

**Subject: *The Security of God's Sheep***

**Scripture: *John 10:22-30***

John 10 focuses on Christ the Good Shepherd and His sheep. He knows His sheep, called His sheep by name, leads and feeds His sheep. He is the only true Shepherd and has one fold of Jews and Gentiles.

He not only gives His life for the sheep, He gives life to the sheep. He gives abundant life and eternal life. He provides for the sheep and protects them now and for all eternity. In this message I want to focus on the security of God's sheep and we will look carefully at verses 28-30, where Jesus says these things about the sheep:

- His sheep have eternal life
- His sheep will never perish
- His sheep cannot be taken out of His hand
- His sheep are given to Him by the Father
- His sheep cannot be taken out of the Father's hand

These are strong statements about the eternal security of God's people.

### **THE SHEEP ARE SECURE IN THE LORD'S PROVISION**

**John 10:28** *I give unto them eternal life...*

**John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**John 5:24** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

God's people are secure because He provides eternal life. If it were true that we could lose salvation at some point in time, then whatever we received wasn't eternal. It may be 5-year life or 10-year life or even 30-year life, but it wasn't eternal life.

### **THE SHEEP ARE SECURE IN THE LORD'S PROMISE**

**John 10:28** *and they shall never perish.* This is one of the greatest statements in the Bible about the eternal security of God's people, but it is not the only statement. The Bible tells us over and over that when God saves people He saves them forever.

**John 6:39-40**<sup>39</sup> *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.*<sup>40</sup> *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

**John 14:2-3**<sup>2</sup> *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*<sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

**Romans 8:28-30** <sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. We are eternally secure because salvation is God's work, not ours. God always finishes what He starts.

**Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Have you ever started something you couldn't finish or didn't finish?

R. A. Torrey said, "The blood of Christ makes us safe. The Word of God makes us sure."

### **THE SHEEP ARE SECURE IN THE LORD'S PERSONAL GRIP**

**John 10:28-29** <sup>28</sup> And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. The sheep are in Christ's hand and they are in the Father's hand. This has been called the double divine grip.

The shepherd had many tools to use in caring for his sheep. He carried a scrip (bag), a sling with stones, a staff (club), and a rod (crook), but the greatest security of all was in the shepherd's hands.

### **THE SHEEP ARE SECURE IN THE LORD'S PURCHASE**

**John 10:11** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

**John 10:15** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**John 19:30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. The statement, "It is finished" means the debt is paid in full, the transaction is complete. When Jesus died for our sins He died for a purpose. He died to fulfill a plan. He died to redeem us, to purchase us from sin and bondage and make us His very own.

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Listen to the words of this old hymn: "My faith has found a resting place, not in device or creed; I trust the ever-living One, His wounds for me shall plead; I need no other argument, I need no other plea; It is enough that Jesus died and that He died for me."

### **THE SHEEP ARE SECURE IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE**

**John 14:16-20** <sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; <sup>17</sup> Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while, and

*the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.*<sup>20</sup> *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*

The Holy Spirit is another Comforter, one who is just like Jesus. The moment we receive Christ as Lord and Savior the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. He is always with us to guide, to provide, and to protect us.

The Holy Spirit is in us and we are in Christ. Being saved is like being in Noah's ark. Now let's see how well you remember the story of Noah and the ark. God said, "Noah, people are living in sin and it is a total disgrace, and so I'm going to destroy everything with a flood. So Noah, I want you to build an ark. I'll give you the dimensions, and I'll show you how to build it. I want you to put some pegs on the side of that ark for you to hold on to. Put eight pegs there—one for you and one for Mrs. Noah, one for Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and one for their wives. And Noah, when the flood starts, you get a stepladder, get up there and hold onto one of those pegs. Hold on with all your might because it's going to be a rough ride. And Noah, if you and your family can hold on until the water goes down, you'll be safe." That's not the way it happened at all, is it? Noah was safe and secure inside the ark. Noah may have fallen down many times inside that ark, but he never fell out because God shut the door and sealed him in. We are eternally secure in Christ, but only in Him.

God's sheep are eternally secure. Be careful about having a false sense of security. This doctrine of eternal security is not a license to sin and it is only for God's people.

- Eternal security is not a license to sin

Someone will say, "If I believed that you could be saved and never lose your salvation, then I'd get saved and do whatever I wanted to do." No you wouldn't, not if you really were saved. **Romans 6:1-2** *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?* **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

- Eternal security is for genuine believers

A person will object, "I knew someone who was a Christian and then walked away from Christ and renounced his faith. Didn't he lose his salvation?" No, he never had it. Eternal security is for genuine believers, not make-believers. **Matthew 7:21-23**<sup>21</sup> *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*<sup>22</sup> *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*<sup>23</sup> *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*