

## Round Table Discussion Perseverance and Assurance

1. A 4<sup>th</sup> century monk named “Pelagius” taught that “the possibility of not sinning” (perfectionism) was very real. His basic argument was that God could not commission that which could not be obeyed, Pelagius asked, “how can we possibly refuse to accept that a man can be without sin, when we are ready to admit that nothing impossible has either been forbidden or commanded?” (“On the Possibility of Not Sinning” p.169) For scriptural support, Pelagius utilized the command in Leviticus 19:2, “You shall be holy for I the Lord your God am holy.” And also, Matthew 5:48, “You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is Perfect.”

What do you think of Pelagius’ argument? What expectations does this imply and how might this impact the issue of assurance do you think? Can you think of an alternate expectation and basis for assurance?

2. Our confession teaches that a person may *be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed. (18:1)*. And yet, the confession further states that a *“a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties before he be partaker of it.”(18:3)*

Why do you think that this is true? What causes could make it difficult for a true believer to have Christian assurance? What then are the remedies?