Perseverance of the Saints

This is also called the final perseverance of the saints. It means that real Christians stick with it. Baptists do not believe that true believers will fall away and, thereby, lose their salvation. Some mistakenly call this belief "Once saved, always saved." That is not a good way to put it because it implies that a person can receive Christ and then live a sinful lifestyle. However, when a person is truly born again, he doesn't want to live a sinful lifestyle. The doctrine of perseverance doesn't mean the believer won't stumble, but it refers to an inward pull that will not allow him to quit the faith.

Four sentences sum up this Bible teaching from different angles. Understanding three out of four statements will lead to confusion. All four statements must be taken together.

Only those who persevere will go to heaven

Colossians 1:21-23   "And you… He has reconciled… through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight – if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel"

Every believer is responsible to persevere

Perseverance is a command to obey.

Hebrews 12:1 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"

Perseverance is inevitable for those who have been born again

Birds gotta sing… Christians gotta persevere! We do what we do because of what we are.

2nd Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

We persevere because God preserves

It's not that we keep God, it's that He keeps us.

1st Peter 1:4-5   You… are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

John 10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."