

“Thou Art The Christ!”
John 10:22-31

Introduction:

1. Let's Open Our Bibles:
 - Once Again:
 - To John 10 - Where:
 - We Come To A New Scene:
 - In The Life & Ministry Of:
 - Our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Up Until Now:
 - Jesus Was Dealing With:
 - The Aftermath Of Healing:
 - On The Sabbath:
 - A Man Who Had Been Blind:
 - From Birth!
2. And - In The First Part:
 - Of Chapter 10:
 - Jesus Takes The Opportunity:
 - To Teach & Explain:
 - Not Only Why:
 - The Blind Man:
 - Did Believe In Him!
 - But Also Why:
 - The Pharisees:
 - Did Not Believe In Him!
 - It All Depended On:
 - The Flock They Belonged To:
 - As Sheep!
 - Whether His - Or:
 - Another's!
3. Well Starting In:
 - 10:22 - John Moves On - And Tells Us:
 - That - “It was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. / And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch!”
 - So - Several Months Had Passed:
 - Since The Previous Events!
 - And Now - Jesus Was In Jerusalem:
 - For A Special Time:
 - Of Commemoration & Celebration:
 - At “The Feast Of The Dedication!”
 - This “Feast” Is Also Known As:
 - “The Feast Of Lights” - Because Of:
 - The Prominence Of Candles:
 - In Jewish Homes:
 - During The Festival!
 - Today - We Know It As:
 - The Jewish Holiday Of:
 - Hanukkah - Which Is Still Celebrated:
 - Every Winter - Around The Same Time:
 - That We Celebrate Christmas!
4. But - Hanukkah Is An 8 Day Celebration:
 - That Is Not Found:
 - In The Old Testament!
 - Instead - It Was First Observed:
 - After The Jews Revolted Against A Wicked Greek Emperor:
 - By The Name Of Antiochus Epiphanes!
 - He Committed An:
 - “Abomination Of Desolation” - When:

- He Offered A Sacrifice To A False God:
 - In The Jewish Temple:
 - And Sacrificed A Pig:
 - On The Altar Of God!
 - This Infuriated The Jews:
 - And Caused Them To Revolt - And Then:
 - Restore & Cleanse The Temple:
 - Led By A Man Named:
 - Judas Maccabeas - In 164 BC!
 - And His Success Led To:
 - An Independent Jewish Kingdom:
 - That Lasted Until Rome Took Over:
 - About A Hundred Years Later!
5. So - Hanukkah Was:
- More Than Just A Religious Holiday!
 - It Was A National Holiday:
 - That Sparked A Spirit Of:
 - Independence & Patriotism:
 - In The Heart Of Every Loyal Jew!
 - And So - It Was At This Festival:
 - Jesus "Walked In The Temple In Solomon's Porch!"
 - Which Was A Portico On The East Side Of The Temple Courts:
 - With A Roof & Lined With Columns!
 - It Was A Good Place:
 - To Stay Out Of The Cold, Winter Weather:
 - And Still Enjoy The Festivities!

6. But - As Cold As It Was Outside:

 - Things Were Going To Get:
 - Even Colder - Because Of What Happens Next:
 - In 10:24 - "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!"
 - Now - To Be "The Christ" - Means:
 - To Be The Messiah!
 - The "Anointed One" - That Was Promised By God:
 - In The Old Testament:
 - To Come & Rescue & Redeem His People!
 - For Most Jews At That Time:
 - This Was More Of A:
 - National & Political:
 - Savior - Than:
 - A Spiritual One!
 - But - It Was Still:
 - A Question That People Had:
 - When They Were Confronted With:
 - The Claims Of Jesus!

7. But - How Did These Jews:

 - Ask Jesus This Question?
 - What Were Their True Intentions?
 - Well - I Think We Can Figure Out:
 - Their Intention:
 - When We Are Told That They:
 - "Came . . . Round About Him!"
 - In Other Words - They Literally:
 - Ganged Up On Jesus:
 - And Encircled Him:
 - To Keep Him From:
 - Continuing His Walk In The Temple!
 - And So - I Believe:
 - The Question They Wanted Answered:

- Was A Question:
 - Of Accusation!
- That Is - They Did Not Approach Jesus:
 - In A Humble Way - Or Even:
 - In A Hungry Way:
 - For The Truth:
 - About His Claims!
- Instead - They Wanted Jesus To:
 - Incriminate Himself:
 - In As Clear A Way As Possible:
 - With Plenty Of Witnesses!
 - So That They Would Have No Problem:
 - Accusing Him Of Something:
 - That Would Result In His Death!
- Already In John:
 - We Have Seen How The Jewish Leaders:
 - Wanted To Kill Jesus!
 - Just Because They Were:
 - Jealous Of Jesus!
 - And - After This Exchange:
 - They Will Try To:
 - Once Again!

8. But - How Does Jesus Respond:

- To Their Questioning?
 - Starting In 10:25 - We Are Told:
 - “Jesus Answered Them!”
- Now - All Throughout This Gospel:
 - When Jesus Answers A Question:
 - From The Jews:
 - He Hardly Ever Does So:
 - On Their Terms!
 - So - Instead Of Giving Them:
 - The Answer They *Want*:
 - Jesus Gives Them:
 - The Answer They *Need*!
- And - This Is What Jesus Does:
 - In This Case As Well!
 - So - Even Though The Question:
 - The Jews Asked Jesus Was:
 - A Question Of Accusation!
 - The Answer That:
 - Jesus Gives The Jews Is:
 - An Answer Of Great Assurance:
 - For Those Who Believe In Him & Follow Him!

- And So:

- 10:25-30 - “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. / But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. / My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: / And I give unto them eternal life; 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!”

9. In These Verses:

- Jesus *Does* Answer Their Question:
 - *Plainly* - Even Though:
 - He May Not Do So:
 - As *Directly* As:
 - The Jewish Leaders:
 - Wanted Him Too!
- But - For Those Who Have Been Given:
 - Ears To Hear:

- He Gives Even More Proof:
 - That He Is The Christ! And:
 - That All His Claims Are True!
- And - In The Verses We Just Read:
 - Jesus Offers 4 Proofs:
 - That He Is The Christ!
 - And That He Came:
 - To Save His People:
 - Not As The Savior Of The Jews, In A National Or Political Sense!
 - But As The Savior Of The World From Sin!
- And - As We Go Through These 4 Proofs:
 - Remember That Jesus Is:
 - Worthy Of Your Faith - And:
 - Worthy To Be Followed!
 - Because He Is The Christ!
 - And - The First Thing Jesus Tells Us:
 - In His Answer To The Jews - In 10:25 - Is That:

1. His Power Is Proof:

- That He Is The Christ!
 - The Power Of His Words - And:
 - The Power Of His Works:
 - Is Plain & Clear Proof:
 - That Is The Christ!
- When Jesus Says In 10:25:
 - "I Told You!"
 - He Appeals To The Power:
 - Of His Words!
 - Now - Even Though Jesus Made Himself Known:
 - Directly As The Christ:
 - To Some In Private:
 - Like To Andrew (1) & The Samaritan Woman (4) & The Man Born Blind (9)!
 - He Had Not Yet Done So:
 - In Public!
 - But - There Are More Ways:
 - To Reveal This Truth:
 - Than In Just A Direct Way!
 - After All - He Already Described Himself As:
 - The Bread Of Life!
 - The Son Of God!
 - The Light Of The World!
 - The Door! And:
 - The Good Shepherd!
 - All Starting With The Words:
 - "I Am!" - Which Was A Reference:
 - To God Himself!
 - But - If The Jews Had Just Known Their Scriptures:
 - All Of These Statements Combined:
 - Would Have Made His Identity Very Clear! Even If:
 - He Didn't Use The Title:
 - Of Christ!
 - Scriptures Like Ezekiel 34:23:
 - Which Pointed To The Messiah As:
 - The Shepherd Promised By God!
 - "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd!"
 - But - How Did The Jews Here:
 - Respond To Jesus' Words?
 - "And Ye Believed Not!"

- We Must Not Make The Same Mistake!
 - Because - The Power Of Jesus' Words:
 - Is Proof That:
 - He Is The Christ!
- But Then - When Jesus Adds In 10:25:
 - "The Works That I Do In My Father's Name, They Bear Witness Of Me!"
 - He Appeals To The Power:
 - Of His Works!
 - So - Everything That Jesus Did:
 - Up To & Including:
 - His Miracles!
 - He Did Them:
 - For His Father! ("In His Name!")
 - He Did Them:
 - Like His Father! (Perfect & Well) And:
 - He Did Them:
 - Unto His Father! (For His Glory)
 - But - How Did The Jews Here:
 - Respond To Jesus' Works?
 - 10:26 - "But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you!"
 - And - We Must Not Make The Same Mistake!
- Because - The Power Of Both:
 - Jesus' Words & Works:
 - Is Proof That:
 - He Was & Is The Christ!
 - Because - 10:25:
 - "They Bear Witness Of Me!"
 - And This Is Proof That:
 - Jesus Is Worthy Of Your Faith - And:
 - Worthy To Be Followed!
 - His Power Is The Proof!

* But Then - Second - We Can Also See That:

2. *Jesus' People Are Proof:*

- That He Is The Christ!
 - Even As Jesus Says Next In:
 - 10:27 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me!"
 - Of Course - When Jesus Talks About His Sheep - He Brings Back Up:
 - His Conversation From The First Part Of Chapter 10 - Which Took Place Months Earlier!
 - But Here - His Own People:
 - His Own Sheep:
 - Are Submitted As Proof:
 - Of His Character As The Christ!
 - Because:
- Christ's Sheep:
 - Will Recognize Him!
 - Even As Sheep Recognize:
 - The Voice Of Their Shepherd!
 - Now - Back In 10:20:
 - Some Of The Jews Asked:
 - "Why Hear He Him?"
 - Well - This Is The Reason Why!
 - Its Because The Ones Who Believe In Jesus:
 - Like The Man Born Blind:
 - Belong To Jesus!
 - They Are His Sheep - And:
 - He Is Their Shepherd!
 - Their Good Shepherd!

- Even The Promised Shepherd!
- And - His People Are Further Proof:
 - That He Is The Christ:
 - Because They Recognize Him:
 - As The Christ!
 - But - Where Does This Recognition Come From?
 - Remember When Jesus Asked His Disciples In Matthew 16:15-17:
 - “Whom say ye that I am?”
 - How Did Peter Answer?
 - “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!”
 - “And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven!”
 - This Recognition Of Jesus:
 - As The Christ:
 - Comes From Heaven Above!
 - But Then - Jesus Adds That:
- Only Christ’s Sheep:
 - Are Received By Him!
 - Even As A Shepherd:
 - Knows & Receives His Sheep!
 - Again - 10:20 - Jesus Says:
 - “And I Know Them!”
 - And This Knowledge Is:
 - Like The Knowledge That Exists Between God The Father & His Son! As Jesus Described In:
 - 10:14-15 - “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. / As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep!”
 - What An Amazing Statement!
 - Jesus Knows Us!
 - In The Same Way That:
 - God Knows Us!
 - Even As We Are Told In 2 Timothy 2:19:
 - “The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his!”
 - And - This Knowledge & Reception:
 - Of God’s People:
 - Is Further Proof That:
 - Jesus Is The Christ, The Son Of The Living God!
 - But Then - Jesus Adds That:
 - Only Christ’s Sheep:
 - Will Rely On Him!
 - Even As Sheep Rely On:
 - Their Shepherd!
 - 10:27 - “And They Follow Me!”
 - So - Wherever Jesus Leads His Sheep:
 - They Will Follow!
 - And - All Of This:
 - Is Further Proof That:
 - Jesus Is Worthy Of Your Faith - And:
 - Worthy To Be Followed!
 - Because - Jesus Is The Christ!
 - And The Relationship That:
 - Jesus Has With His People:
 - Is Like No Other!
 - There Are Many Religions:
 - In This World:
 - That Are Only One Sided!
 - The Sheep Hear & Follow:
 - A False Shepherd Or A False God:
 - But - Are They Known:

- By Him?
- In The Same Intimate & Interested Way That We Are Known - By Jesus?
- No! And So:
 - The Power Of Jesus - And Even:
 - The People Of Jesus:
 - Are Proof That Jesus:
 - The Christ!
 - The One Sent By God:
 - To Be The Savior Of The World!

* But Third - We Can Also See That:

3. Jesus' Provision Is Proof:

- That He Is The Christ!
 - Even The Provision That Jesus Offers:
 - His People / His Sheep:
 - In 10:28-29 - "And I give unto them eternal life; 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!"
 - What Powerful & Comforting Words These Are!
 - Because - Christ Is The Only One:
 - Who Can Provide:
 - "Life" For Us!
 - And - This Life Is:
 - An Immortal Life!
 - **IE:** A Shepherd Can Sustain Life For The Flock In This World! But Only The True Messiah Can Supply Life - Even Eternal Life!
 - Which Is A Life That:
 - Death Can't Even Get In The Way Of!
 - And The Life:
 - That Jesus Gives:
 - Is His Own Life!
 - In Other Words - Jesus Gave His Life:
 - For Us - When He Died:
 - So That He Could Give His Life:
 - To Us - Eternally!
 - And So - The Provision:
 - Of Eternal Life:
 - Is Not Only An Immortal Life:
 - It Is Also:
 - An Incorruptible Life!
 - 10:28 - "And They Shall Never Perish!"
 - This Means That:
 - The Life Jesus Came To Provide:
 - Is A Life That Will Have None Of The Taint Of Sin!
 - Because - Today:
 - Sin Consumes Us:
 - Even As We Live!
 - But - One Day:
 - For Those Who Believe & In Belong To Jesus:
 - All The Curse & Corruption Of Sin:
 - Will Be Gone - Forever!
 - "The Teaching Of This Verse Is Not That Believers Will Be Saved From All Earthly Disaster, But That They Will Be Saved, No Matter What Earthly Disaster May Befall!" (Leon Morris)
 - And - This Means That:
 - This "Eternal Life" That Only Jesus Can Provide - Is Also:
 - An Immovable Life!
 - Because - 10:28:
 - "Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand!"
 - Here, Jesus Gives Us Another Picture:

- To Emphasize The Security:
 - Of His Sheep!
- As The Door:
 - Jesus Leads Us:
 - Into The Safety:
 - Of His Fold!
- But - As The Shepherd:
 - Jesus Holds Us:
 - In His Own Hand!
- And - His Hand Is:
 - Big Enough - And:
 - Strong Enough - Yet:
 - Tender Enough:
 - To Hold All Of His Sheep!
- So That Noone Can:
 - “Pluck / Seize Them Out Of His Hand!”
 - No Wolf / Thief / Robber / Stranger!
- Who Else Could Say This?
 - Who Else Could Do This?
 - Except The Christ!
 - So - The Eternal Life This?
 - Jesus Offers & Provides To His Sheep:
 - Is Completely Immovable!
 - You Cannot Be Moved Or Removed:
 - From The Safety & Security:
 - Of His Own Hand!
- But - This Security:
 - Goes Even Further!
 - Because - The Life He Provides Is Also:
- An Insured Life!
 - Because In 10:29 - Jesus Adds:
 - “My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand!”
 - Those Who Believe In & Belong To Jesus:
 - Belong To God The Father!
 - And Noone Can Steal Anything Or Anyone:
 - From God!
- And - This Provision:
 - Of Eternal Life:
 - Is Even Further Proof That:
 - Jesus Is The Christ!
 - Because - There Is Noone Else:
 - Who Can Give:
 - This Kind Of Life:
 - To Us!
 - An Immortal Life:
 - With No End - That Is:
 - Incorruptable!
 - Immovable! And:
 - Forever Insured!
- And - This Is Why:
 - Jesus Alone:
 - Is Worthy Of Your Faith - And:
 - Worthy To Be Followed!
 - Even Unto Death!
 - Because Death Itself:
 - Can’t Get In The Way:
 - Of His Provision Of Life!

