho pisteusas*...The present was the tense of choice most likely because the NT writers by and large saw **continual belief as a necessary condition of salvation**. Along these lines, it seems significant that the promise of salvation is almost always given to *ho pisteuōn*, almost never to *ho pisteusas*...”

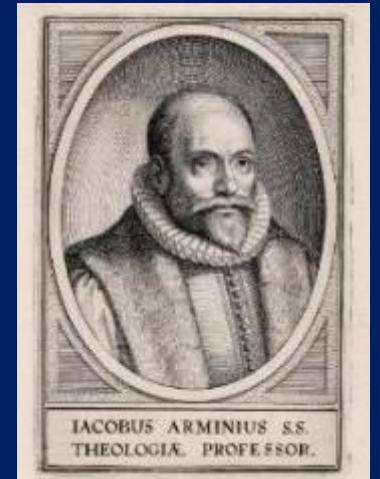
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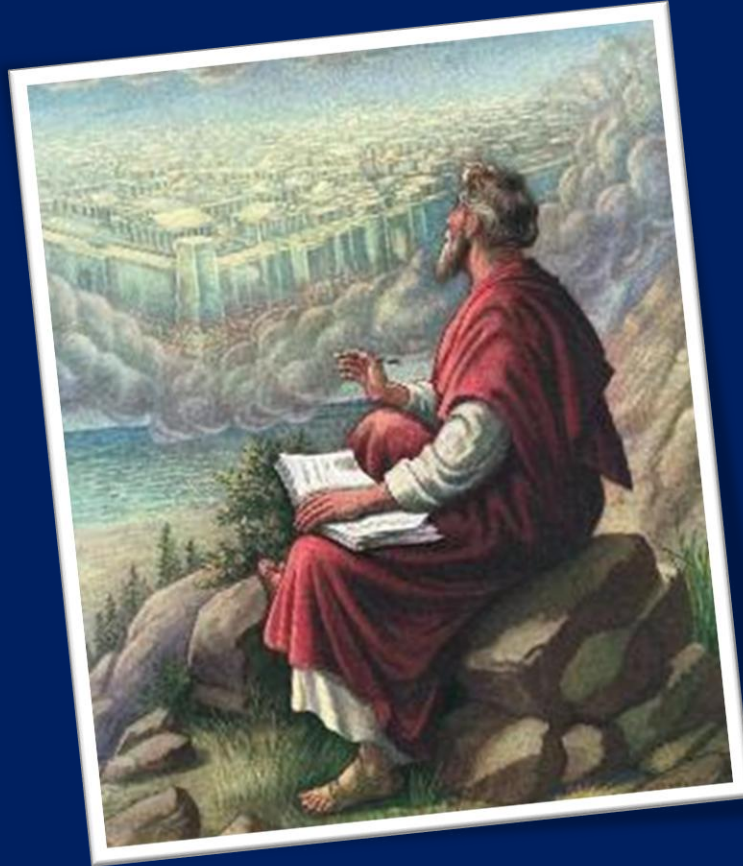
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# Present Tense Participle Does Not Always Mean Forever

- John 4:13
- John 4:26
- John 4:36
- John 5:3
- John 5:24
- John 6:14



- John 11:26-27
- Mark 6:14
- Mark 14:20
- Luke 16:18
- Gal. 3:13

## John 5:24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

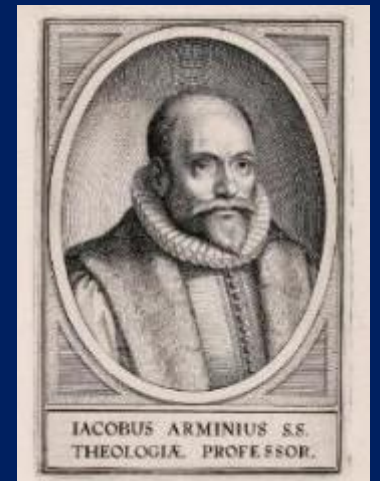
αἰώνιος

aiōnios / eternal



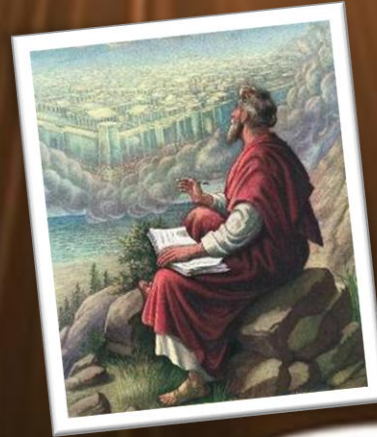
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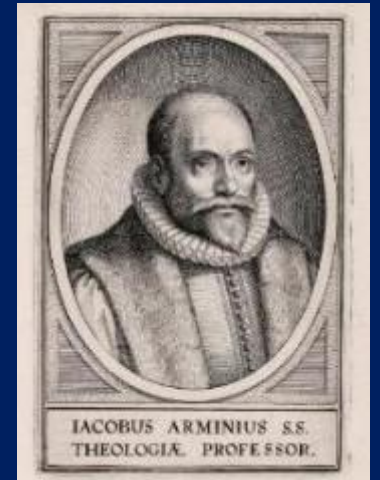
## Mark 6:14

“And King Herod heard *of it*, for His name had become well known; and *people* were saying, ‘John the Baptist (baptizō) has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him.’”



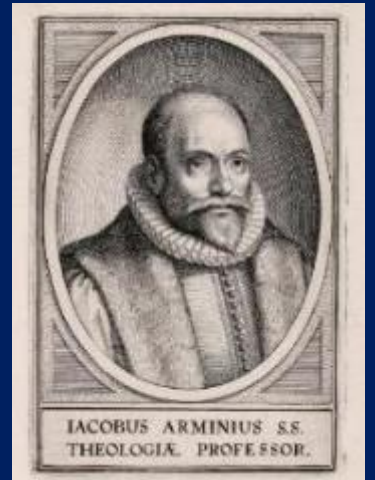
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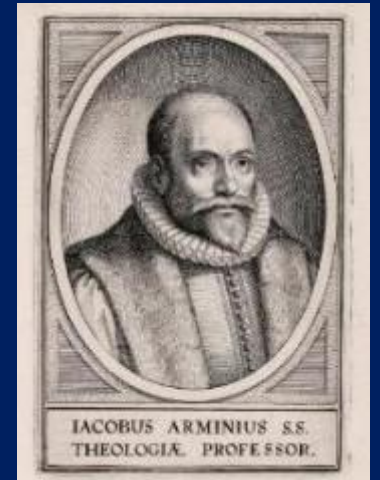
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## John 8:30-31

“As He spoke these things, many came to **\*believe** in Him.  
So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had **+believed** Him,  
“If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples  
of Mine.”

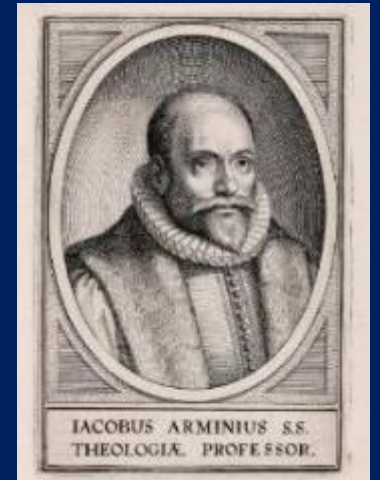
**\* aorist active indicative**

**+ perfect active participle**



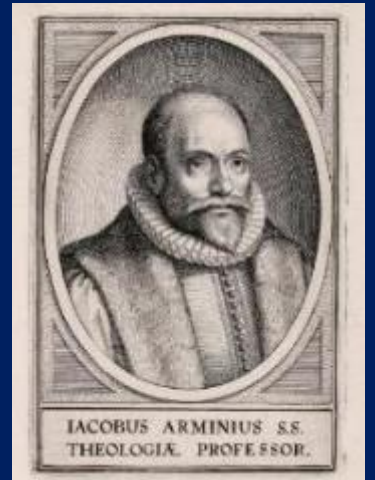
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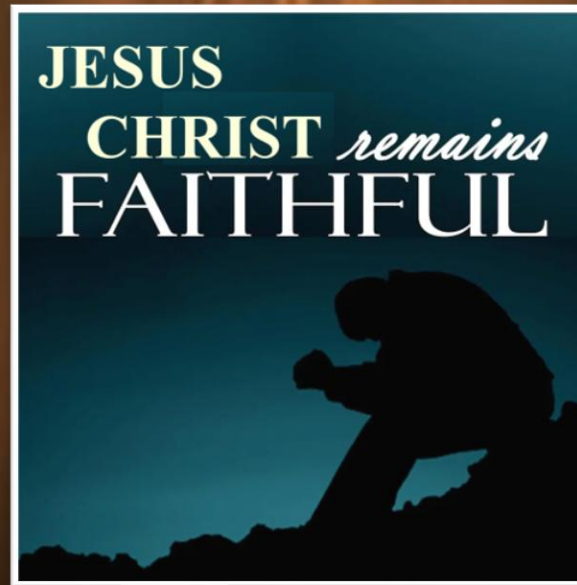
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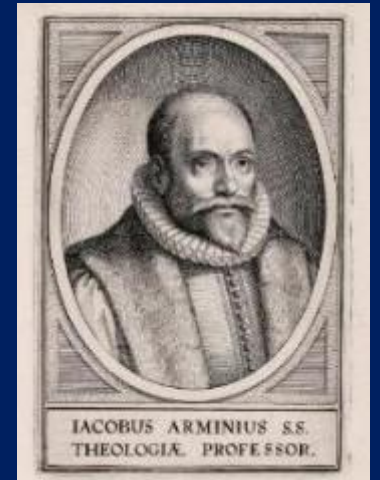
## 2 Timothy 2:13

“If we are faithless [without faith], He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”



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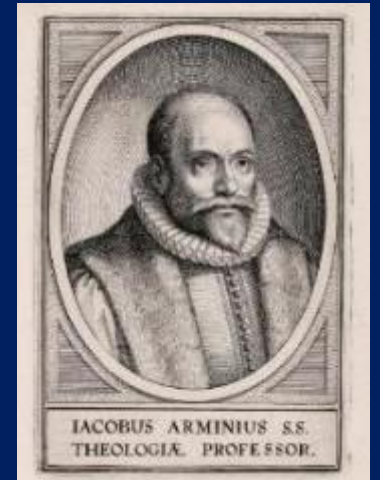
## James 1:5-8

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”



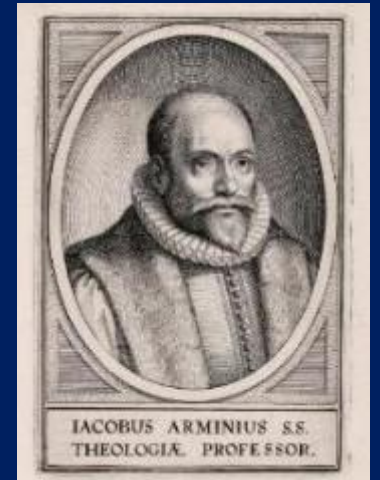
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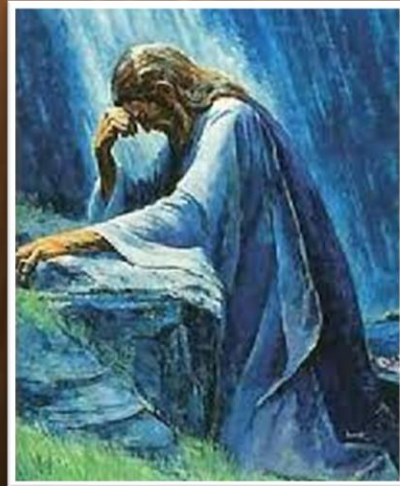
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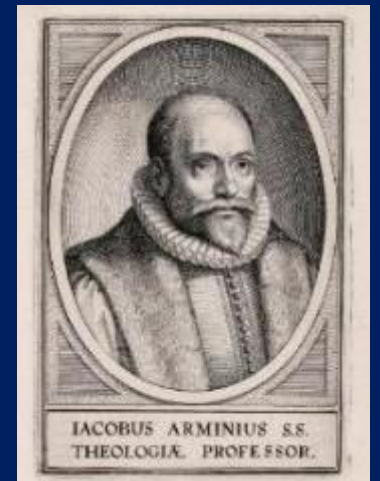
## Luke 22:32

“but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail;  
and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen  
your brothers.”



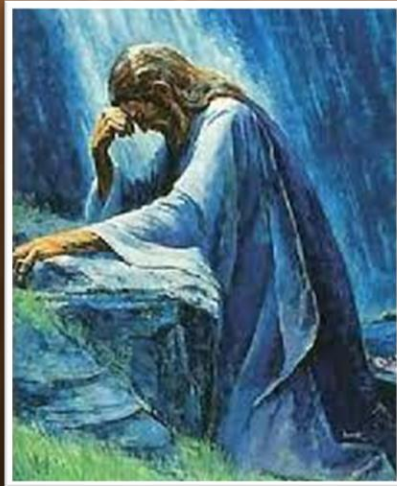
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## Titus 2:14

“who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”



# Neo-Calvinism vs. The Bible

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## Colossians 2:8

<sup>8</sup>“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”



## Calvinism is an Imposed Philosophy Upon Scripture

“Likewise, John Calvin...latched onto little more than a single word (predestinate) and ran with it. Then, rather than carefully looking to the whole of Scripture to verify his precepts and conclusions, he looked to the writings of Augustine to verify his thinking. The result is that, as with Catholicism, we now have ‘another gospel’ that is not solely based on Scripture but on the confused thinking and misconstrued assumptions of a mere man. With Calvin, rather than changing his views to fit Scripture, he changed the meaning of words in Scripture to fit his now distorted view of God and salvation.”

Bob Kirkland, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy; Spotlight on the Life and Teachings of John Calvin* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails, 2018), 97.