

## Persevering Love

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Rich Nathan

April 16 & 17, 2016

The Father Loves You

Romans 5:9-10; 8:29-39

I recently read a really sad story about Marilyn Monroe.

Photo of Marilyn Monroe

I didn't know very much about her childhood. She was born Norma Jeane Mortenson in Los Angeles in 1926. Although Norma Jeane's father is named as Edward Mortenson on her birth certificate, her parents separated before Norma Jeane's mother became pregnant. So her father's true identity has never been confirmed. Not only did Norma Jeane never know her father, but her mother was diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic and institutionalized when Norma Jeane was a young child. Mom had very little contact with Norma Jeane after that.

Norma Jeane spent the rest of her childhood bouncing back and forth between foster families, aunts, and orphanages. So, the woman who grew up to be Marilyn Monroe, married and divorced three times, spent her entire life looking for someone who would love her no matter what.

In the United States, we easily marry but we also easily leave our marriages. Because of the fragility of our relationships, more and more married couples are opting to get pre-nuptial contracts before they marry. This is not just the province of the super-wealthy or celebrities anymore.

One lawyer said, "You'd be shocked who gets a pre-nup now: a school teacher, a guy who has a refrigerator business, a freelance journalist, all have asked me to write them pre-nups."

We're so afraid that love won't last that average, middle-class folks feel compelled to lawyer up before they walk down the aisle. That's why I love stories of love that never gives up.

A young woman recently told her story. She wrote:

"I'd been living in foster care since I was two. My real mom couldn't give my five sisters and me the care we needed. Since we didn't have a dad or anyone to care for us, we were put in different foster homes. I felt lonely and confused. I didn't know how to tell

people that I hurt inside. Throwing a tantrum was the only way I knew to express my feelings.

Because I acted up, eventually my current foster mom sent me back to the adoption agency just as the foster mom before had done. I thought I was the most unlovable girl in the world.

Then I met Kate McCann. I was seven by that time and living with my third foster family when she came to visit. When my foster mother told me that Kate was single and wanted to adopt a child, I didn't think she'd choose me. I couldn't imagine anyone would want me to live with them forever.

That day, Kate took me to a pumpkin farm. We had fun, but I didn't think I would see her again.

A few days later, a social worker came to the house to say that Kate wanted to adopt me. Then she asked me if I would mind living with one parent instead of two.

"All I want is someone who loves me," I said.

Kate visited the next day. She explained that it would take a year for the adoption to be finalized, but I could move in with her soon. I was excited, but afraid too. Kate and I were total strangers. I wondered if she would change her mind once she got to know me.

Kate sensed my fear. "I know you've been hurt," she said, hugging me. "I know you're scared. But I promise I'll never send you away. We're a family now."

When I moved in with my new mother I had only a few clothes I'd brought in a brown paper bag. "Don't worry," Mom said. "I'll buy you lots of pretty new things."

I went to sleep that night feeling safe. I prayed I wouldn't have to leave.

Mom did lots of nice things for me. She took me to church. She let me have pets and gave me horseback riding and piano lessons. Every day, she told me she loved me. But that wasn't enough to heal the hurt inside me. I kept waiting for her to change her mind. I thought, "If I act bad enough, she'll leave me like the others."

So I tried to hurt her before she could hurt me. I picked fights over little things and threw tantrums when I didn't get my way. I slammed doors. If Mom tried to stop me, I'd hit her. But she never lost her patience. She'd hug me and say she loved me anyway.

Because I was failing in school when I came to live with her, Mom was very strict about my homework. One day when I was watching TV, she came in and turned it off. "You can watch it after you finish your homework," she said. I blew up. I picked up my books

and threw them across the room. “I hate you and I don’t want to live here anymore!” I screamed.

I waited for her to tell me to start packing. When she didn’t, I asked, “Aren’t you going to send me back?”

“I don’t like the way you’re behaving,” she said, “but I will never send you back. We’re a family, and families don’t give up on each other.”

Then it hit me. This mom was different; she wasn’t going to get rid of me. She really did love me. And I realized I loved her too. I cried and hugged her.

Today I’m 16. I have a 3.5 GPA. I own a horse named Dagger’s Point, four cats, a dog, six doves and a bull frog that lives in our backyard pond. And I have a dream: I want to be a veterinarian. When I’m older, I’d like to get married and have kids, but if that doesn’t work out, I’ll adopt just like my mom did. I’ll pick a scared, lonely kid and then never, ever give up on her. I’m so glad Mom didn’t give up on me.”

I believe every human being on earth needs to find a love that will never give up on us no matter what – even if we have a brain injury, even if we get Alzheimer’s, even if we totally mess up – we will still be loved.

And I believe that every person on earth can find a love like that – not necessarily from a parent or a spouse or a boyfriend or a girlfriend. I can’t promise you that you’ll find a romance or a parent who will love you no matter what. Spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, parents may leave us. But I believe that every person on earth can find love from God our Father in Heaven who will never leave us or forsake us.

We started a series a few weeks ago titled, “The Father Loves You”. Today as I continue in the series on God our Father’s love, I’ve called my message “Persevering Love”.

Let’s Pray

Romans 5:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

There are lots of ways to outline Paul’s letter to the Romans. The classic, traditional way to outline the book is to say that Romans 1-3 is about God’s condemnation of sin and sinners. Romans 3-5 is justification, God is freeing us from the penalty of our sins. Romans 6-7 is sanctification, God freeing us from the power of sin. Romans 8 is about glorification, God freeing us from the presence of sin.

Romans 3-5 – justification

Romans 6-7 – sanctification

Romans 8 - glorification

But there are many people, including me, that object to that traditional approach to outlining the book of Romans. I believe that Romans 3-4 are about justification, God declaring sinful human beings to be in the right with him. But then in Romans 5-8, Paul turns his attention to assurance of final salvation.

Assurance of Final Salvation

I haven't the time to go through this, but Paul essentially picks up the vocabulary that he uses in Romans 5:1-11 and repeats much of that same vocabulary at the end of Romans 8. The basic argument from Romans 5 to Romans 8 is that against all of the threats that face us in this uncertain world - the threat of trial, the threat of suffering – Christians can be sure of our final salvation. And that God's love will never fail us because of the work of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Is the verdict of justification where God declares somebody to be in the right with him a final verdict? Paul's answer is "yes!" When God adopts somebody in his family, will he ever send that person back? The answer is "Absolutely not!" It's unthinkable! God our Father will never reject one of his children.

Let me work this out for you. This world is a very uncertain place and our lives are very fragile. Death comes upon us suddenly and unexpectedly and it comes upon our loved ones suddenly and unexpectedly. The question I want to tackle today is simply this: What assurance do we have that if we do put our trust in Christ that when we die we will certainly be welcome by Christ into his eternal glory?

Or to put it differently, what assurance do we have that after God our Father adopts us he will continue to love us and never send us back? Not just right now, but for all eternity?

There are so many things that can happen to us after we put our trust in Christ. We may suffer dementia, or an emotional or mental breakdown. We may totally screw up our lives and the lives of those we promise to love by our stupid choices. We can hurt lots of people by plunging into some addiction. We may become sick or cynical. We may sin in a way that utterly destroys our reputation, or destroys or marriage, or hurts people whom God loves.

How do we know that between the moment that God declares us to be in the right through our faith in Jesus Christ and the moment when we die we won't lose our relationship with Christ and be separated from God our Father's love forever? What assurance do we have that we will ultimately be embraced by the love of God and live with Christ in God's eternal kingdom forever and ever?

Let's read again

Romans 5:9-10

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

In this text,

God's persevering love is argued for and proven

The Bible, and especially the Apostle Paul, is not content to leave us with an assertion – God loves you and will always love you! Or as the Fundamentalists like to say, “The Bible says it! I believe it! That settles it!” No, the Bible and especially the Apostle Paul, always goes beyond mere assertions of a particular truth – “Here's the truth! Believe it!” The Bible, and especially the Apostle Paul, even goes beyond offering us an experience – God loves you and will always love you! Don't you feel that in your heart?

God our Father's persevering love for us is not just an assertion, it's not just experience. The Apostle Paul argues, he works out a line of logic for us. He reasons with us. He persuades us. He says, “Let me prove to you that God your Father will never give up on and will eternally love you no matter what!”

Some folks have labeled this teaching “Eternal Security”. I believe that's what this text, and indeed all of Romans 5-8 is teaching! The person who has truly embraced Christ is secure for all eternity.

When someone says, “You know, you can't be sure. You can't know. You can hope, but you can't know.” This, by the way, friends, is what many churches teach. There are huge denominations that teach “Don't ever say, I know I'm saved!” Rather you should say, “I want to be saved. I hope I'm saved. But to declare I know I'm saved and will be saved is just arrogance and conceit. Lots can happen between right now and when you die.” But when you follow the Apostle Paul's reasoning, when you get inside the mind of the Apostle Paul and you listen to him argue and persuade, and you follow his logic, you have to come away with the conclusion that those who have trusted in Christ for salvation will surely be eternally saved. And they will always be embraced by the love of God.

Paul is saying in verses 9-10 if you have any doubt about your final salvation, can we sit down and reason together? Can I go through with you the steps of the argument so there won't be any doubt in your heart or mind anymore?

God's persevering love is proven by our justification

Let's read verse 9 again:

Romans 5:9

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

The Apostle Paul starts in verse 9 with a contrast between now and then; between our situation in the present and our situation on the Day of Judgment. Let's remind ourselves of what Paul has argued up until now. I mentioned this to you last week. There are two truths that you must establish in your heart if you are to live a healthy life. These are foundational truths for building a healthy identity.

The first truth is this:

We are way worse than we fear.

We don't just make a few mistakes. We don't just occasionally mess up. You've got to believe this about yourself. Paul argues that we're way worse than we fear, but here's the second wonderful truth of the gospel:

God loves us way more than we imagine

So Paul argues here in verse 9, if in the present moment, you are justified, if that's true of you, let's remember again what it means to be justified. If in spite of all that you were, and in spite of all that you are, in verses 6-8

Romans 5:6-8

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

If in spite of that, God has chosen to justify you, to declare you to be in the right with him. He says, "In spite of all the things I know about you, I'm declaring you to be not guilty in my sight and completely right in my sight." If that is true, then what can get in the way of your future salvation?

In other words, if your sins didn't prevent God from declaring you "not guilty" then what is going to get in the way in the future? What could you do if your sin didn't keep you out?

Some people say that nothing can separate you but your sin can and you could walk away. Well, if your sin didn't prevent you from getting a "not guilty" verdict on your life, but God has declared you "not guilty" then what will you do in the future that will kick you out and prevent God from saving you? It is a matter of logic. It is a matter of understanding the word "justification" to be declared "not guilty" even though we are sinners.

And remember we are not justified because we are being progressively becoming more holy. So many people base their justification on their sanctification. They say, "Well, the reason why I'm declared right with God is because I am getting rid of sin in my life. Because I see myself loving God more. Because I prayed this morning. Because I went to church. Because I read the Bible. I'm cleaning up my act; therefore, I'm right with God." Your justification, your right-standing with God is in no way based upon the present level of your holiness. God declares you to be in the right with him as a sheer act of grace. Justification is entirely the activity of God and is simply received by us through faith.

And then if we still don't get it, Paul lays it out even more plainly in verse 10:

Romans 5:10

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

He proves to us that God will continue to love us and save us for all eternity using two contrasts. The first is a contrast between us formerly being enemies but now being friends.

Here's Paul's second argument

God's persevering love is proven by our reconciliation

Paul says, "If while we were enemies..." An enemy is not someone who is just a little less than a friend. An enemy is not a close acquaintance but someone who you probably wouldn't go on vacation with. An enemy is not even someone who is a stranger. An enemy is someone who is opposed to everything that you stand for. Everything that you do. An enemy gets in your way. An enemy is an adversary.

If while we were in that position of being opposed to everything that God says, opposed to everything that God stands for, opposed to everything that God wants—if while we were enemies we were reconciled, meaning that God worked out all the differences in

our personal relationship through the death of his Son, so that we could be at peace with him and be completely reconciled —how much more now that we are at peace with God shall we be saved?

Doesn't it make sense that if God could save you and make peace with you and embrace you in his love while your back was turned to God when you didn't care for him, when you were pushing him away, when you were living independent of him, when you weren't giving him a second thought, how much more now that you have your heart turned to God and want a relationship with God and want to please God will he save you? It is harder to love an enemy than a friend. But now that you are a friend of God's, now that you are a child of God, now that you are in God's family and you belong to him, don't you think you will be eternally loved?

And the second contrast that Paul draws is between the death of his Son and his Son's resurrection. Verse 10:

Romans 5:10

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

What an incredible argument. It makes me just jump up, pump my fist in the air and shout, "Yes!" Paul is saying that at the moment of Christ's death, he saved us. If at the moment of his greatest weakness, the moment when darkness covered the earth, when God suffered this humiliation, when the head of Jesus was bowed and he was stripped naked and his hands were fixed to a wooden cross so that he could not move and he was in utter agony, if at that moment, God saved you, how much more now that he has gloriously and powerfully resurrected will he be able to keep you until the end. If in his weakness, God could reach out and pull you out of the fire, while his hands were fixed to the cross, how much more now that he is powerfully free and wondrously alive can God preserve you until the end?

Paul is not done arguing, persuading, working out the logic for us that God will never give up on his children. If you trusted in Christ, you will certainly be eternally embraced by God our Father's love no matter what.

Look with me at

Romans 8:29-30

<sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Paul is arguing here that

God's persevering love is proven by the unbreakable chain of salvation

Paul is arguing here that there is an unbreakable chain of salvation, where the links of the chain can't be pulled apart by anything.

It starts with

- God's foreknowledge
- God's predestination
- God's calling
- God's justification
- God's glorification

You see, Paul has argued that if you are justified through faith and if you understand what justification means. What justification means is that you have heard God's End of Time Judgment Day verdict on your life now. At this moment, you get to hear what God is going to say over your life on the Day of Judgment. So, Paul says if you understand what justification means, then you should be assured that you will be eternally saved. God doesn't change his mind. It's not like a teenage girl picking petals from a daisy, "He loves me, He loves me not. He loves me, He loves me not." When our God declares you to be in the right with him that is his final verdict. It will not change.

There's no temporary justification. There's no such thing as justification for today or for the next few months, but not next year or not when you sin really badly or when you suffer a head injury. Our sin has been taken care of at the cross, now and forever.

Let me just pause here and say parenthetically that sin is an awful thing for the Christian. So many say, "If you assure people of salvation no matter what, they're just going to go out and sin like crazy!" Not if you understand the awfulness of sin, you won't. Sin is a horrible thing. It will destroy your intimacy with God. It will cause you to doubt whether you ever were saved. You might even begin to doubt God's existence because a fog will roll in over your soul, making it hard to see God or feel him. You can cause great hurt to people you promised to love because of your sin. You can wreck the lives of your children. You can blow up your career. You can ruin your reputation. You can grieve the Holy Spirit. Sin is never something we can take lightly.

But in spite of the awfulness of sin and all of its dreadful consequences, God will never give up on those he has justified. He'll never say about you, "You're no longer part of my family. You took a step too far." Paul as he argues and reasons and works out the logic of God's persevering love says here concerning this unbreakable chain of salvation, even if for the sake of argument you believe that a justified person can fall away from God's persevering love, I will clinch the argument by this little phrase in verse 30

Romans 8:30

And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

The tense in the original Greek is so important here because the tense of that verb “he also glorified” in the Greek is what is called the Aorist tense. The aorist tense concerns an action that was completed in the past. In other words, God who sees the end from the beginning has fixed his purpose and decree for all time. If you have been justified, then you already - in the mind of God – have been eternally saved. The decree is so fixed that God regards your future salvation as something that has already happened.

Paul goes on and he says, “I’m not content to give you three or four or five reasons why. You can know that God will never give up on you and his love will persevere. I want you to be so utterly convinced that you come away saying that whatever happens to me, I will always be loved by my Father in Heaven.” He will never send me back

Paul writes this in verse 31

Romans 8:31

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

God’s persevering love is proven by God being “for us”

Now there’s lots of things someone could say about God being “for us”. I just want to underline one thing that God being for us means. The Apostle Paul repeats this little phrase “for us” in verse 32, where he writes

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

One major way that God our Father proves that he’s for us is by sending his Son to die “for us”. Verse 32 is the very heart of the gospel in the New Testament. Do you know that there are over 40 verses in the New Testament that specifically tell us that the death of Jesus was for us in our place as our substitute?

You know, lots of people have asked me over the years, “Pastor Rich, why does Vineyard have Communion every week? The church I went to in the past did Communion once a month or once a quarter, sometimes once a year. Why do you at Vineyard Columbus do it every week?” The reason in part we do this every week is so that week after week no matter what else we’re singing about, no matter what else we’re talking about – we can be talking about marriage or friendship or caring for the poor – we’re going to take time at our service to bring us back to the heart of the gospel, to first things, to primary things – that God demonstrates that he is “for us” by sending his son to die for us.

Week after week, we hear the words that Jesus spoke on the night that he was betrayed. He took bread, having given thanks, he said

Luke 22:19b

“This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

Luke 22:20

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

On any given week, we want to remind ourselves of the gospel. The death of Jesus Christ for us as our substitute. Standing in our place. Bearing our sins. Over 40 times in the New Testament we are told that Christ died for us. Let me just give you three of these 40.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:2

... live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

How does this “For us” phrase help to prove that we will be eternally saved? Who’s the “us” for whom Christ died? The “us” is us, the sinners. Us, the ungodly. Us, the powerless. Us, the enemies of God. God has proven his persevering love for us by sending his Son to die for us.

Why did nails go into the hands of the Son of God? Jesus says, “I did it for you!” Why did the Son of God endure so much agony? Christ said, “I did it for you!” Why was spear run through the side of the perfect Lamb of God? Jesus says, “I did it for you!”

Let me select one more proof God our Father’s persevering love. This text from Romans 5-8 is loaded with proofs.

Just one more, verse 34

Romans 8:34

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

God's persevering love is proven by Christ's prayers

If all of your wildest fears came to pass, whatever you dread right now. If all of your nightmares became true. If the diagnosis is in fact malignant cancer, if terrorism hit our country again, if you did lose your job. If, God forbid, one of your children was to die. If it all came true, you will not go through whatever your nightmare is alone. Christ will be with you in it and through it. Christ will be there in the hospital. Christ will be with you in court. Christ will be with you in old age. Christ will be with you in poverty and prosperity. Christ will be there in the funeral home. And Christ will be there at the hour of our death and in the Day of Judgment.

But more than that, Paul says that not only will Christ be with you but according to verse 34, Christ is always praying for you. Do you know, friend, at this very moment Christ is praying for you? While I speak to you and you sit there listening, Christ is praying for you and he's praying for me and that's the reason why preaching is effective. It makes a difference because Christ is praying for you to receive and he's praying for me to have anointing on these words. When you go to sleep at night, Christ is praying for you. When you're driving in the car with the radio on, when you're yelling at your kids, when you're struggling with temptation as a single person, Christ is praying for you. And he's praying for me.

One great saint, Robert Murray McCheyne, once said,

"If I could hear Christ praying in the room next to me I would not fear a million enemies – yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me. Christ is still in the next room praying for us! He ever lives to make intercession."

If we could hear the prayers Christ is praying for us right now in heaven before the Father's throne, we would never be anxious again.

We all want to find a love that will never give up on us  
Let me close with this:

There's a wonderful book written by Robertson McQuilkin titled

*A Promise Kept* book cover

Robertson McQuilkin was a college and seminary president. In this book, he tells a story of his wife, Muriel. He writes,

“It’s been a decade since that day in Florida when Muriel, my wife, repeated to the couple vacationing with us the story she’d just told five minutes earlier. Funny, I thought, that’s never happened before. But it began to happen occasionally. When her memory deteriorated further, we went to a neurologist friend who gave her the full battery of tests and, by elimination, confirmed that she had Alzheimer’s. But because she had none of the typical physical deterioration, there was still some question. We went to Duke University Medical Center, believing we should get the best available second opinion. My heart sank as the doctor asked her to name the four Gospels and she looked pleadingly at me for help. But she quickly bounced back and laughed at herself. She was little nervous, perhaps, but nothing was going to get her down.”

Muriel was a brilliant Bible teacher. She progressively lost her ministry. First, her radio show was cancelled because she simply couldn’t keep her train of thought. Then after she lost her radio program, she still accepted some speaking invitations but Dr. McQuilkin said she’d come home crushed because she’d lost her train of thought and things didn’t go well. Gradually, she lost her public ministry altogether.

McQuilkin continues,

“I approached the college Board of Trustees with the need to begin the search for my successor. I told them when the day came that Muriel needed me full time, she would have me. I hoped that would not be necessary until I reached retirement, but at 57 it seemed unlikely that I could hold on until age 65.

The Board arranged for a companion to stay in our home so I could go daily to the office. During those two years, it became increasingly difficult to keep Muriel home. As soon as I left she would take out after me. With me, she was content, calm; without me she was distressed; sometimes terror-stricken.

The walk to school is a mile round trip. She would make that trip as many as ten times a day. Sometimes at night, when I helped her undress, I found bloody feet. When I told our family doctor he choked up. “Such love” he said simply.

I came across the common contemporary wisdom in this morning’s newspaper in a letter to a national columnist. “I ended the relationship because it wasn’t meeting my needs,” the writer explained. The counselor’s response was predictable: “What were your needs that you didn’t get met by him in the relationship? Do you still have these needs? What would he have to do to fulfill those needs? Could he do it?” “Consider your needs for communication, understanding, affirmation, common interests, sexual fulfillment – the list goes on. If your needs are not met, you need to split.” The columnist offered no other alternative. I reflected on the eerie irrelevance of every one of those criteria for me. None of my needs are being met by Muriel now.

But when the time came, my decision was firm. It took no great calculation. It was a matter of integrity. Had I not promised Muriel 42 years before, “In sickness and in health...’til death us do part”? This was no grim duty to which I stoically resigned however. It was only fair. She had, after all, cared for me for almost four decades with marvelous devotion; now it was my turn.

And such a partner she was! If I took care of her for 40 years, I would never be out of her debt. It's all more than keeping promises and being fair, however. As I watched her brave descent into oblivion, Muriel is the joy of my life. Daily I discern new manifestations of the kind of person she is, the wife I always loved. I also see fresh manifestations of God's love – the God I want to love more fully.”

Don't you want to know a love like that? A love that will never let you go? A love that will never give up on us. Robertson McQuilkin is simply modeling the even more amazing, persevering love of God our Father. Nothing can ever separate us from his love.

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- A. God's Persevering Love is proven by our justification
- B. God's Persevering Love is proven by our reconciliation
- C. God's Persevering Love is proven by the unbreakable chain of salvation
- D. God's Persevering Love is proven by God being "for us"
- E. God's Persevering Love is proven by Christ's Prayers