

- Can a Christian fall away?
- Preservation & perseverance:
 - Canons of Dort (1618-19)
 - Westminster Confession of Faith (1646)

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. Westminster Confession XVII.I.i

1. **Biblical promises: all who are born again will persevere to the end...**

John 6:38-40; John 10:27-29

Objection: *But what about the 'warning' passages?*

2. **Theological arguments: only those who are elect will persevere to the end...**

Eph 2:4-7; Rom 8:28-30

Objection: *But what about those who've given up?*

3. **Divine power: those God preserves will persevere in his strength...**

Phil 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25

Objection: *But won't this tempt those who think they are elect, to sin?*

⇒ Assurance...

Coffee Question!

How has tonight encouraged you?