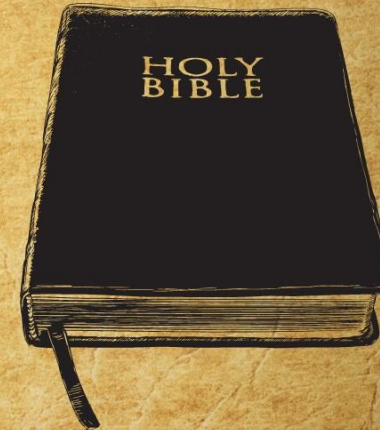


**NEO
CALVINISM**

**THE
BIBLE**



★ VS ★



★ THE FIGHT OF THE AGES ★



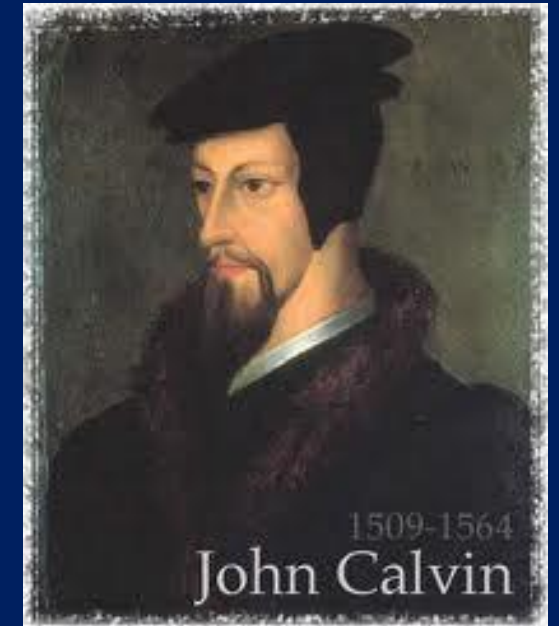
Dr. Andy Woods

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

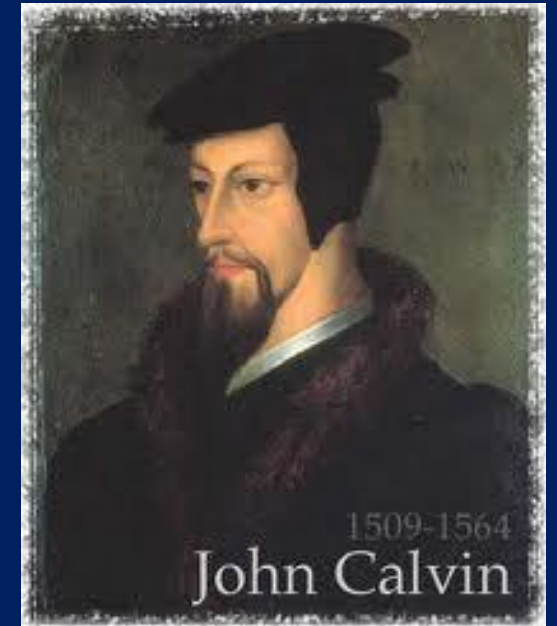
- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



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

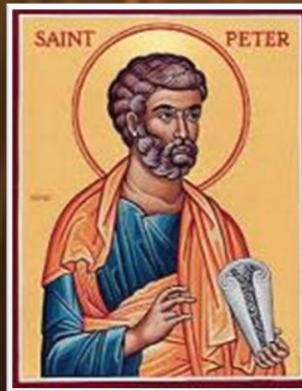
E. Perseverance of the Saints

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



1 Peter 1:4-5

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



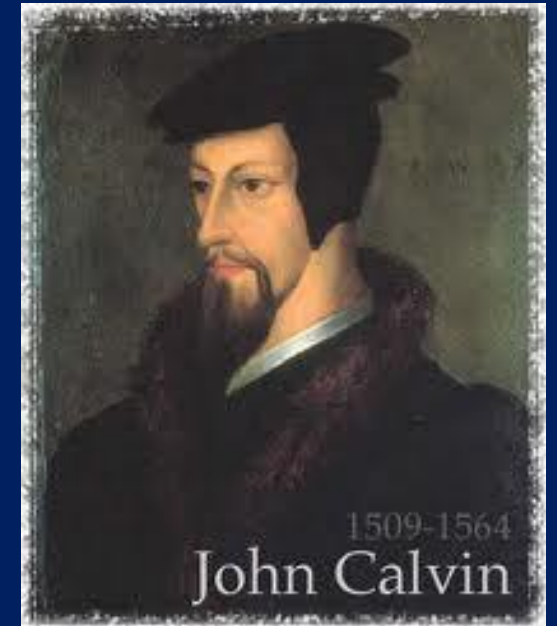
Perseverance of the Saints = Perseverance in Good Works to the End of One's Life to Prove that He is One of the Elect

“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.

E. Perseverance of the Saints

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





John Calvin

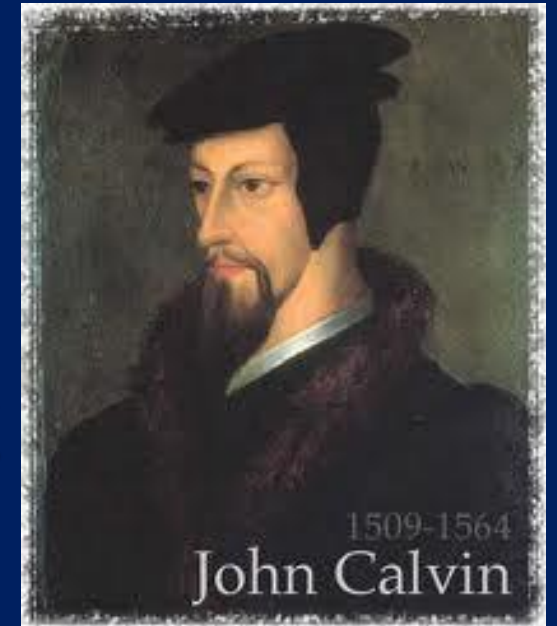
John Calvin, *Calvin's Calvinism: God's Eternal Predestination and Secret Providence* (Reformed Free Publishing Association, Kindle edition from the 2009 2nd edition), Kindle location 532.

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.”



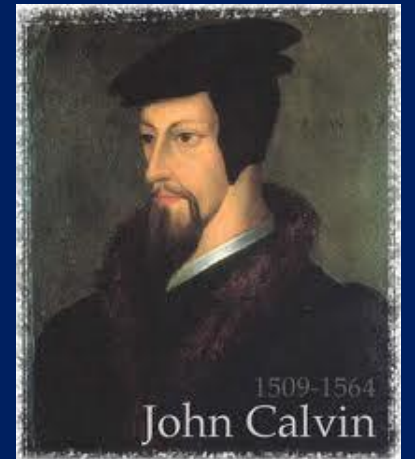
E. Perseverance of the Saints

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



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**

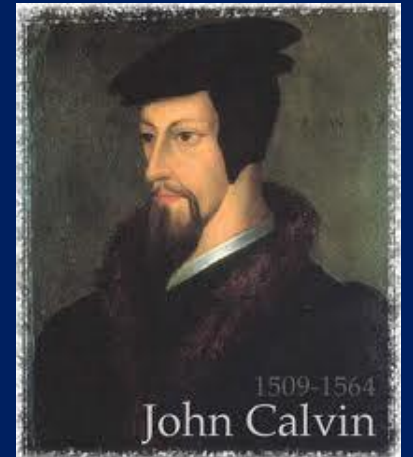


h) Destroys the Assurance of Salvation

1) The Biblical View of the Assurance of Salvation

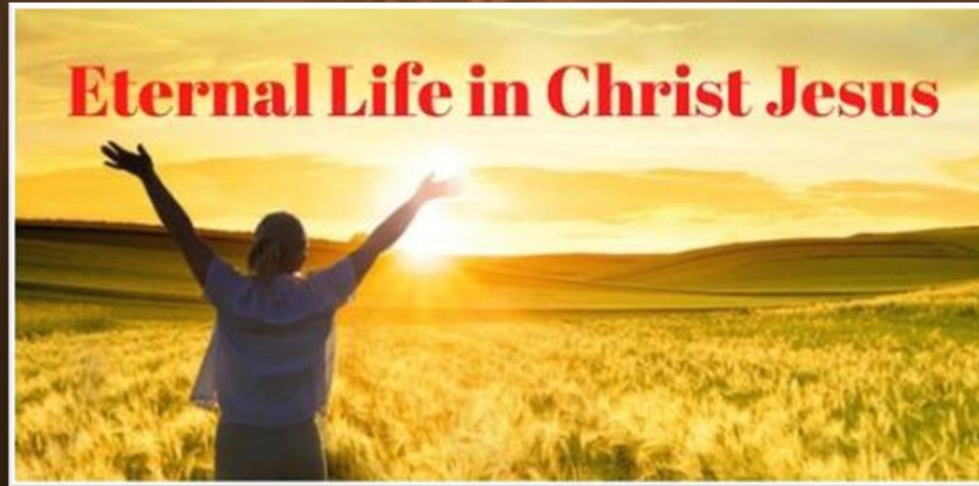
2) Examples of How the “Perseverance of the Saints” Destroys the Assurance of Salvation

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

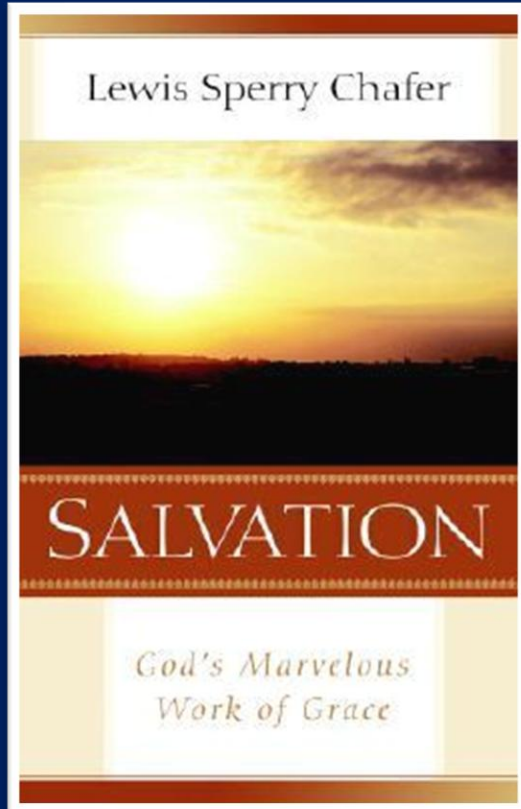


1 John 5:13

“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

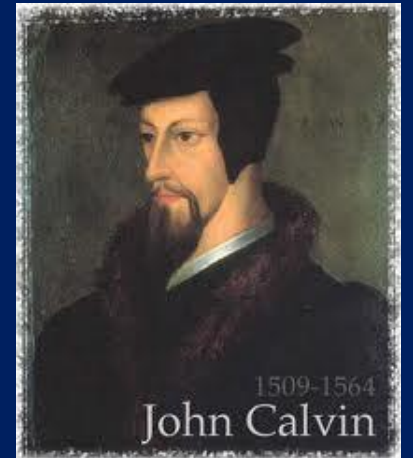


“There is a normal Christian experience. There are new and blessed emotions and desires. Old things do pass away; and behold all things do become new; but *all such experiences are but secondary evidences*, as to the fact of salvation, in that they grow out of that positive repose of faith which is the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

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

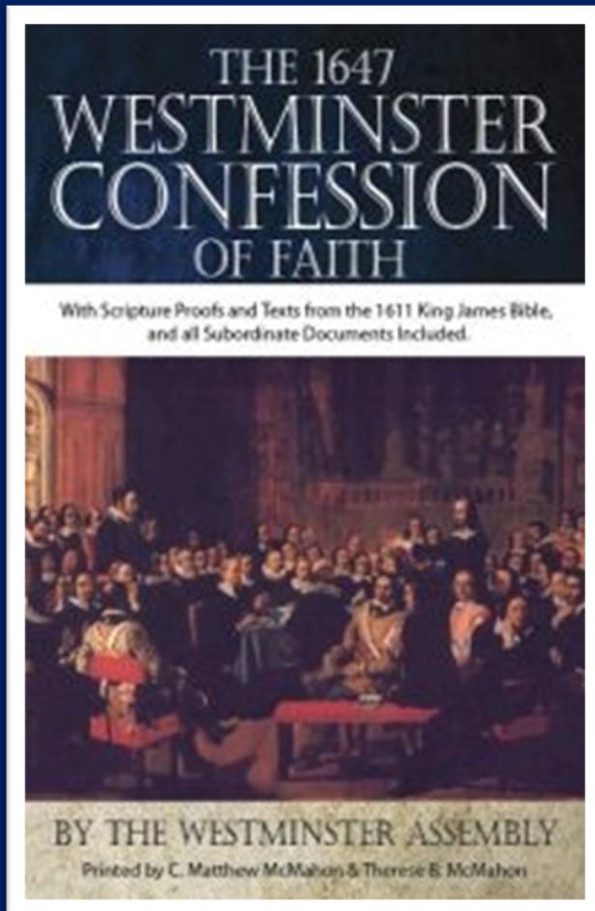
h) Destroys the Assurance of Salvation

- 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



Westminster Confession Chapter XVII, Article III

– Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

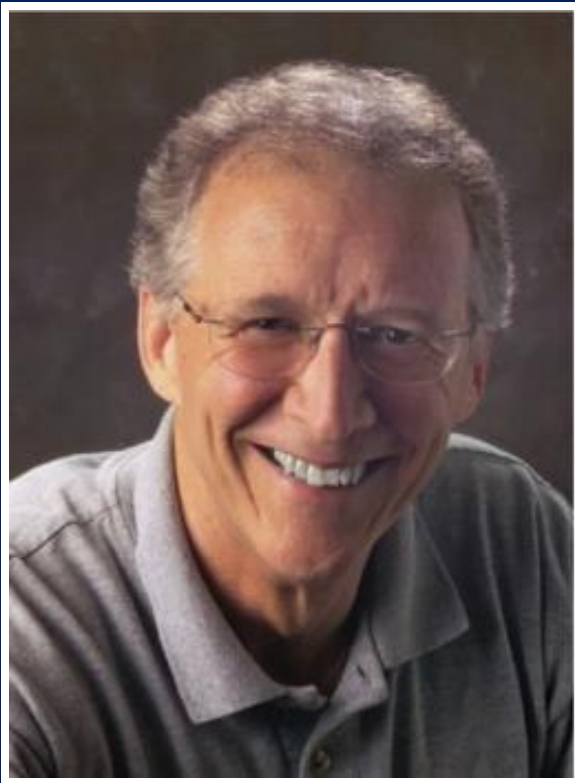


“This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer will wait long, and conflict with many difficulties before he be a partaker of it.”

John Piper

John Piper's Interview on Family Life Radio April 14, 2020

<https://www.familylife.com/podcast/familylife-today/strategies-for-standing-firm-through-coronavirus/>



“What causes me to be anxious is the possibility that I may not be a Christian—that I might be fake / that everything I’ve ever done might be a farce—those are horrible, horrible thoughts; right?”



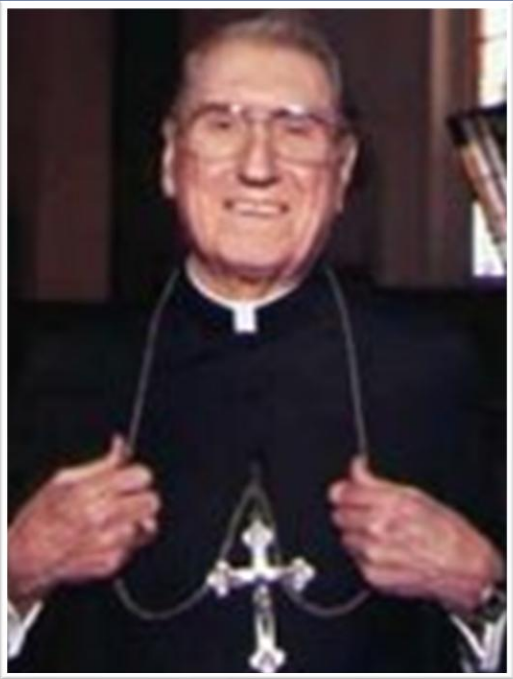
R.T. Kendall

R. T. Kendall, *Calvin and English Calvinism to 1649*
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979), 2.

Interestingly, it has been recorded that “nearly all of the Puritan ‘divines’ [men who were Calvinistic and taught perseverance] went through great dread and despair on their deathbeds as they realized their lives did not give perfect evidence that they were elect.”

Cardinal John O'Connor of NY

quoted in Samuel Howe Verhovek, *Cardinal Defends a Jailed Bishop Who Warned Cuomo on Abortion*, New York Times, February 1, 1990.

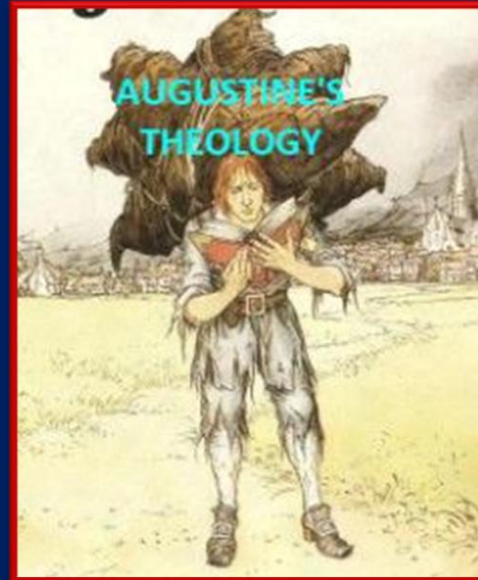
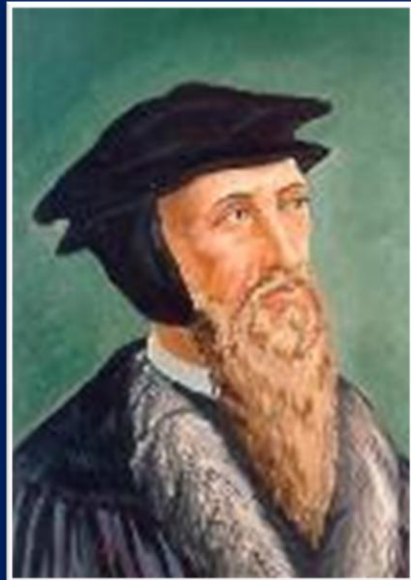


“Church teaching is that I don't know, at any given moment, what my eternal future will be... I can hope, pray, do my very best – but I still don't know. Pope John II doesn't absolutely know that he will go to heaven, nor does mother Theresa of Calcutta, unless either has had a special divine revelation.”

John Calvin

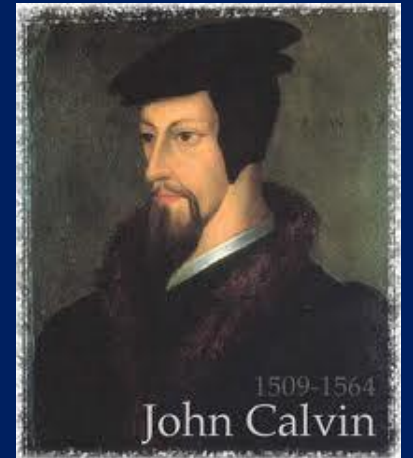
John Calvin, "A Treatise on the Eternal Predestination of God," in *John Calvin, Calvin's Calvinism*, trans. Henry Cole (Grandville, MI: Reformed Free Publishing Association, 1987), 38

"Augustine is so wholly with me, that if I wished to write a confession of my faith, I could do so with all fullness and satisfaction to myself out of his writings."



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

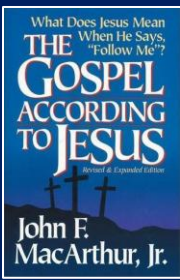




William Hendriksen

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...”



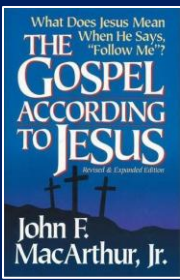
John MacArthur

The Gospel According to Jesus, p. 173

“As a divine gift, faith is neither transient nor impotent. It has an abiding quality that guarantees its endurance to the end.”



John F. MacArthur, *The Gospel According to Jesus: What Does Jesus Mean When He Says, "Follow Me"?* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988), 173.

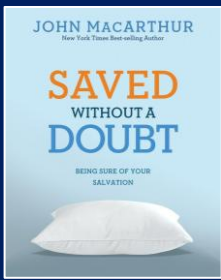


John MacArthur

The Gospel According to Jesus, p. 173

“...The faith God gives can never evaporate.”



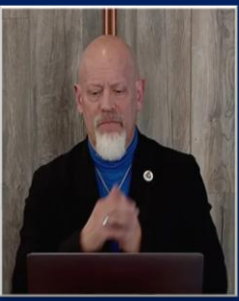


John MacArthur

Saved Without A Doubt, p. 177

“If a person fails to love and obey the Lord through the trials of life, then there is no evidence that he possesses saving faith. How many people do you know who came to church for a while, had a little trouble in their lives, and left? 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 enduring obedience.”



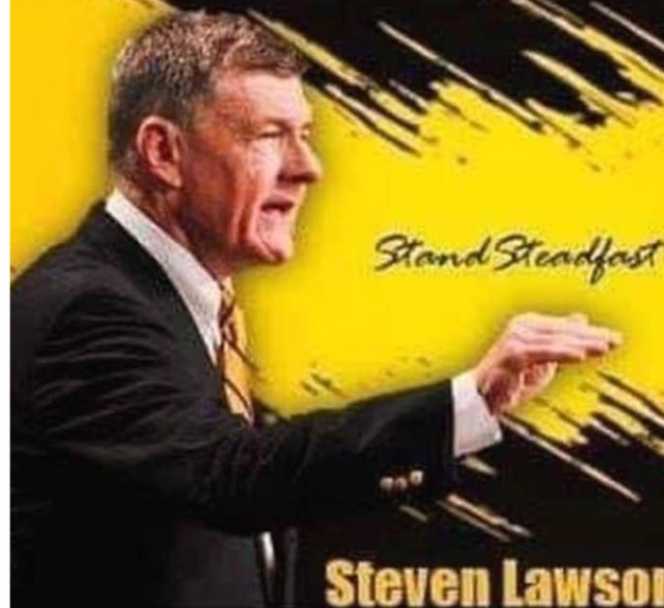


James White

James R. White, *The Potter's Freedom*
(Amityville, NY: Calvary Press Publishing, 2000), 293.

“Why do some stumble and fall while others persevere? Is it that some are better, stronger, than others? No. The reason lies in the difference between having saving faith and a faith that is not divine in origin or nature. Many are those who make professions not based upon regeneration, and the ‘faith’ that is theirs will not last...These are those who have false, human faith that does not last. But those with true faith produce fruit and remain.”

A believer will never
become an unbeliever,
because faith is a gift
from God.



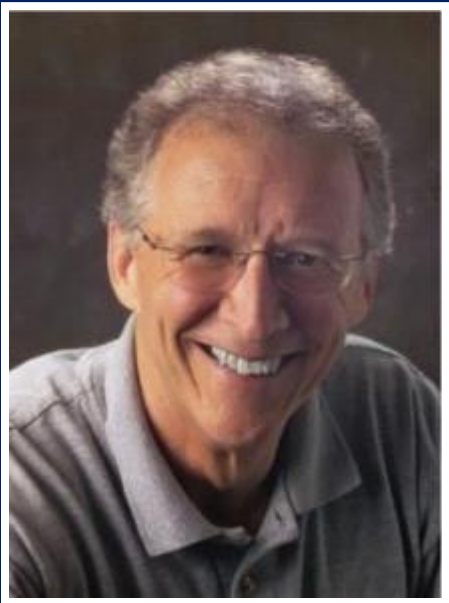
Stand Steadfast

Steven Lawson

LIGONIER CONFERENCE 2016

John Piper

John Piper, *Desiring God* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1986), 65. This quote also appeared verbatim in the 1996 reprinting of *Desiring God*, but it was rephrased in the 2003 and 2011 editions.



“Saving faith is no simple thing. It has many dimensions. ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus’ is a massive command. It contains a hundred other things. Unless we see this, the array of conditions for salvation in the New Testament will be utterly perplexing.”



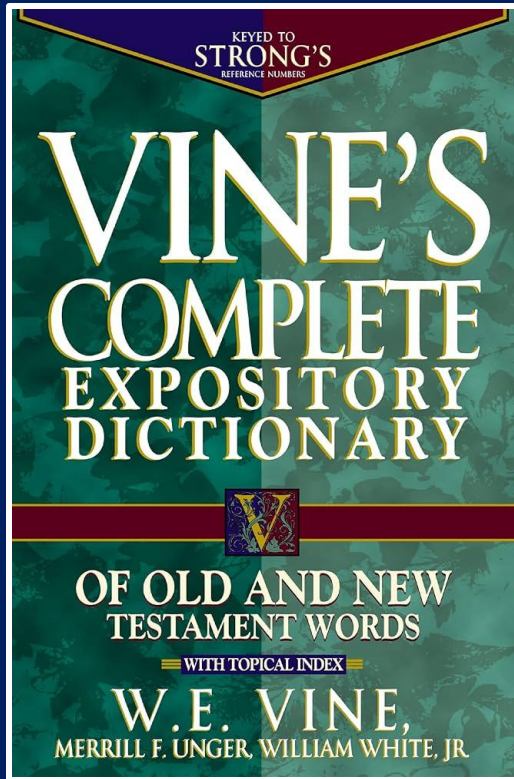
R.C. Sproul – Bob Wilkin as quoted in:

Bob Wilkin, “Ligonier National Conference” (The Grace Report, July 2000);

http://www.gracebiblestudies.org/Resources/Web/www.duluthbible.org/g_f_j/EternalSecurity12.htm

“During the first message presented at Ligonier’s Conference in Orlando last June, Dr. R. C. Sproul indicated that Dr. James Boice, a scheduled speaker at the conference, was dying in faith that very night. Then at the end of the message he asked all 5,000 of us present to pray that Jim dies in faith. This struck me as sad. Here was a great pastor, theologian, teacher, and author. Yet Sproul was not sure that he was regenerate. (In Reformed thought, if a person fails to die in faith, he proved he was never saved in the first place.) I was reminded of R.T. Kendall’s remark that nearly to a man the Puritan divines [men who were Calvinistic and taught perseverance] died doubting whether they were saved and fearing they were going to hell. Dr. Boice died that very night, June 15th.”

“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.”

Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

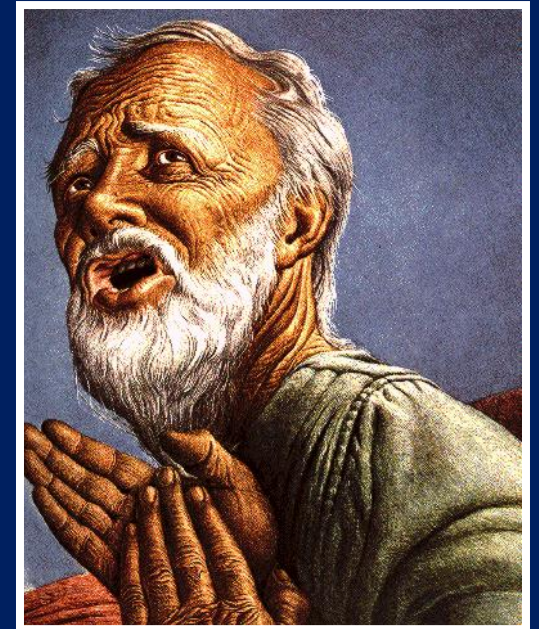
Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

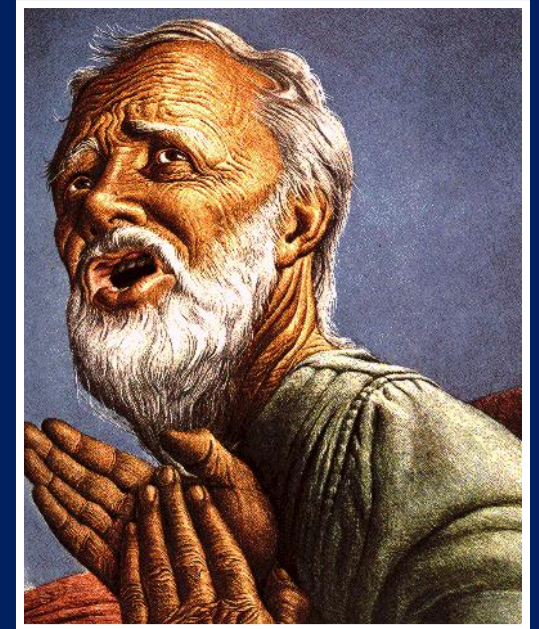
Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."



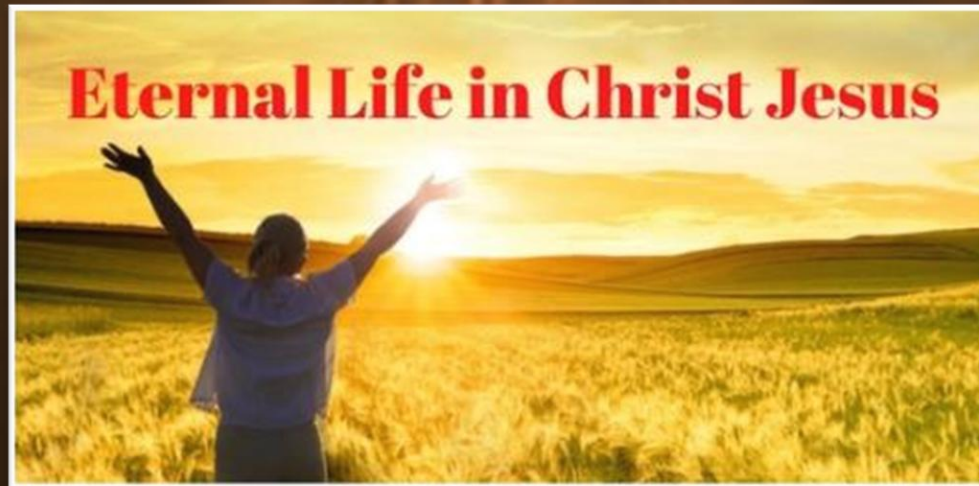
Passage Conditioning Salvation on Faith Alone (*Sola Fide*)

- Genesis 15:6
- John 3:16; 5:24; 6:28-29, 47; 16:8-9; 20:30-31
- Acts 16:30-31
- Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9
- Hebrews 11:6



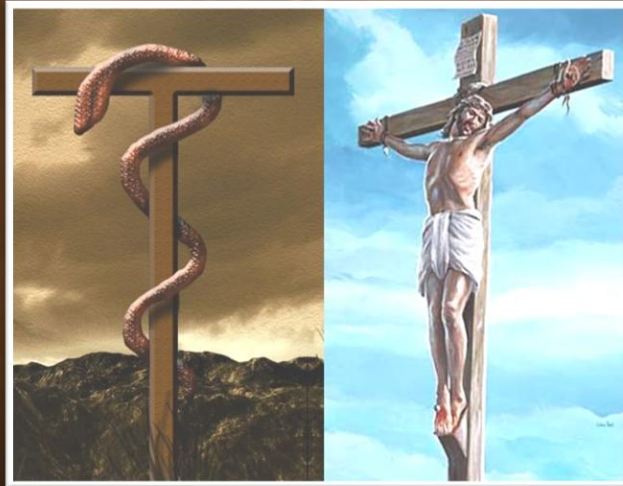
Romans 4:5

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

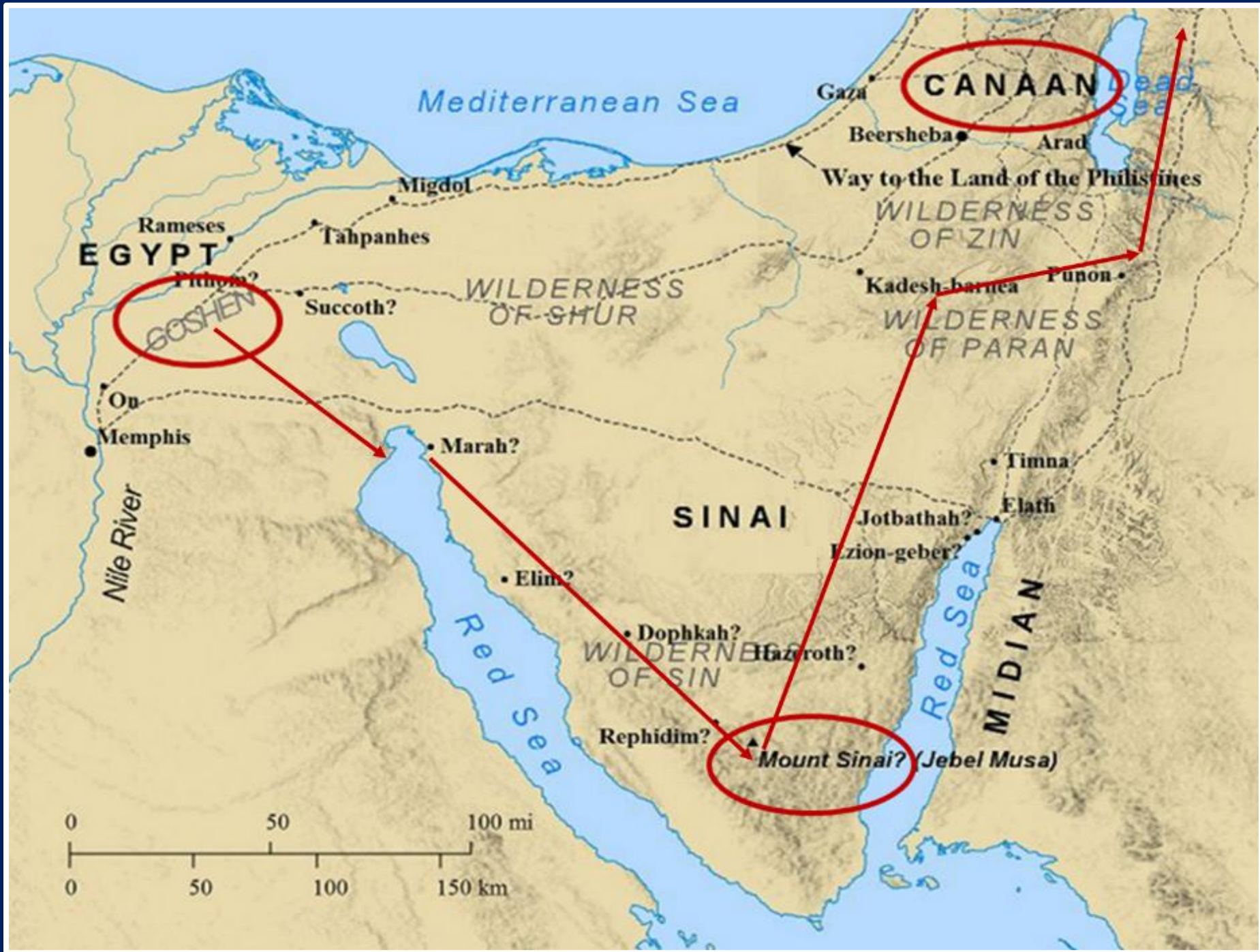


John 3:14-15

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







Numbers 21:8-9

“⁸ 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.’ ⁹ 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.”



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



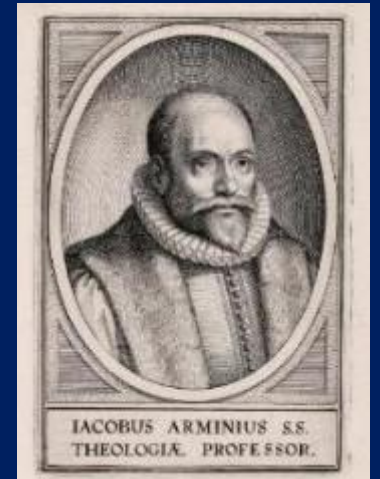
John 20:30-31

“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.”



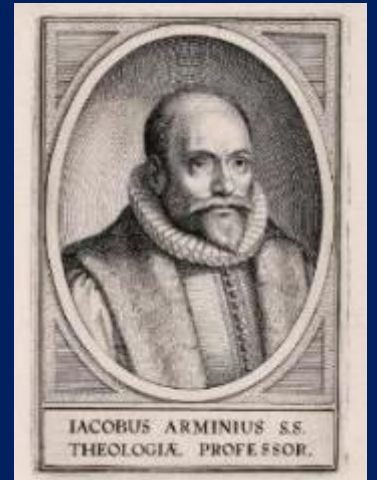
John 20:30-31?

1. Present tense participle “believing” – John 3:16, 18; 5:24
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



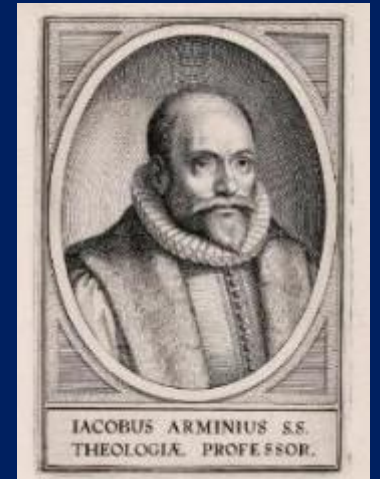
John 20:30-31?

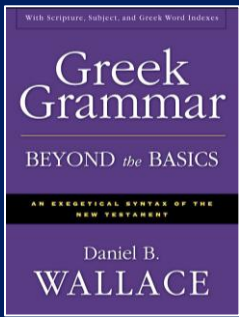
6. Does not preclude ongoing faith but does not require it
7. Other verb forms also used to describe belief (John 8:30-31)
8. It is possible for a Christian to struggle with faith
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:13 – “faithless” = unbelieving
 - b. Jas. 1:5-8
 - c. Peter’s sinking and three-fold denial
 - d. Luke 22:31-32



John 20:30-31?

1. Present tense participle “believing” – John 3:16, 18; 5:24
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





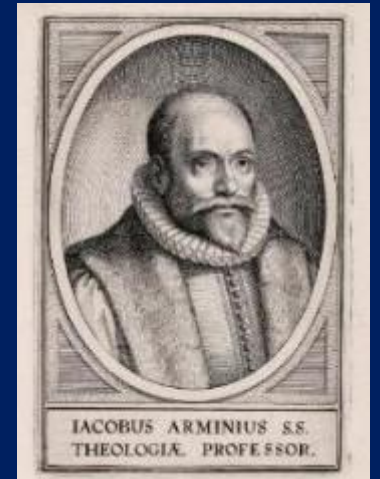
Believing Forever? – No!

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*...”

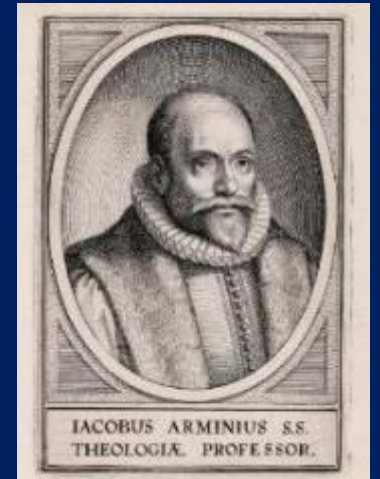
John 20:30-31?

1. Present tense participle “believing” – John 3:16, 18; 5:24
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



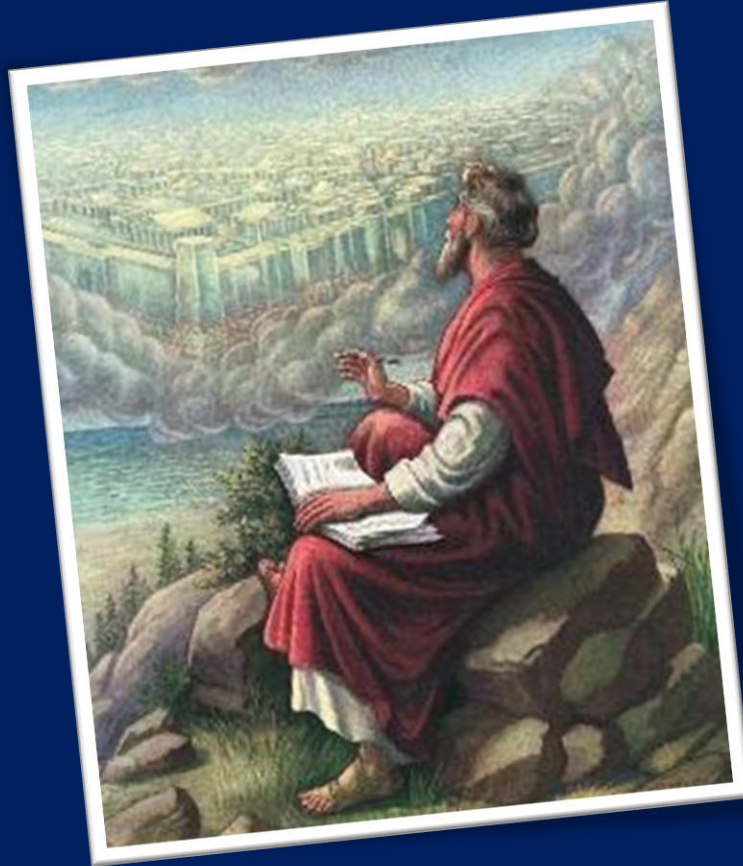
John 20:30-31?

1. Present tense participle “believing” – John 3:16, 18; 5:24
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



Present Tense Participle Does Not Always Mean Forever

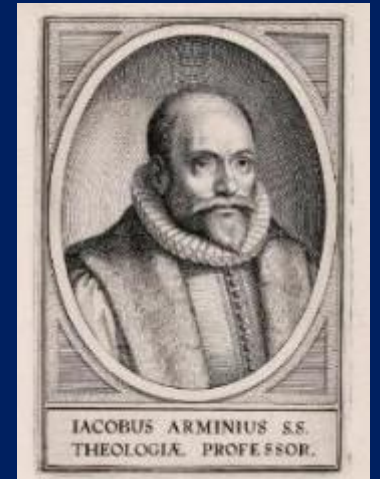
- John 4:13
- John 4:26
- John 4:36
- John 5:3
- John 5:24
- John 6:14



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

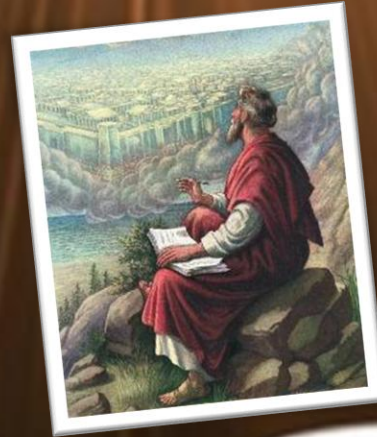
John 20:30-31?

1. Present tense participle “believing” – John 3:16, 18; 5:24
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



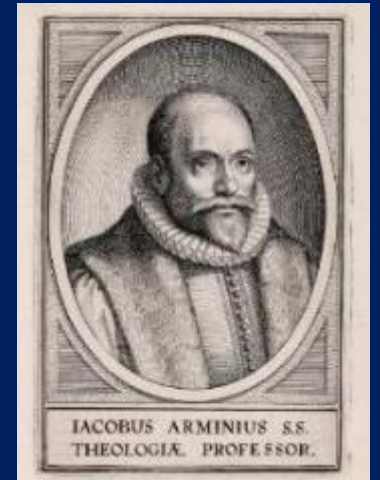
Mark 6:14

“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.’”



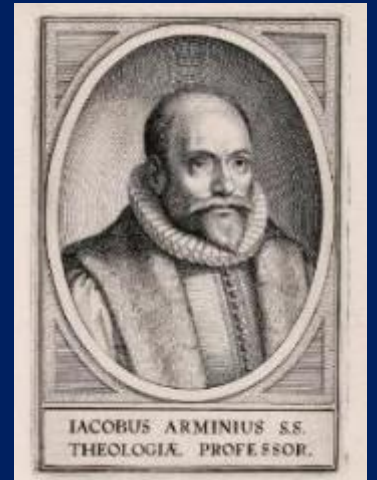
John 20:30-31?

1. Present tense participle “believing” – John 3:16, 18; 5:24
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



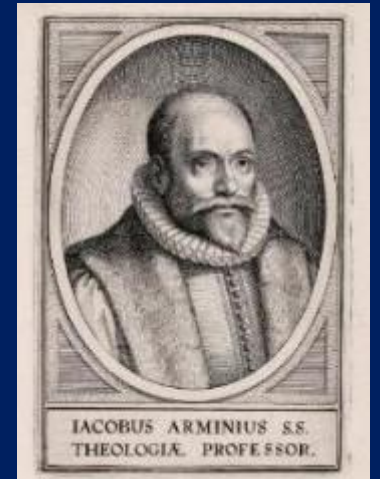
John 20:30-31?

6. Does not preclude ongoing faith but does not require it
7. Other verb forms also used to describe belief (John 8:30-31)
8. It is possible for a Christian to struggle with faith
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:13 – “faithless” = unbelieving
 - b. Jas. 1:5-8
 - c. Peter’s sinking and three-fold denial
 - d. Luke 22:31-32



John 20:30-31?

6. Does not preclude ongoing faith but does not require it
7. **Other verb forms also used to describe belief (John 8:30-31)**
8. It is possible for a Christian to struggle with faith
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:13 – “faithless” = unbelieving
 - b. Jas. 1:5-8
 - c. Peter’s sinking and three-fold denial
 - d. Luke 22:31-32



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.”

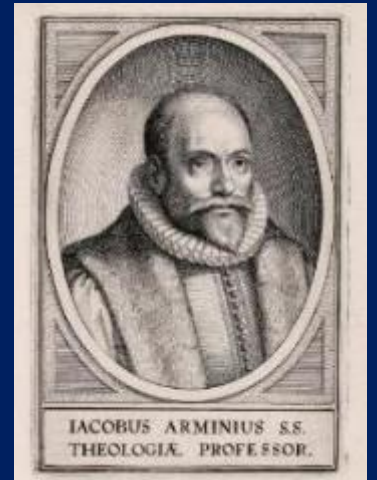
*** aorist active indicative**

+ perfect active participle



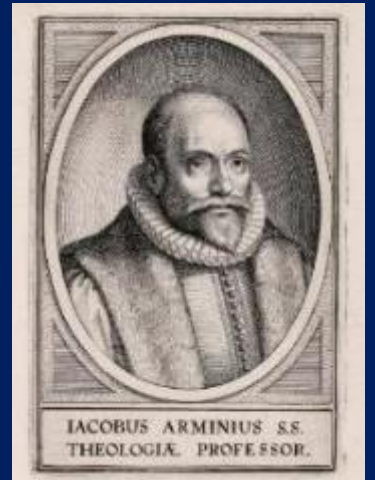
John 20:30-31?

6. Does not preclude ongoing faith but does not require it
7. Other verb forms also used to describe belief (John 8:30-31)
8. **It is possible for a Christian to struggle with faith**
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:13 – “faithless” = unbelieving
 - b. Jas. 1:5-8
 - c. Peter’s sinking and three-fold denial
 - d. Luke 22:31-32



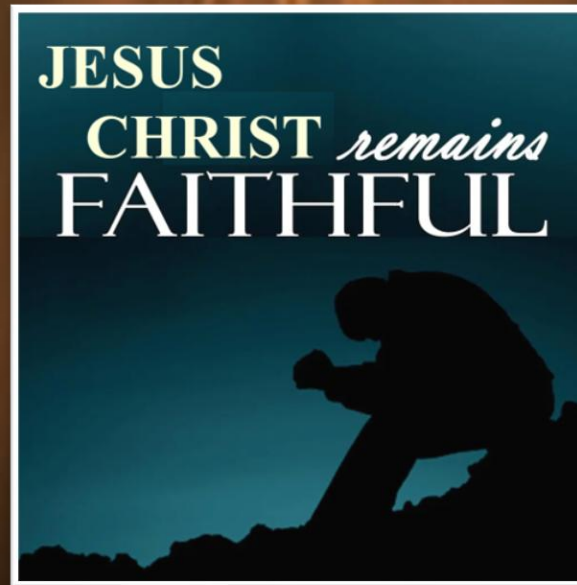
John 20:30-31?

6. Does not preclude ongoing faith but does not require it
7. Other verb forms also used to describe belief (John 8:30-31)
8. **It is possible for a Christian to struggle with faith**
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:13 – “faithless” = unbelieving
 - b. Jas. 1:5-8
 - c. Peter’s sinking and three-fold denial
 - d. Luke 22:31-32



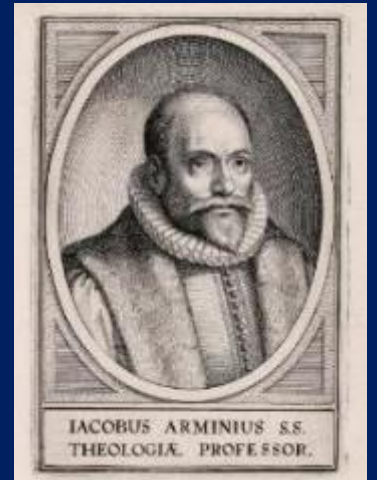
2 Timothy 2:13

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



John 20:30-31?

6. Does not preclude ongoing faith but does not require it
7. Other verb forms also used to describe belief (John 8:30-31)
8. **It is possible for a Christian to struggle with faith**
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:13 – “faithless” = unbelieving
 - b. Jas. 1:5-8
 - c. Peter’s sinking and three-fold denial
 - d. Luke 22:31-32



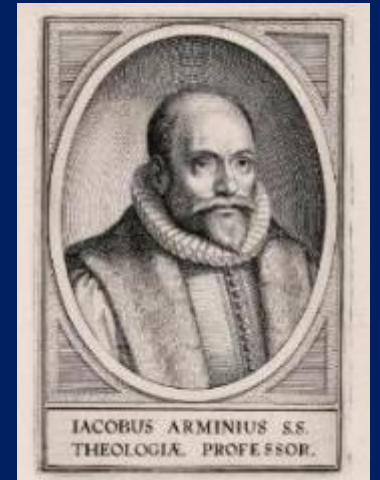
James 1:5-8

“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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸ *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”



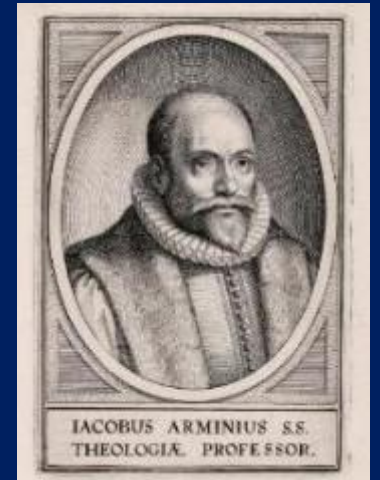
John 20:30-31?

6. Does not preclude ongoing faith but does not require it
7. Other verb forms also used to describe belief (John 8:30-31)
8. **It is possible for a Christian to struggle with faith**
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:13 – “faithless” = unbelieving
 - b. Jas. 1:5-8
 - c. **Peter’s sinking and three-fold denial**
 - d. Luke 22:31-32



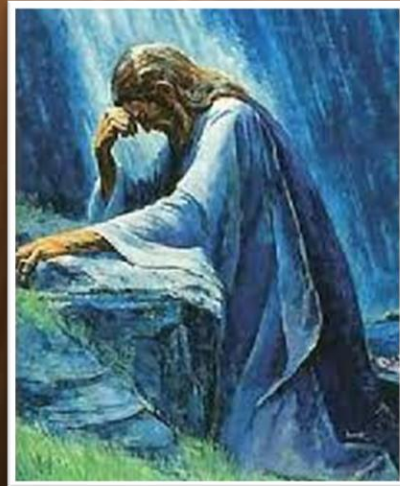
John 20:30-31?

6. Does not preclude ongoing faith but does not require it
7. Other verb forms also used to describe belief (John 8:30-31)
8. **It is possible for a Christian to struggle with faith**
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:13 – “faithless” = unbelieving
 - b. Jas. 1:5-8
 - c. Peter’s sinking and three-fold denial
 - d. **Luke 22:31-32**



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.”



Neo-Calvinism vs. The Bible

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



Colossians 2:8

⁸“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.