

**I. Read II Corinthians 1:21-24**

- A. In verse 21, Paul explains that the believer's *position* is established "in Christ." Read the following verses and describe what they reveal about the believer's *position* "in Christ."

*Note on verse 21 from The Reformation Study Bible: The ability to persevere, that is, to continue in the Christian life, is not from ourselves; it is a gift from God. God continues to give this ability to all who are born again (Phil. 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5). Those who are guarded by God in this way continue to trust in Christ throughout their lives (13:5; Col. 1:23; Heb. 3:14), because God protects them through the faith He gives them (v24).*

Col. 1:13

Col. 1:14

Col. 1:22

Romans 5:10

Romans 5:19

John 10:28-29

Galatians 4:5-7

- B. In v21 we read that the believer is "anointed" (NAS). In what sense is the believer "anointed?"

*Note from The Reformed Study Bible: To "anoint" literally is to pour oil on the head, often as a sign of divine calling and empowerment...Paul reminds us that just as God anointed Jesus for a particular service and ministry, so He has anointed us for our ministries, not with oil, but with the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- C. In verse 22, the effects of the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit are described. What two words are used in the verse to explain the permanence of the gift?
- D. In verses 22 and 23, the present position of the believer is explained and the future state of the believer is alluded to. What is the future state of the believer?
- E. In verses 23-24, Paul introduces the subject he will address in the following verses. In Chapter 2 he will rebuke the Corinthians for their unwillingness to forgive a repentant sinner. He explains that he has delayed his visit to give them time to repent of their unforgiveness. Read II Peter 3:9 and explain what it tells us about God's approach to man's stubborn refusal to repent.
- F. Considering the fact that God's Holy Spirit resides in the heart of the believer, what conclusions may we draw about the Arminian notion that believers can lose their salvation (fall from grace)?
- G. If God the Holy Spirit is given to the believer as a pledge of the promise of salvation and heaven, to withdraw the pledge because a believer sinned would be evidence of bad faith on the part of God. Read Romans 11:29 and comment on whether or not God would withdraw the gift of the Holy Spirit after He has been given to the believer.
- H. Perseverance of the Saints is described in *The Reformed Study Bible* as "continued adherence to a belief despite discouragement and opposition. The reason that believers persevere in faith and obedience, however, is not the strength of their own commitment, but that Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit preserves them." What are some misunderstandings of this important doctrine common amongst evangelicals?