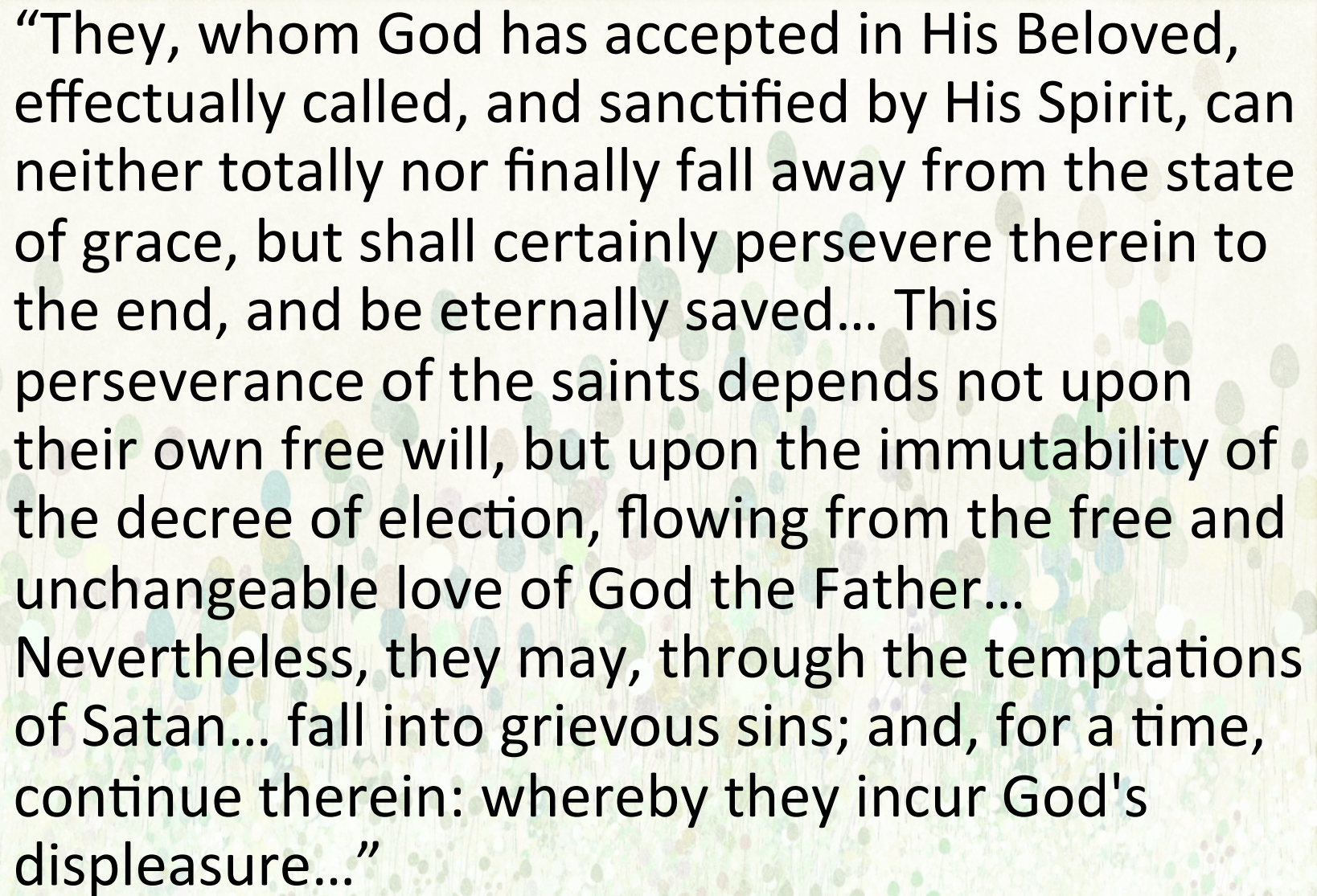




Fallen From Grace

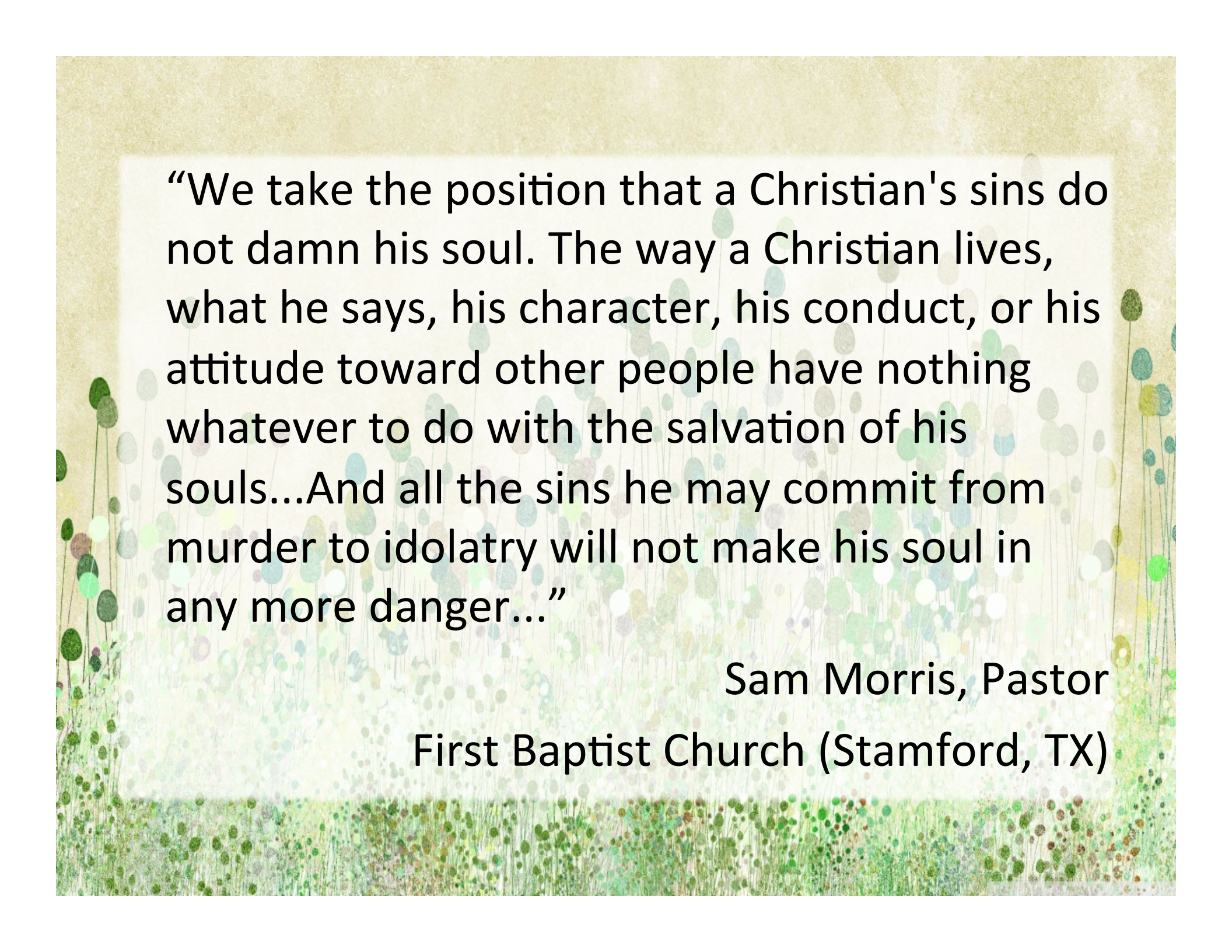
Calvinism

- Calvinism is becoming a much more “mainstream” belief system, especially among more educated professed Christians.
- Today’s lesson will focus mainly on the “P” in the common acronym “TULIP” – Perseverance of the saints, otherwise known as “once saved, always saved.” Understand that there are different (if subtle) interpretations of this particular tenet of Calvinism.



“They, whom God has accepted in His Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved... This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father... Nevertheless, they may, through the temptations of Satan... fall into grievous sins; and, for a time, continue therein: whereby they incur God's displeasure...”

-Westminster Confession of Faith



“We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his souls...And all the sins he may commit from murder to idolatry will not make his soul in any more danger...”

Sam Morris, Pastor
First Baptist Church (Stamford, TX)

Proof Texts Considered

- Romans 8:35-39 – These are all *outside* forces at work. Spiritual ruin starts from within (Matthew 15:16-20).
- John 10:27-29 – Nobody can snatch us away, but we can most certainly walk away from God willingly (Luke 15:3-7, Acts 20:28-30, Revelation 3:14-22).
- 1 John 3:9 – The context shows that Christians can (and do) sin so as to fall away from God.

Romans 7:25, 8:1

- “The body sins but the soul is not condemned.” This is the only argument for why a regenerated, saved person still OBVIOUSLY commits sin.
- The context of Romans 7 & 8, however, shows that sins in the flesh can condemn the soul.
- Other verses also show this: 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Mark 7:20-23, 2 Cor. 5:10, 1 Cor. 9:27.

Is Faith Essential Or Not?

- “Salvation by faith alone” and Calvinism tend to go hand-in-hand, even though Perseverance of the Saints basically neutralizes faith:
- Consider the implications of such scriptures as 2 Timothy 2:16-18/1 Timothy 1:18-20, Acts 8:12-14, Galatians 5:1-4, Hebrews 3:12-13.

The background is an abstract artwork featuring a dense field of thin, vertical, light-colored stems. Each stem is topped with a small, solid-colored circle. The circles come in various colors including shades of green, blue, yellow, brown, and purple. The overall effect is reminiscent of a field of wildflowers or a stylized forest. The bottom portion of the image is darkened to provide a space for text.

The Real Challenge

John 15:1-6, Romans 11:16-24, Hebrews 6:4-8

