

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Salvation, Session 18, Preservation and Perseverance II, Systematic Formulation

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Peterson, Salvation, Session 18, Preservation and Perseverance II, Systematic Formulation, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Peterson's teaching on **Salvation, Session 18**, explores the intertwined doctrines of **preservation and perseverance**. The lecture examines how **God's attributes**, including sovereignty, justice, power, faithfulness, and love, work to **preserve believers**. Furthermore, it investigates how **Christ's saving work**, through his crucifixion, resurrection, intercession, and promised return, undergirds this preservation. The session also highlights the scriptural call for believers to **persevere in faith, love, and holiness** as a necessary aspect of their final salvation, intrinsically linked to God's preserving grace.

2. 23 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Peterson, Salvation, Session 18 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Salvation).



**Peterson_Salvation_
Session 18.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Peterson, Salvation, Session 18, Preservation and Perseverance II, Systematic Formulation

Briefing Document: Dr. Robert A. Peterson on Preservation and Perseverance (Session 18)

Overview:

This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Robert A. Peterson in Session 18 of his teaching on Salvation, focusing on the doctrines of preservation and perseverance. Peterson explores these concepts by examining God's attributes and Christ's saving work as the foundation for God's preservation of believers, which in turn undergirds their perseverance in faith, love, and holiness.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

I. God's Preservation of His Saints:

Peterson emphasizes that God actively keeps his people saved through his divine attributes and the work of the Trinity. He clarifies that "God's preservation of his saints is the basis of their perseverance of the saints proper."

- **God's Attributes:**
- **Sovereignty:** God's sovereign plan ensures believers' final glorification. Paul's words in Romans 8:28-30 illustrate this, where God's foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification are presented as a secure chain. Peterson quotes Romans 8:28: "we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." He highlights that even suffering is part of God's plan for their ultimate good.
- **Justice:** God's justice actively safeguards Christians in Christ. Romans 8:33-34 poses rhetorical questions about who can bring charges or condemn God's elect, asserting that God justifies and Christ intercedes. Peterson states, "Paul's point is that none of these charges will stick because our case has already gone to the Supreme Court of the universe if you will, and the judge, almighty God, has declared us righteous."
- **Power:** Jesus' power guarantees the eternal security of his sheep. Referring to John 10:28, Peterson quotes Carson who says, "the focus is not on the power of

the life itself, but on Jesus' power. No one can snatch them out of my hand, not the marauding wolf...not the thieves and robbers...not anyone."

- **Faithfulness:** God's faithfulness is underscored by several scriptural passages, including 1 Corinthians 1:8-9, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, and 2 Timothy 2:13. These verses highlight God's promise to strengthen, keep blameless, sanctify, guard, and remain faithful even when we are faithless. Peterson emphasizes the oath God swore to Abraham (Hebrews 6:17-18) as further evidence of his unchangeable purpose. He quotes Hebrews 6:17: "when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise, the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath."
- **Love:** God's love in Christ Jesus is an unbreakable bond, as powerfully stated in Romans 8:35-39. Peterson quotes Romans 8:38-39: "for I'm persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." He argues that the possibility of apostasy cannot be reconciled with these verses.
- **The Trinity:** The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all involved in keeping believers secure.
- **Christ's Saving Work:**
- **Crucifixion:** Christ's obedience to death on the cross is the foundation for the justification of his people (Romans 5:19, 8:1-4). Peterson explains the parallel between Adam's sin bringing condemnation and Christ's death bringing righteousness and no condemnation for believers.
- **Resurrection:** Christ's resurrection ensures the ongoing salvation of those reconciled to God through his death (Romans 5:10, 4:25, 6:5, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Hebrews 7:16, 23-25). Peterson quotes Hebrews 7:25: "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them," emphasizing the permanence and completeness of Christ's saving work due to his indestructible life.
- **Intercession:** Christ's continuous intercession for believers keeps them safe (Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34, Luke 22:32, John 17). Peterson highlights Jesus' prayer for Peter that his faith would not utterly fail and his high priestly prayer for his disciples' protection and unity.

- **Return:** Jesus' promise to return and take believers to be with him in heaven provides a foundational hope and assurance of final salvation (John 14:2-3, 1 Peter 1:13). Peterson notes that these comforting words were given in the context of Peter's predicted denial, assuring the disciples of their ultimate destiny.

II. Believers' Perseverance:

Peterson emphasizes that while God sovereignly preserves his people, genuine believers will persevere in the faith to be finally saved. This perseverance is a necessary outworking of God's preserving grace and demonstrates true faith.

- **Necessity of Perseverance:** The New Testament consistently teaches that endurance is required for final salvation (Matthew 24:13, Acts 14:21-22, Hebrews 10:36, Revelation 14:12). Peterson quotes Matthew 24:13: "But the one who endures to the end will be saved."
- **Areas of Perseverance:** Believers must continue to the end in:
 - **Faith:** Initial profession is insufficient; true believers persist in trusting Jesus (John 6:66-69, Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 12:1-2). Peterson highlights Peter's confession of faith in John 6:68-69: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." He also notes Paul's condition in Colossians 1:23: "if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard."
 - **Love:** Christians are commanded to love one another deeply and consistently, reflecting Christ's love (Matthew 22:37-39, John 13:34-35, 15:12, Romans 12:10, Hebrews 13:1, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 John). Peterson quotes Jesus' new command in John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." He also cites 1 John 3:14-15 and 4:8, 20 regarding the negative implications of a lack of love.
 - **Holiness:** (This point is introduced at the end, to be discussed further in the next lecture).

Conclusion:

Dr. Peterson concludes that God's preservation of his saints, rooted in his attributes and Christ's saving work, is inseparably linked to the believers' perseverance in faith and love. This interconnectedness underscores both divine sovereignty and human responsibility in the process of salvation. True believers will endure to the end because God keeps them, and their perseverance serves as evidence of the genuineness of their faith.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, Salvation, Session 18, Preservation and Perseverance II, Systematic Formulation

Salvation: Preservation and Perseverance - Study Guide

Quiz

1. According to Romans 8:28-30, how does God's sovereignty contribute to the believer's assurance of final glory?
2. Explain Paul's argument in Romans 8:33-34 regarding God's justice and its role in keeping Christians safe in Christ.
3. How does Jesus' statement in John 10:28 ("No one will snatch them out of my hand") illustrate God's power in preserving believers?
4. Provide two scriptural references (book and chapter:verse) that demonstrate God's faithfulness in preserving his people. Briefly explain how one of these passages illustrates this attribute.
5. In Romans 8:38-39, what is Paul's conclusive statement about God's love and its ability to keep believers secure in Christ?
6. Explain how Jesus' death on the cross, as discussed in Romans 5:19 and 8:1-4, serves as a foundation for the preservation of believers.
7. According to Hebrews 7:23-25, how does Jesus' permanent priesthood and continuous intercession contribute to the complete salvation of believers?
8. Summarize Jesus' promise in John 14:2-3 and explain how it relates to the preservation of his followers.
9. According to the provided text, why is perseverance in faith considered necessary for the final salvation of believers? Provide one scripture reference (book and chapter:verse) to support your answer.
10. Explain how the command to love one another, as highlighted in John 13:34-35, serves as evidence of true discipleship and a necessary aspect of perseverance.

Quiz Answer Key

1. Paul states that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. This preordained plan, including

foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification, ensures believers' ultimate good and glorification.

2. Paul uses rhetorical questions to emphasize that no charge against God's elect will stand because God himself has justified them. Furthermore, Christ Jesus, who died, was raised, and intercedes for believers, will not condemn them but save them.
3. Jesus' affirmation that no one can snatch his sheep out of his hand highlights his power and authority in securing their eternal life and safety. The focus is on Jesus' ability to keep them, regardless of external threats.
4. Two scriptural references are 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 and 2 Timothy 2:13. In 1 Corinthians 1:8-9, Paul states that God will strengthen the Corinthians to the end, ensuring they are blameless at the day of Jesus Christ, because God is faithful in his calling.
5. Paul expresses his firm conviction that nothing, including life, death, angels, demons, present or future, nor any created thing, will be able to separate believers from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.
6. Jesus' obedient death on the cross provides the basis for the justification of his people, paralleling Adam's disobedience which brought sin. Through Christ's sacrifice, believers receive freedom from condemnation and the fulfillment of the law's requirements.
7. Unlike the Levitical priests who were limited by death, Jesus holds a permanent priesthood because he remains forever. This allows him to completely save those who come to God through him, as he always lives to intercede on their behalf.
8. Jesus promises to return and take his people to be with him in his Father's house. This assurance provides comfort and hope for believers, emphasizing that they belong to the Father and have a place prepared for them in heaven.
9. Perseverance in faith is necessary because true saving faith involves not just an initial profession but a continued trust in Christ until the end. Matthew 24:13 states, "But the one who endures to the end will be saved," highlighting the necessity of ongoing faith.

10. Jesus states that love for one another, demonstrated in the same way he loved his disciples, will be the distinguishing mark of his followers. This ongoing love is not optional but a command that signifies true discipleship and perseverance in the Christian life.

Essay Format Questions

1. Discuss the interconnectedness of God's preservation of the saints and the believer's perseverance, drawing upon the attributes of God (sovereignty, justice, power, faithfulness, love) as presented in the source material.
2. Analyze the various aspects of Christ's saving work (crucifixion, resurrection, intercession, return) and explain how each contributes to the preservation and ultimate security of believers.
3. Explore the New Testament teaching on the necessity of perseverance for final salvation, providing scriptural examples to illustrate the importance of continuing in faith, love, and holiness.
4. Critically evaluate the relationship between divine sovereignty in salvation (preservation) and human responsibility (perseverance) as presented in the lecture, considering potential tensions and resolutions.
5. Examine the practical implications of the doctrine of preservation and perseverance for the Christian life, considering how these truths should shape a believer's assurance, conduct, and attitude towards trials and temptations.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Preservation:** God's ongoing work of keeping his people saved, ensuring their final salvation.
- **Perseverance:** The believer's continuous endurance in faith, love, and holiness until the end of their life.
- **Sovereignty (of God):** God's ultimate authority and control over all things, including salvation.
- **Justification:** God's declaration that a sinner is righteous in his sight, based on Christ's atoning sacrifice.
- **Glorification:** The final aspect of salvation, where believers will receive perfect and resurrected bodies and live in God's presence.
- **Faithfulness (of God):** God's unwavering commitment to his promises and his people.
- **Atonement:** Christ's work on the cross, through which he satisfied God's justice and reconciled humanity to God.
- **Intercession (of Christ):** Christ's ongoing ministry in heaven, where he prays to the Father on behalf of believers.
- **Reconciliation:** The restoration of a broken relationship, specifically between humanity and God through Christ's death.
- **Sanctification:** The ongoing process by which believers are made holy and conformed to the image of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Salvation, Session 18, Preservation and Perseverance II, Systematic Formulation, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on Preservation and Perseverance

1. What is the distinction being made between preservation and perseverance in this context? Preservation, from a theological standpoint as discussed here, refers to God's active work in keeping his people saved. It emphasizes God's sovereignty and his power to maintain the salvation of believers. Perseverance, on the other hand, refers to the believer's continuing in faith and obedience until the end. It highlights the human responsibility to remain in faith, love, and holiness, which is enabled and undergirded by God's preservation. The Puritans spoke of "God's perseverance with the saints," which is the foundation for "their perseverance of the saints proper."

2. How do God's attributes contribute to the preservation of believers? Scripture reveals that several of God's attributes are actively involved in preserving believers. His **sovereignty** ensures that his plans for his people, including their glorification, will be realized. His **justice** guarantees that no accusation against God's elect will stand because God himself has declared them righteous through Christ. God's **power** is demonstrated in his ability to keep his sheep safe, as affirmed by Jesus who stated that no one can snatch them out of his hand. His **faithfulness** means that he will strengthen believers to the end and keep them blameless, as promised in various New Testament passages. Finally, God's **love**, expressed most profoundly in Christ, is so powerful that nothing can separate believers from it.

3. In what ways does the work of Jesus Christ secure the preservation of believers? The preservation of believers is deeply rooted in the saving work of Jesus Christ. His **crucifixion** is the basis for our justification, as his obedience even to death made many righteous, paralleling Adam's disobedience. His **resurrection** signifies victory over death and ensures our ongoing salvation and reconciliation with God through his eternal life. Jesus' ongoing **intercession** as our great high priest in heaven continuously keeps us safe and secures our complete salvation. Lastly, his promised **return** offers the ultimate assurance that believers will be taken to be with him, receiving the fullness of salvation and grace.

4. What is the significance of the warning passages in Hebrews in light of the doctrine of preservation? While Hebrews contains well-known warning passages, it also includes passages that affirm the preservation of believers. The promises and oaths of God, particularly the promise to Abraham, are presented as types for the new covenant community in Christ, assuring them that God's purpose for them is unalterable. The figure of Jesus as a high priest with an "indestructible life" who intercedes perpetually for believers (Hebrews 7:23-25) underscores the security of their salvation. These preservation passages provide a crucial context for understanding the warnings, assuring believers of God's faithfulness to keep those who truly belong to him.

5. Why is perseverance considered necessary for final salvation according to the New Testament? Despite God's role in preservation, the New Testament consistently teaches the necessity of believers' perseverance in faith for final salvation. This isn't presented as earning salvation, but rather as evidence of genuine faith that is sustained by God's grace. Passages like Matthew 24:13 ("the one who endures to the end will be saved"), Acts 14:22 (encouraging disciples to "continue in the faith"), Hebrews 10:36 ("you need endurance"), and Revelation 14:12 ("endurance from the saints who keep God's commands and their faith in Jesus") all emphasize the importance of continuing in belief and obedience.

6. In what specific areas must believers persevere? The New Testament highlights at least three key areas in which believers must persevere: **faith, love, and holiness**. Persevering in faith means continuing to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, beyond an initial profession. Persevering in love involves consistently loving fellow believers deeply and sacrificially, following Christ's example. Persevering in holiness requires a continuous pursuit of Christ-like character and obedience to God's commands. These are not separate endeavors but interconnected aspects of a life genuinely transformed by God's grace.

7. How does the example of Jesus' love serve as a model and motivation for believers to persevere in love? Jesus' command to love one another "just as I have loved you" (John 13:34) elevates the standard of love for believers. His display of love on the cross becomes the goal, the incentive, and the measure of our love for other Christians. It serves as a goal because we strive to emulate such profound love, even though we fall short. It is an inexhaustible fuel, motivating us to love even those who are difficult to love. And it is the highest measure, surpassing mere self-love, as we are called to love others freely, sacrificially, and unselfishly, as Christ loved us.

8. What does the Apostle John emphasize regarding the necessity of persevering in love as evidence of true faith? The Apostle John strongly emphasizes that continuing in love for fellow believers is not optional but a vital sign of genuine faith and regeneration. He states negatively that "the one who does not love remains in death" and that "no murderer has eternal life residing in him" (1 John 3:14-15), equating hatred with a lack of eternal life. Positively, John asserts that "everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). He concludes with the command that "the one who loves God must also love his brother and sister" (1 John 4:21), underscoring that persevering in love is an essential aspect of what it means to truly know and follow God.