

GOD'S "NEVER" IS DIFFERENT

John 10:27-29

Introduction: Jesus chose to call those who hear and obey (thus believe) Him, His "sheep." Most believers are not acquainted with sheep and therefore are not quite sure what is involved in being a "sheep." Sheep are known for their weakness, helplessness, defenselessness, carelessness and frequent roaming off from the rest of the flock, just to name a few things. If the sheep have a good shepherd then they will be safe and well taken care of, but if a careless shepherd, then they could get killed.

Jesus wants those who believe in Him, who follow Him to know that once they are a part of His flock, they are safe and secure and nothing will ever take them away from Him, not even death.

I. EVERY BELIEVER IS KNOWN PERSONALLY BY JESUS (v. 27)

1. Becoming a believer is explained: *"...whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved..."(Romans 10:13) "...that whosoever believeth in Him should never perish..." (John 3:16)*
 - Jesus knows everyone who has believed, who, where, when, all about each one.
 - Jesus knows what He wants each one to do and will bless and bring him/her home.
2. Each believer has been "purchased:" Jesus deliberately and voluntarily became the sacrifice for His "sheep" or a substitute for each one, thus redeeming (buying back) him/her from everlasting death in the depths of hell.
3. Every believer can tell Jesus' voice from all others: *"...I know them and they follow me.."*
 - Jesus will call each believer's "name" and each believer will know that to follow Jesus is to be obedient and bring honor to God.
 - Believers are the only ones who can hear and understand the call of Jesus.

II. EVERY BELIEVER IS GIVEN ETERNAL (EVERLASTING) LIFE (v. 28)

1. Eternal life for the believer is a gift from God.
 - There is nothing in the believer that can force, cause, or make God give eternal life.
 - Even among people a "gift" is exactly that - something absolutely "free" given for personal reasons and never is "force" involved in giving a "gift."
2. The same kind of life that Jesus (the Shepherd) has, so has His sheep. Jesus has eternal life and every single believer is joined to the "body of Christ."
3. Not only is the believer "joined to the body of Christ" but is also indwelt and preserved by the Holy Spirit.
 - God says that the Holy Spirit seals and preserves, marks those of God and will keep them till God wants them called home and the Holy Spirit will take them their eternal home.

4. *"...and I give unto them eternal life..."* Just what does "eternal" mean? Does it have an end sometime somewhere?
 - God's "eternal" means just that...no end.
 - Thus the believer is given "eternal" life and therefore it is impossible for any believer to lose it or have it taken away under any circumstances because **"God Gave It !"**

III. EVERY BELIEVER HAS JESUS' PROMISE OF NEVER PERISHING

"...and they shall never perish..." (v. 28)

1. **"NEVER"** Jesus said that His followers, believers, sheep shall *never* perish.
 - Weakness in faith, strong passions, loss of visions, temptations, sin, sin again, and again, 70 times 7, stumbling, falling, *"...they shall never perish..."*
2. Believers in Jesus Christ are His sheep and He has given to each and every one of them a part of Himself, indwelt them with the Holy Spirit, sealed and secured by God, Himself and Jesus says *"...they shall never perish..."*
 - Jesus said so!
 - What Jesus did on the Cross, substituting Himself for each believer, paying each believer's debt to God's Justice, freeing each believer from eternal death in Hell leaves nothing for the believer to do, thus eternal life is His gift to the believer.
 - All that Jesus has done cannot be reversed - the trial is over - the court of Heaven is satisfied - all debts have been paid - penalty has been served - and every believer is free for ever and *"...shall never perish..."*

IV. EVERY BELIEVER IS PERMANENTLY IN JESUS' HANDS

"...neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand..." (v. 28)

1. God is the one keeping the believer safe. What belongs to God, stays with God and there is no power anywhere that can take from God that which is His.
2. The believer has done all that he/she can possible do to have eternal life and that was to **believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The Hand of Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit and the Hand of God keep each and every believer safe and he/she shall **never** perish.

CONCLUSION:

1. What part of **"Never"** do people not understand? God's **"never"** is not like man's "never."
 - If people would stop trying to bring God down to their level and allow God to bring them up to His "level" then they could understand that **once one becomes one of Jesus' "sheep" that person has eternal, everlasting life and shall never perish.**
2. It brings disgrace upon God, the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit for any one to say that a person can be "unsaved" or "lost" again after once being in the hands of God through belief in Jesus Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit.