

Catechetical Sermon, January 11th, 2026

Canons of Dort, Head 5, articles 7-8: "God Preserves"

Scripture Lesson: Romans 8:26-30

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: First, that God will again renew his elect to repentance after they sin and second, that the grace of the Triune God preserves his elect to the end of their lives.
Steps to Learning	Read the Canons of Dort, Head 5, articles 7-8 and Romans 8:26-30. Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>When Christians fall into terrible sins, can they lose their salvation (regeneration)? What did the Arminians say about this and what does God's Word teach?</p> <p>No, when Christians fall into terrible sins, they cannot lose their salvation or regeneration. The Arminians said, however, that Christians can and do lose their salvation or regeneration. In fact, they argued that Christians can sometimes lose their salvation and regain it several times. But the Word of God says that we've been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible" (1 Peter 1:23). True Christians always repent.</p> <p>How do Christians find repentance from their sins?</p> <p>The Canons of Dort, summarizing the Scriptures remind us that God uses means to cause repentance in us. Primarily, it is the preaching of the Law and the Gospel impowered by the Holy Spirit that moves us to repentance.</p> <p>God works repentance in us by the Word and Spirit but do we play a part in the process of repentance?</p> <p>Yes, we play a part. By our will, we exhibit a sincere and godly sorrow for our sins. Paul discusses this in 2 Corinthians 7:9,10 where he teaches that non-Christians exhibit what he calls "ungodly sorrow," which is just being sorry for the sin but not feeling grief that we have sinned against God and neighbor. True Christians will exhibit godly sorrow for sins believing that they are against God ultimately. King David and Peter are examples of confessing sin sincerely to God after great sins.</p> <p>What do we mean that the grace of the Triune God preserves his elect to the end?</p> <p>It means that God will not reject those whom he has chosen (see Psalm 33:11, Romans 9:10-12). Also, no one can break the "golden chain of salvation" that Paul discusses in Romans 8:28-30.</p>
Bible Reading	Genesis 37-43 (Reading the great stories of the Old Testament)