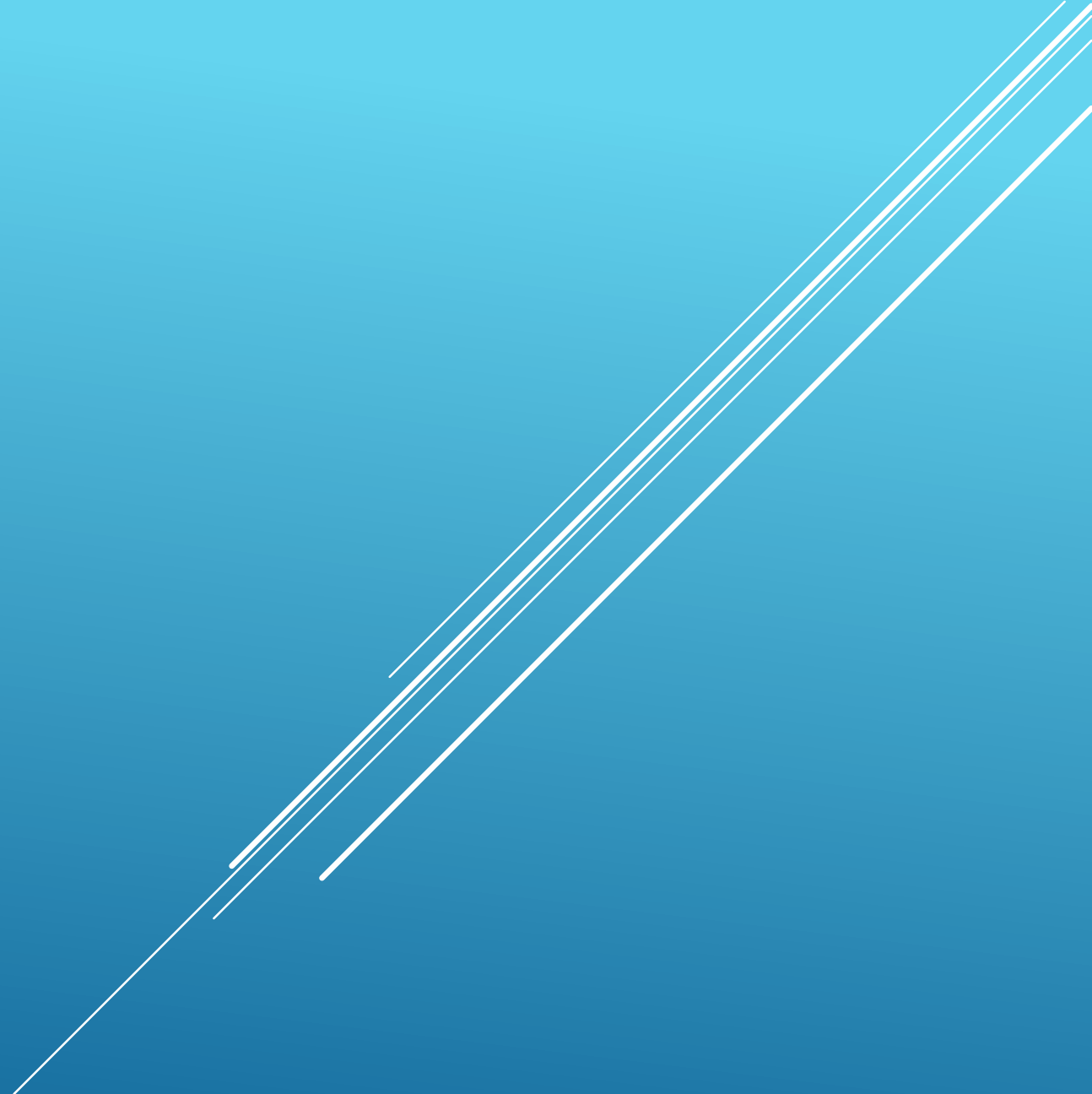


“RUN THE RACE”

The Perseverance of the Saints



- ▶ This doctrine is the P in TULIP
- ▶ TULIP is a popular acrostic that deals with five important and controversial doctrines.

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ T = Total depravity
- ▶ U = Unconditional election
- ▶ L = Limited atonement
- ▶ I = Irresistible grace
- ▶ P = Perseverance of the saints

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

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- ▶ My goal tonight is to interact with the P in TULIP, or the perseverance of the saints.
- ▶ Why?
- ▶ The rationale for this is my final message from James.

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

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- ▶ James 5:19-20.
- ▶ I offered for observations concerning the “urgent intervention” mentioned in v. 19.
- ▶ First, the word “if” indicates this an actual possibility.
- ▶ Second, the phrase “anyone among you” indicates this condition could be true of any professing Christian.
- ▶ Third, the phrase “wanders from the truth” indicates the severity of this condition.
- ▶ Finally, the word “someone” serves as a call for any believer to urgently intervene in the wanderers life.

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ These four observations, especially the phrase “if anyone among you wanders from the truth” leads us to ask some important questions.
- ▶ What are we to make of the genuineness of the profession of a wanderer?
- ▶ Has a wanderer lost his/her salvation?
- ▶ What do we make of a professing Christian who persists or dies in a state of wandering?

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ The questions raised by our last message from James is the reason I want to survey the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints.
- ▶ So let's begin by defining the doctrine.

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ Perseverance is the work of God that renders it certain that a true believer will never fully or finally fall away from the faith (John 6:39; 10:27-28; 16:1; Rom 8:35; Phil 1:6; 2 Tim 4:18; Jude 24).
- ▶ Those in the Bible who appeared to be believers and fell away should be viewed as having had spurious faith (John 6:64; 1 John 2:19).

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ “If you have it—that is, if you have genuine faith and are in a state of saving grace—you will never lose it. If you lose it, you never had it” (RC Sproul).

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter XVII, “Of the Perseverance of the Saints”
- ▶ Paragraph 1: They, whom God has accepted in His Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved (John 10:28; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 3:9; 1 Peter 1:5, 9; 2 Peter 1:10).

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ Paragraph 2: This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ, the abiding of the Spirit, and of the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace: from all which arises also the certainty and infallibility thereof (Jeremiah 31:3; 32:40; Luke 22:32; John 10:28; 14:16, 17; 17:11, 24; Romans 8:33; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:18, 19; Hebrews 7:25; 9:12, 13, 14, 15; 10:10, 14; 13:20; 1 John 2:19, 27; 3:9).

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ Paragraph 3: Nevertheless, they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins; and, for a time, continue therein: whereby they incur God's displeasure, and grieve His Holy Spirit, come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves (2 Samuel 12:14; Isaiah 63:17; 64:5, 7, 9; Psalm 32:3, 4; 51:1, 8, 10, 12, 14; 89:31, 32; Matthew 26:70, 72, 74; Mark 6:52; 16:14; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Ephesians 4:30; Revelation 2:4).

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ Paragraph 1 affirms the certainty of the true believers perseverance.
- ▶ “...[the believer] can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end...”

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ Paragraph 2 announces the grounds of the believers' certain perseverance, the election of the Father, the work of the Son, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

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- ▶ Paragraph 3 concedes the tragic reality that true believers will have moral lapses and will “...fall into grievous sins; and, for a time, continue therein...”

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ We discover three affirmations the perseverance of the saints does not make.
- ▶ First, it does not affirm that a true believer will fail to attain salvation.
- ▶ Second, it does not affirm a true believer is responsible to keep himself/herself in the faith.
- ▶ Third, it does not affirm that a true believer will not have moral lapses, even protracted times of unrepentant sin.

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ Hebrews 12:1-2
- ▶ “let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...”

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

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THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ We start the race at conversion.
- ▶ John 3:3, 5



THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ We run the race over the course of life.
- ▶ This is the essence of perseverance.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 9:24
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 9:26
- ▶ Galatians 2:2
- ▶ Philippians 2:16
- ▶ Hebrews 12:1



THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ We finish the race.
- ▶ Acts 20:24
- ▶ 2 Timothy 4:7



THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ We get tired.
- ▶ Galatians 6:9
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:58
- ▶ 2 Thessalonians 3:13



THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ We get injured.
- ▶ Galatians 6:1



THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ We have victory
- ▶ Romans 8:37
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:57
- ▶ 1 John 4:4; 5:4

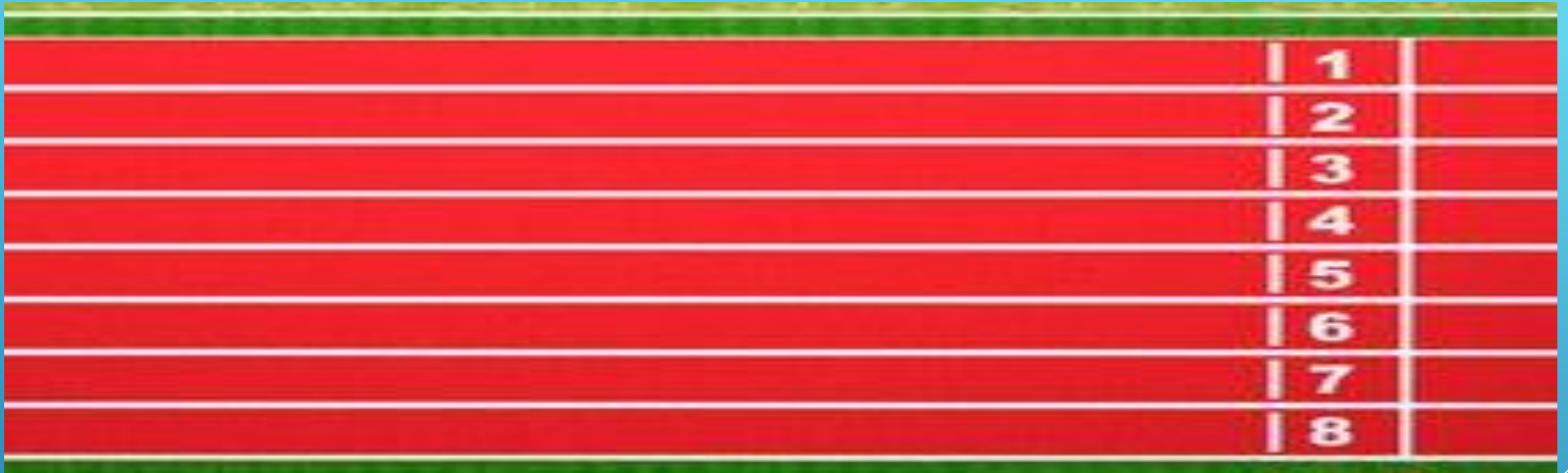


THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ We will fall.
- ▶ Genesis 3: The *Fall*
- ▶ Romans 3:23
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 10:12



THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS



Start

John 3:3, 5

Run the Race

Hebrews 12:2

Finish

Colossians 1:23:
Jude 24-25

- ▶ Perseverance highlights the necessity to “run with endurance” (Colossians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 6:1; Hebrews 12:15).
- ▶ Preservation highlights that this is the work of God that renders it certain the believer will not fully or finally fall (John 10:28; Philippians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:10-13; Jude 24-25).

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- ▶ One lesson concerning the doctrine of perseverance of the saints.
- ▶ Perseverance emphasizes running and finishing, not merely starting (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:10).
- ▶ What about professions of faith?
- ▶ What about fruit (both its absence and presence)?

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS