

Series: John

Title: The Security of the Sheep

Text: John 10: 27-30

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Place: SGBC, NJ

John 10: 22: And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. 23: And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. 24: Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. 25: Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. 26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29: My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. 30: I and *my* Father are one.

Subject: The Security of the Sheep

There are a people in this world that are Christ's sheep. Chosen of God and precious by his love and free grace. And Christ makes his sheep hear his voice. Christ knows his sheep—making us know him and follow him. Christ gives his people eternal life.

Some teach that those who believe on Christ can lose their salvation. But Christ declares just the opposite.

Proposition: Christ declares that his people shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of his hand, nor out of his Father's hand.

Subject: Security of the Sheep

CHRIST'S SHEEP ARE HIS POSSESSION

Christ has a people who are his sheep. He calls them "*My sheep...*" This is why Christ's people are secure. We are Christ's sheep.

How do sinners become Christ's sheep? He said, "*My Father, which gave them me...*" Back in John 6: 37, Christ declared,

John 6:37: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

In the Lord's high priestly prayer in John 17: 2 he spoke of the power God had given him for the purpose of saving his sheep. Christ interceded only for his sheep. But notice the sheep are the gift of God to his Son, Christ Jesus.

John 17: 2:...that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him...6: I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word...9: I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine...11: And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

Before the foundation of the world, God the Father chose a great multitude which no man can number. He chose his people by his free and sovereign grace. The Father gave them to his Son. They are the Father's gift as the promised reward and inheritance of his incarnation, sufferings, and death.

How else are Christ's sheep his sheep? Christ's sheep are his because he purchased us with his own blood.

John 10: 11: I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep... 15: As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Why did Christ lay down his life for his people? Because we are sinned in Adam.

Isaiah 53:6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

We are observing the Lord's table this morning. What does this mean? Our Lord gave believers this broken bread to remember his broken body which he gave to be broken for his people. The wine is to remember his blood which he shed for his people and fulfilled the everlasting covenant.

The Lord Jesus Christ knew who he laid down his life for. He laid down his life for his sheep, in place of his sheep, as the Substitute of his sheep, in the room and stead of his sheep. The Son of God endured the penalty of the law for his sheep. Thereby our great Savior accomplished redemption for his people as our victorious Redeemer! At his table we are remembering, "he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Is 53:5).

So first, Christ's people are secure because we are his sheep. One, we are the Father's gift to him. Two, Christ purchased us with his own blood. Christ redeemed his sheep. Therefore the justifying, sin-atoning blood of Christ guarantees that we shall never perish.

CHRIST MAKES HIS SHEEP HEAR HIS VOICE

Christ's sheep are secure because Christ makes us hear his voice and follow him. HE said, "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*"

This is Christ's effectual, irresistible call whereby he makes his sheep hear his voice—"my sheep hear my voice." When Christ first calls us to life and faith in him, it is by his Voice. Life comes by the Voice of Christ our Shepherd. Only to Christ does the Holy Spirit open the door so that Christ may call his sheep effectually by his power and grace.

John 10: 3: To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4: And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

Through the preaching of the gospel, Christ makes his people hear his Voice. Doing so he gives us life and faith to follow him.

Isaiah 52: 6: Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore *they shall know* in that day that I *am* he that doth speak: behold, *it is* I. 7: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! 8: Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.

Christ knows his sheep. He said, "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them...*" It is his knowing us that makes us know him savingly. He knows each of his people particularly in everlasting love. He knows our every need at every moment. He alone meets every need. But it is Christ knowing us in irresistible grace when he calls that gives us life to know him.

Christ makes his sheep follow him. He said, "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me.*" From the time he calls us throughout our lives, Christ continues to make his sheep hear his Voice in spirit so that we continue following him. This is his covenant promise to every believer he calls.

Isaiah 30: 20: And *though* the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: 21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This *is* the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

It is not merely that we are following the letter of his word. We are following Christ! Each regenerated sinner is in living union with Christ. Christ promises, *“they follow ME.”*

So believers are secure because we are Christ’s possession as the gift of his Father and by the purchase of his precious blood. Also, we are secure by Christ’s effectual call. He shall make each sheep know and follow him. He shall not permit one to cease following him by faith.

CHRIST IS THE LIFE OF HIS SHEEP

The third reason Christ’s sheep are secure is because Christ is our Life. Christ said, *“And I give unto them eternal life.”* The spiritual life each sheep of his flock is given is the gift of Christ himself. Christ said, *“I GIVE UNTO THEM eternal life.”*

Christ giving us eternal life declares we did not have life before he gave it. We were dead spiritually in sin. Therefore eternal life must be, and is, Christ’s gift to us.

But notice the wording. It is not “I gave” but *“I GIVE unto them eternal life.”* Christ is the Life. If we have eternal life it is by being inseparably united with Christ. Christ the Life in those born of him. Christ is in us and we in him. Christ is our Life in inseparable union. Eternal life is the life Christ is. Eternal life is the life Christ is always giving. Christ is the Life in his people therefore our life cannot cease. He said, *“Because I live, ye shall live also.”* John declared, *“He that hath the Son hath life.”*

The very nature of this life declares we can never perish because it is of Christ and this life is Christ, *“And I give unto them ETERNAL LIFE.”* Eternal life never ends. It is impossible for Christ to give ETERNAL life and one of his people lose it. We are *“born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth FOR EVER”?*

CHRIST PROMISES WE ARE SECURE

The fourth reason Christ’s sheep are secure is because Christ gives his word of promise to us. Christ promises, *“and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one.”*

What a comfort to a believer! This is a comfort to us who know ourselves to be a weak, defenseless sheep of Christ’s pasture. The shepherd’s staff was used to number the sheep. By his staff, the shepherd made certain that all the sheep were accounted for. Christ our Shepherd numbers his sheep with his rod—his gospel and sovereign hand—so that none can pluck us from his hand or from his Father’s hand.

The devil would love to steal one away. Wolves would love to devour us. We have many enemies who would like to pluck us from the hand of our great Shepherd. Not only this, as his sheep, we are weak and utterly dependent upon the Shepherd to keep us. But whatever our state and condition in this earth, whatever sins and sorrows and opposition we face, none shall pluck us out of his hand.

The will of Christ Jesus to the Father is that we be with him. Therefore none shall pluck us out of the Father’s hand. Christ and the Father are one God in two persons. So they are one in their will and power to save and keep each of his elect and lose none. Therefore none shall perish or pluck us out of his hand.

What is the security of the sheep?

One, we are Christ’s possession. We are Christ’s by the gift of the Father to Christ his Son. We are Christ’s inheritance promised to him by the Father in covenant which cannot be broken. We are Christ’s possession by the purchase of his precious blood. Christ has justified his people and made us righteous. God will not pour out judgment a second time on those for whom Christ died. Justice cries together with mercy—even as strongly as mercy—that we must be saved.

Two, Christ Voice is irresistible. He knows his sheep, making us to know him and to hear his voice, and Christ shall keep each of his sheep knowing and following him.

Three, Christ gives us eternal life and Christ is our Eternal Life. Because he lives, we shall live also. God never takes back his gift. “For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance” (Rom 11:29).

Four, we are secure by the covenant promise of Christ our Shepherd and God our Father. His word to his sheep is that we shall never perish neither shall any man pluck us out of the hand of our sovereign, omnipotent God.

The self-made religionists before whom Christ spoke these words picked up stones again to stone him. By that they proved—“*ye believe not because ye are not my sheep.*”

But what do his sheep do? We hear his voice and follow him! We draw nearer to our great Shepherd and rest in his mighty hand! We thank him! We praise him! Give him the glory! By the grace of God in Christ, if you hear his Voice and follow him then you are sheep, you have eternal life and you shall never perish!

Amen!