

THE BELIEVER IS ETERNALLY SECURE

John 10:27-29

Introduction: Jesus calls those who follow Him "sheep." Thus Christians can also be called "sheep" as Jesus describes them in the text. It is not a secret that sheep have no defense and their only safety and security is their shepherd. The better the shepherd, the better off the sheep will be. Therefore if the Shepherd of the Christian (sheep) is Jesus, then the Christian has no need to fear of ever perishing for there is no power that can take a single one of Jesus' sheep from Him. The believer is as secure on earth as if he/she were already in Heaven.

I. THE BELIEVER IS SECURE BECAUSE OF A SPECIAL DISTINCTION ("*...My sheep hear my voice and I know them...*")

- 1. God does make a distinction among people:** There are those who are in Christ and those who are not. The believer is in Christ.
- 2. There is a distinct Invitation:** "*Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved and ...that whosoever believeth in Him should never perish...*"
 - Jesus knows those who have believed, who, where, when, what and all about each one.
 - Jesus knows what He will make of them, when He will bless, and how to bring each one to the place He's been preparing for them.
- 3. There is a distinct Purchase:** Jesus voluntarily became a sacrifice for His sheep. A substitute for His sheep and accomplished redemption for His sheep.
- 4. There is a distinct Call:** "*...I know them and they follow me...*" Jesus' call always brings His sheep to Him. He calls them by name. He leads them out of darkness, bondage and death.
 - Jesus' sheep will not follow a stranger. "*...they went out from us because they were not of us...*"

II. THE BELIEVER IS SECURE BECAUSE OF A DIVINE GIFT ("*...I give unto them eternal life.*")

- 1. Eternal life is a gift from God!** It does not come by man's nature nor some sort of evolution.
 - Nothing in man's heart or conduct caused God to give eternal life.
 - Nothing in the believer's heart or his/her conduct can cause God to take away His gift of eternal life. It would be contrary to the very nature of God to take away His gift of eternal life.
 - God's gift of eternal life is in no way dependent upon circumstances in the believer's life.
- 2. Eternal life is a life in union with Christ.** Believers are joined to Christ. If Christ dies, then all believers die also. If Christ lives, then all believers live. All believers are of Christ's body and He in theirs. They are ONE.
- 3. Eternal life is preserved by the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is sent call and preserve those who would believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit is God's mark, His seal. A mark of ownership and will be kept legally secure, permanently and safely.
- 4. How can life be eternal if it can end as some say?** If one has received from God the gift of eternal life, then it is impossible for any receiver of that gift to ever lose it under any circumstances.

III. THE BELIEVER IS SECURE BECAUSE OF A DIVINE PROMISE ("*...and they shall never perish...*")

- 1. God's total, unconditional promise assures security.** But what if:
 - as babes in Christ their faith is weak .."*...they shall never perish...*" - are young in Christ and their passions are strong? The same answer. Some are old and their visions have grown dim? The same answer. Some are tempted? The same answer. What if they sin? The same answer. What if they fall 7 times a day? The same answer. What if they fall 70 times a day? The same answer. "*...they shall never perish...*"

- 2. Any person who believes in Jesus Christ and trusts in Him, receiving eternal life shall never perish!** To deny this fact is to deny every promise God ever made as well.

- 3. Reasons why Jesus' sheep shall never perish:**
 - Jesus said so!
 - God's purpose cannot be changed or stopped!
 - The redemptive work of Jesus cannot be nullified. Jesus paid all the believer's debts. The believer owes nothing. Jesus took the believer's punishment. The believer has none to receive. Jesus satisfied God's demands for justice for the believer. There's nothing left for the believer to do.
 - Being justified in Christ cannot be reversed! The trial is over. the believer has been pronounced Justified. No sin can be imputed, the believer's sins are put away forever. Believers are accepted through God's Son, Jesus Christ. The believer is free, full and forever justified.
 - The work of God's grace can never be defeated. God was willing to complete His work in the believer, God is wise enough to complete His work in the believer and God is strong enough to complete His work in the believer.
 - The intercessory of Christ then and now can never become invalid or cease.
 - The work and seal of the Holy Spirit can never be broken.

IV. THE BELIEVER IS SECURE BECAUSE GOD DOES THE SECURING ("*...neither shall any man pluck them out of my Father's hand...*")

- 1. The believer is preserved in the heart of God's love.** Preserved in the hands of God.
 - The hands of omnipotent power. The hands from which all things come. The hands which rule heaven and earth. The hands of God, Himself.
- 2. The believer has absolutely nothing to do with being secure in Christ.**

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Grace produces Gratitude. Gratitude produces Devotion. Devotion shows itself by undivided love, praise and admiration.**

- 2. God's gift of eternal life is offered to everyone, and it is ETERNAL. Who wants it?**