

# WHAT IS THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS?

by Michael A. Milton

**TO THE READER:** A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. Does the Scripture teach “once saved always saved” or “eternal security?” (5-9)
2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5 in more than one translation. According to these verses, to Whom does Peter credit salvation from beginning to the end? (9-13)
3. Define, in two ways, how someone gets saved: (13-19)  
What a person has to do –  
What God had to do –
4. Read Matthew 10:22; 24:13. The word “endure” is the same Greek word as perseverance in Revelation 14:12. What do we learn from these verses (keeping the context in mind)? (19-22)
5. Read very carefully what Jesus says in Matthew 7:21-23. List everything you can find about the people Jesus describes: What did they know, what did they do, and what did they fail to do? (22-27)

6. Every one of us have at least one sin we cannot seem to give up. How many times will God forgive us for that sin before He finally throws up His hands and says, "No more!?" (27-29)
  
7. One of the arguments made against "eternal security" is people feel they can live any way they want since they can't lose their salvation. Is that an accurate assessment?
  
8. How different might you live if you feared you would die with at least one unconfessed sin?

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

### **APPLICATION**

Hopefully, by now you have realized security in Christ does not mean living any way you want. God created you for one purpose – to glorify Him and spend the rest of eternity enjoying our relationship with Him. In order to do this, you need to learn to put God first in every area of your life. Therefore, what are those areas of your life where God needs to be put back on top? For that to happen, you need to make a plan, and get it started. Write out your plan here and put it on your calendar to check on your progress at the end of each month.

### **For Further Study**

Dr. Milton gives a great list of helpful works. Here are two more.

*Assured by God: Living in the Fullness of God's Grace*, Burk Parsons, editor. P&R, 2007.

*The Enemy Within: Straight Talk about the Power and Defeat of Sin*, Kris Lundgaard. P&R, 1998.

Find this and more at [www.pcabookstore.com](http://www.pcabookstore.com).