

What Southern Baptists Believe

An overview of *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*
Session 9: Article V: God's Purposes 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.

- I. _____ of election
 - A. Demonstrates _____ gracious purpose
 - B. Aligns with _____ free agency
 - C. Displays _____ goodness
 - D. Excludes _____ boasting
 - E. Promotes _____ humility

- II. _____ of perseverance
 - A. Believers _____ persevere
 - B. Believers _____ grieve the Spirit
 - C. God _____ keep his own

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22, 31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10, 19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2

Questions for consideration:

1. Is my understanding of election and perseverance based on the Bible or my feelings?
2. Where/how do my views of election and perseverance need to be adjusted to have a more biblically faithful view?
3. How does my understanding of election and perseverance compel me to tell others the good news of Jesus?
4. Does my life demonstrate a proper understanding of election and perseverance?

Southern Baptists are a convention of autonomous, like-minded churches voluntarily partnering for ministry and mission.