

The Perseverance of the Saints, that in a way contradicts all the others because it isn't that the saints are so strong they persevere, it is the preservation of the saints. Preservations would be a much better term. ~~But~~ God will preserve those who believe in Christ, those who are saved. He preserves them. You might say ~~that~~ He enables them to persevere. But in the first four the emphasis is entirely on God's work, and then this term Perseverance of the Saints puts it back on the man that he's going to persevere! Well, he may not persevere. He may fall away. ~~But believe =~~ ^{the belief} in eternal security is that even if he seems ~~to everybody~~ ^{at times} to fall away, God still has his hand on him. Perhaps in the last instant of life he will turn to the Lord, if he truly was a believer. And I don't think anyone can tell who is truly a believer except the man himself and the Lord. I would not say to anybody you are saved. I would say if you truly have received Christ into your heart you are saved. But I don't think that saying certain words is going to save anybody. I would say that God will ~~per~~ preserve his own, but that they will persevere would lead you to say, Well that man didn't persevere therefore he never was saved. That may be the case, but we can't say. So preservation would be a far better term to use, but it's not in that acrostic. They did not think of it and they contradicted the emphasis in the other four.

I wonder who originated that acrostic. I just wonder. I wish somebody would write a thesis on it sometime. Just investigate it. It might take a lot of investigation, or it might turn up quickly.

Neher: I've heard nowadays perseverance urged against the term eternal security, because it is claimed eternal security would lead someone into laxness. Whereas perseverance would--well, again it puts the burden on the shoulders of the Christian. But as far as laxness, would preservation ----- ?