

ART. V.--That those who are incorporated into Christ by a true faith, and have thereby become partakers of his life-giving spirit, have thereby full power to strive against Satan, sin, the world, and their own flesh, and to win the victory, it being well understood that it is ever through the assisting grace of the Holy Ghost; and that Jesus Christ assists them through his Spirit in all temptations, extends to them his hand; and if only they are ready for the ~~war~~ conflict, and desire his help, and are not inactive, keeps them from falling, so that they, by no craft or power of ~~St~~ Satan, can be misled, nor plucked out of Christ's hands, according to the word of Christ, John x.28: 'Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.' But whether they are capable, through negligence, of forsaking again the first beginnings of their life in Christ, of again returning to this present evil world, of turning away from the holy doctrine which was ~~it~~ delivered them, of losing a good conscience, of becoming devoid of grace, that must be more particularly determined out of the Holy Scriptures before we ourselves can teach it with the full persuasion ~~f~~ of our minds.

Now as to the perseverance of the saints. How many of you got the impression that the Arminians taught the perseverance of the saints? How many got the impression they denied it? We have about an even vote on this. <sup>But most</sup> ~~Most~~ are not voting. Read again the last words/, They say, "This must be more particularly determined out of the Holy Scriptures before we ourselves can teach it with full persuasion of our ~~our~~ minds." In other words, they said, "We don't <sup>know(?)</sup> want(?) (not clear) it." They said, "We don't know whether all ~~whom~~ who are saved continue forever in salvation." They said, "We don't know; it needs to be further studied in the Scripture." ~~f~~ That was the position of the Remonstrants on this point. Now these are the five points then of ~~the~~ the Remonstrants. And the fighting between ~~the~~ the two sides, and the argument ~~between~~ and the debate seemed to the political leaders of the country to augur ill for the country when the truce would end and Spain would again attack, and they felt that a decision must be made.

And so: F. The Synod of Dort

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