

**The Word Became Flesh
(Week 30)
John 10:22-30 CSB
“Safe and Secure ”**

Introduction

“I believe in the eternal security of the believer and in the insecurity of the make-believer.”
J. Vernon McGee

I love studying the Scriptures, as all believers do. Any student of The Word can tell you, the Gospels (*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*) were all written to reveal the true identity and nature of Jesus Christ, The Son of God. Other books in *The Bible* such as *Ephesians* are given to show us “who we are” in Christ Jesus. But the wonder of the **Tenth Chapter of John’s Gospel** is that it clearly shows both together. He is our true Shepherd, and those of us who have heard His voice are His true sheep. It is such a beautiful illustration of just how good He is, and just how safe we are in Him.

By reading the chapter carefully, we can see that the first half took place in the fall of the year during The Feast of The Tabernacles, and the second portion takes place in winter during the Feast of Dedication, also known as, Hanukah. Keep in mind that these conversations took place in the fall and winter prior to Christ being crucified the very next spring.

Beginning with **verse 22**, we see Jesus once more in a conversation with the religious leaders of Israel in the temple courts. He was in Solomon’s Colonnade, which was a covered portico attached to the temple. Winter is the rainy season in Jerusalem, and perhaps The LORD was there in order to escape the bad weather. It is symbolic that this conversation takes place in the winter, for Jesus’ time on earth is drawing to a close, and the very next spring, He would die on the cross and rise again in order to bring His followers the springtime of new life that He had promised.

The Pharisees, for whatever reason, chose this particular locale to try and get Jesus to admit that He was The Messiah. One can only speculate as to why they chose this moment to confront Him. It was obvious from previous encounters with Him, just two months prior, that most of them had no intention of accepting Him as The Anointed One spoken of by the prophets. So why would they attempt to get Him to proclaim His identity in this locale for all to hear?

A possible explanation is that Solomon’s Colonnade was a space where the Gentiles were allowed to congregate. So perhaps they wanted Him to claim to be Israel’s rightful king within ear shot of those who could report His statements to the Romans. Herod, nor Caesar, would be happy to hear of anyone claiming to be ruler in Israel. So, maybe the Pharisees had placed Roman spies in that place so that they could bear witness to Jesus claims. If this were the case, their plan failed miserably, for Christ refused to give them a straight answer. Instead, He explained to them that no one could come to faith in Him unless God The Father had enabled them to do so. He continued His example of the sheep and the True Shepherd from two months prior. The reason that they could not see Him for Who He is, was because they were not His sheep!

The Jews surrounded Him and asked, “How long are You going to keep us in suspense? If you are The Messiah, tell us plainly.” “I did tell you, and you don’t believe.” Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in My Father’s name testify about Me. But you don’t believe because you are not My sheep.” John 10:24-25

It is from this point that Jesus begins to explain the benefits offered to those who believe in Him. They are His flock, and He is their Shepherd. His sheep are sovereignly *Elected* of The Father. They have *Eternal Life* and *Eternal Security*. Please allow me to explain.

Elected

“My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater than all.” **(vs. 29)**

A great debate rages in the Church these days regarding God’s sovereign election of His saints versus man’s free will to choose Him. In my humble opinion, it is a ridiculous debate. For I believe that both are necessary in order for a person to obtain salvation. First, in order to believe, we must first be chosen by God to receive the spiritual insight from above to see Christ for Who He truly is. If God didn’t sovereignly choose us to receive this enlightenment, then we would never be able to see the truth. For *The Bible* is clear that no one seeks after God on his/her own (**Romans 3:11**).

Secondly, when we have been given the eyes to see and the ears to hear by God, then it is our responsibility to respond in faith. How this all works together, I (nor anyone else) will completely understand this side of glory. But God knows, and that is all that matters. I learned a long time ago that it is better not to try and explain something that you cannot comprehend. Some things are just better accepted by faith. But this I know for certain: No one will ever come to Christ unless God first chooses them for salvation. I know this, because Jesus said so.

“No one can come to Me unless The Father Who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.” **John 6:44**

Make no mistake, there will not be a single soul in all of heaven that God will be surprised to see there! He knows who He has chosen for salvation, and He also knows those who will not make it in. Jesus KNOWS which sheep are His.

“My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.” **John 10:27**

Do you believe in Jesus? Then you need to understand this truth: The only way that you could have ever come to faith in Him was for God The Father to choose you! And *The Bible* says that this choosing was done before the very beginning of time.

“We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called, and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified.” **Romans 8:28-30**

So, don’t ask me to explain how all of this works. I just know that it is true. I know it’s true, because God’s Word says that it is. And quite frankly, that is good enough for me. I am one of His sheep, and I trust the voice of The Good Shepherd when He speaks. I have chosen to follow, because I know that He has chosen me. I trust in Him to lead me in the way that He knows is best. How about you? Can you trust Him, even when you do not always have all the answers? Do you know His voice? Have you been chosen to become one of the sheep of His flock? Hear the voice of The Good Shepherd and follow. What a privilege it is to know that He chose you before the very foundation of the world!

Eternal Life

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.” **(vs. 28)**

The Bible is clear. Those who place their trust in The Good Shepherd will be led out of the fold of this world and into the flock of life everlasting. Jesus has promised that all who are “in Him” will never perish. Those who refuse to come to Him will one day face the wrath of God for their sin for they are eternally condemned.

“Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the Name of the One and Only Son of God.” **John 3:18**

As we have discussed before, the word for “salvation” in *The New Testament* carries with it the meaning of being delivered or rescued. Those who put their faith in Jesus will therefore be “delivered” from the wrath of God. The holiness of God demands the punishment of death for sin. He cannot forego this judgment without compromising His holiness. His righteous nature demands that the sins of mankind be punishable by death. But in His mercy, He offers us a way to escape the wrath for which we have been destined. He took our sin upon Himself and paid the penalty for our sin upon the cross.

This is what Jesus meant when He said that The Good Shepherd would lay down His life for His sheep. Those whom God has elected for salvation have their sins paid for by The Shepherd. Therefore, by placing our trust in Him, we have been bought out of the sheepfold of death into the flock of everlasting life! God poured out His hatred of our sin upon His One and Only Son. As we look upon the cross of Calvary, we can see just how much wrath was due us, as a result of our own disobedience. The Good Shepherd took our place, and the suffering and death that we deserved was instead endured by God Himself. He became the propitiation for our sin; meaning that, in Him, the wrath of God was fully satisfied. No other payment for sin is required. All that we must do to pass from death unto life is to look to Him for salvation.

In *The Old Testament*, when the children of Israel were wandering around in the wilderness, God became fed up with their constant complaining and disobedience. He sent poisonous snakes into their midst. As the snakes began to bite the people, they began to die in large numbers. When the people began to beg Moses to pray for their lives, God told Moses to make a bronze snake and place it upon a pole. Those who would look up to the snake by faith in God’s promise would be healed from the bite of the venomous serpent.

Now, we know that a serpent in The Scripture is representation of original sin from the Garden of Eden, when Satan disguised himself as a serpent to deceive Adam and Eve. So when the serpent was raised up on a pole it was a picture of sin being crucified. It was a foreshadowing of The Son of God, Who would take our sin upon Himself and pay the penalty for sin, once and for all, upon the cross. Those who will look to Him by faith will live, but those who refuse to do so will die because of their sins. This is why Jesus has said:

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.” **John 3:14**

We all have a sin debt that must be paid. We can either look to Jesus by faith and live or refuse Him and die. The Good Shepherd laid His life down for His sheep. Any who will hear His voice and trust in His Word will be given *Eternal Life*. And the very definition of “eternal” means that it can never be taken away. Which leads us to the next benefit of the elect.....*Eternal Security*.

Eternal Security

“...No one will snatch them out of My hand.” **(vs. 28b)**

If you are one of God’s elect and you have been given everlasting life, then you need not worry about the possibility of losing your salvation. The word “everlasting” means just that: it lasts forever. If we have everlasting life, then by its very definition, nothing can interrupt it. Jesus has not promised us “conditional everlasting life”. He has simply promised that His *elect* shall have everlasting life. If you are in His flock, then The Good Shepherd will protect you from any and all danger. Meaning that you are under His watchful care and therefore nothing can cause you harm. **You cannot lose the salvation that He has given you, because He is the One Who guarantees it!**

He told the Pharisees that day, underneath Solomon’s canopy, that His sheep shall always be His, and no one or nothing can ever take them away from Him. Why is that? Because The Father Who

gave them to Him is greater than all (**vs. 29**). God The Father puts each and every believer into Christ's hands personally. There is no power on earth that can take someone that has been sealed by God into the hands of The Son! Your security in Jesus is ETERNAL.

"In Him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed." Ephesians 1:13

Remember earlier, when I reminded you of the many benefits of God's elect spoken of in the book of *Ephesians*? Well this is one of those benefits. You are sealed by The Holy Spirit into Christ Jesus! That means that you cannot be taken out of Christ, if you are truly sealed IN Christ. You are now inseparable from Him. Your position in Him is eternally secure.

If you should ever wonder about your pastor's theological leanings, allow me to direct your attention to the story of Noah's Ark (my favorite Biblical story). In my office at the church, you can observe a very large painting of Noah's Ark upon the wall behind my desk. There is a reason for this. I believe that Noah's Ark is actually a picture of Christ and His Church.

You see, Christ is our Ark of Salvation. And just as Noah and his family had to enter into the Ark by faith in order to be rescued, we too must enter into Christ by this same faith in order to be delivered from God's wrath. Jesus is our Ark. After all of Noah's family, along with every creature from the earth that was sovereignly chosen by God for rescue from the flood entered into the Ark, it was God Himself Who sealed them inside.

"Those that entered, male and female of every creature, entered just as God had commanded him. Then The LORD shut him in." Genesis 7:16

Did you catch that? God sovereignly chose Noah, as well as, every different kind of other creatures from the earth, and after they had all entered into the Ark for their deliverance, it was God Himself, Who sealed them inside the Ark! This is EXACTLY how each of us, from all different walks of life, have been sovereignly chosen by God to be sealed in Christ! We are secure within Him for it is God Who has sealed us! As God's wrath descended upon the earth, those who were sealed in The Ark rose up above the destruction. They were passed from death unto life. And just as the floodwaters compressed about the Ark, we have been baptized into Christ Jesus. And just as the downpour of God's wrath poured down upon the Ark, God poured His wrath out upon His Son for our sins. Noah and his passengers were kept safe and dry inside the Ark. We have been spared from God's wrath because we are IN Christ Jesus!

"...for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus. For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ." Galatians 3:26-27
(emphasis added)

The point that I am making in all of this is simple. If you are a believer, then it is because God chose you. You have been sovereignly elected by God. And if you have been *elected*, then through Christ's death upon the cross, you have been passed from death into *everlasting* life. And as a result, you have been permanently sealed and baptized into Christ by God Himself, and no one can take you away from Him. Your security in Him is also *eternal*. You are the *Elect*, with *Eternal Life* and *Eternal Security*. And THAT, my brothers and sisters, is something to be thankful for. Allow me to close with this very beautiful passage of Scripture from *Romans* that pretty much says it all.

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor ANY OTHER CREATED THING will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD." Romans 8:38-39 (emphasis added)

And this is exactly the kind of security that The Good Shepherd has promised to all who will hear His voice and be called unto His flock.

Now let all the *elect* say... TRUTH!!!