

John 10:22-30

~ *Safely secured in the gracious grip of a great God!* ~

Introduction

All people (but especially children) need to grow up in a home where they feel **loved, secured, and cared** for by their parents or by **someone they know, love & trust!**

Kids need to grow up in a home where the parents – **love God and love one another** and are assured of their parents **love for them!**

This is especially the case that **no matter** what they may do – or how badly they **may sin** the parents love is **securely planted** in their child's heart!

Whenever parents **threaten to withhold** their love because of disobedience on the part of the child – the children will **not feel** safe – the children will **not feel** secure – and they certainly **NOT feel** the grace that parenting brings!

And the same thing is **true spiritually** for every Son & daughter of the living God!

God wants His children to know that He loves them and accepts them through the death of Christ, and **NOT** because of their spiritual performance...

He wants us to know that we are **eternally secure** and we are **eternally preserved** in our salvation even whenever we **fail**, and whenever we **sin**...

Hebrews

Now as a loving Father of course, He will always discipline those whom He loves – and He will always receive a son whom He chastens!

In fact, the book of Hebrews says – that:

If you don't experience the disciplining hand of your heavenly Father, then you are NOT His children and you are illegitimate Christians...

But the bible is clear that (**even when** God disciplines) He will **never withdraw** His love & character – and He will **never cast us** away simply because we are sinners...

And so **the bottom line** friends is that as His adopted children we are always **safe** and **eternally secure** in the gracious grip of a good and glorious God!

Christians Today

And so it's sad to see that many Christian's today **teach** or **adopt** the **onerous notion** that people can lose their salvation **if they sin...**

Far too many Christians believe that you can be:

- **Adopted** by God **one day** – but then **disowned** by God and **discarded** the next!
- You can be **forgiven** by God and reconciled eternally – but then **condemned** by God and **unreconciled** eternally!
- Accepted one day as a **true child** of God – but then rejected the next as a child of the devil!

And so this has to be one of the most **damaging** and **faith killing** doctrines that Christians can ever believe – if they believe that Christians can truly lose their salvation in Christ!

Because it gets to the very **heart** and **character** of who God is:

God is a loving Shepherd who will never lose any of His sheep whether they **falter** or **fail** – or **sin** or mess up!

Now granted, there are **some difficult texts** in the New Testament which do **seem to teach** that Christians **can lose their** salvation... but those are only a **handful of texts** and as many have pointed out:

They are **intended to stand** so that the child of God will read those texts and will make their calling and election sure – so that they **never fall away!**

And so **regarding our text** here in John chapter 10 – A.W. pink says:

No stronger passage in all the Word of God can be found guaranteeing the absolute security of every child of God...

And J.C Ryle the famous author and pastor said of this passage:

*Let it be noted that **to be safe** in Christ's [sovereign] hand, and so never to perish, **is one thing**; but **to feel** that we are safe is quite another...*

My hope this morning is that you would **NOT only know** the love and power of a good and gracious shepherd – but that **you would feel** and **believe** the love of the good and gracious shepherd:

Who will **NEVER** let you go no matter how bad you mess up or try to escape!

Main point

And so if last week we saw that the Good Shepherd **joyfully loves** and **lays down His life** to secure His sheep and **to make them** one flock – then this week we're going to see that:

*The Good Shepherd joyfully **saves** and **secures** His sheep and gives them eternal life with God the Father forever!*

John 10

So John chapter 10 beginning at verse 22 – John writes this:

*Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem, and it was winter. ²³ Jesus was walking in the temple in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly... and Jesus says I did tell you and you don't believe...the works that I do in my Father's name testify about me. ²⁶ But you **don't believe** because you are not of my sheep...*

Opening Gambit

Most people believe there is a **2 to 3-month** gap between **verse 21** of John 10 & **verse 22** of John 10...

Jesus has **gone away** and seemingly **came back** during the winter season of Jerusalem – and John records for us that this took place:

During the Festival of Dedication!

Now if **that is the case** then this would put **these interactions** around the time of December or what **the Jews would call**:

The 9th month – the month of Kislev!

So this is probably around the time of our Christmas in December – December 25th!

Feast of Dedication

And it's important to note that this feast was **NOT** an Old Testament **prescribed feast** – but **this was** an extra-biblical **feast** that came about during the **intertestamental period** of the bible:

The intertestamental period was that time between the writing of the **Old Testament Scriptures** and the **New Testament Scriptures** – roughly about 400 years!

And so this was an **8-day celebration** in honour of the Maccabean Revolt which took place between **165-164 B.C...**

And for those who **don't know** this was an event in Jerusalem where the Jewish priest *Judas Maccabeus* **rose up against** the Syrian Tyrant *Antiochus Epiphanes*...

Epiphanes was known to be a **violent** leader – he was a **ruthless** King – who **persecuted the Jews** and **profaned the temple** by stealing its treasures – setting up **Pagan altars** – and sacrificing swine on the alter of the Temple!

And so when the Jews **expressed their outrage** over these practices – Antiochus responded by **slaughtering the Jews** and **selling their families** into slavery!

He issued a decree where every Jew in Jerusalem was forced to eat the flesh of pigs – they were forced to sacrifice to Pagan gods – and forced to withdraw **the rite of circumcision** because it was a **crime punishable by death!**

And so, we are talking about an **evil evil** tyrant who was an **absolute** lunatic and ruler!

And so the Jews responded **I think rightly** by **taking up arms** and fighting back against the King!

And eventually in 164B.C the Maccabean family **rose up prominently** and **assembled an army** to revolt against the King – and they drove out the **far superior army** and liberated the city for God!

And so that feast in Jerusalem would now be called **NOT only** the *Feast of Dedication* (where they were able to **rededicate** the Temple) – but others would call it a *Festival of Lights* – but we simply **know it today** as:

Hannukah!

Israel's Deliverer

And so **the text then tells us** that it was **during this feast** when Jesus would be walking in the temple courts **and specifically** in the *Colonnades of Solomon's Portico!*

So this would have been on the **Eastern side** of the map during the winter time where it **would have been** the rainy season **and of course** Solomon's porch would have been a very **large covered** colonnade to protect them from the elements, and the wind, and the rain and so on!

But **NOT only that** – but this would be the **very same location** where **these very Apostles...** these very men (only **a few years** later) would be preaching the resurrected Jesus as the **only mean of salvation** in Acts chapter 5!

And so this is a **very significant** location in John's mind – and he goes to great lengths **to record for us** the **time** – the **location** – and the **circumstances** regarding **the particulars** of this event!

Because **this event** (this feasts of dedication) **was symbolising** a time in Israel's past where **a priest of God** had risen up **against** the **powers of evil** to deliver the people by the hand of God and restore them back to the temple in Jerusalem....

And here you have **Israel's truest priest** – the very Son of God standing before them speaking of **His great deliverance** from sin & evil promising to restore His people back to true worship in God:

And **they don't receive** His words!

So what's the point that John is trying to make here:

Brothers – the irony is thick!

The irony is palpable!

Intimidation

And so here's John and he's **setting up** this scene and then verse 24 tells us:

*Now the Jews **surrounded Jesus** and asked Him a question!*

The New American standard puts it this way:

The Jews then gathered around Him to ask...

But that sounds a little **too innocuous** – almost a little **too innocent!**

The Greek here could be **more literally** translated:

*The Jews **circled in** on Him!*

*The Jews **circled toward** Him!*

They were trying to **intimidate** Him!

They were trying to **threaten** Him!

There is a **note of anger** in this!

There is a **note of hatred** in this!

One commentator says:

*The note here is an **ominous sounding note!***

And so what we have then is **an interrogation** now taking place where the Jews were requiring of Him:

How long will you keep us in suspense?

And again you could **translate that** as:

*How long are you going to **annoy us?!?!?***

*How long will you continue to **upset us!?!?***

If you are the Messiah, tell us **plainly!**

If you are the Messiah, tell us **purely!**

Tells us **without riddles!**

Tells us **without puzzles!**

Just tell us plainly!

And so Jesus says:

I did tell you and you don't believe... The works that I do in my Father's name testify about me. ²⁶ But you don't believe because you are not of my sheep...

Human Responsibility

And so **notice** that Jesus gets to the heart of their **unbelief** – **before** He gets to the heart of **His sheep!**

That is:

Jesus deal with the heart of **their unbelief** (and why they **don't** believe) – before He deals with the heart of our belief & **why we do believe** – and so Jesus says in verse 26:

*The reason you **don't believe** is because you're **NOT** of my sheep!*

And I was saying this **just last week** – that we read those words and we think to ourselves:

*Well **what's the big deal** – they're **NOT** of His sheep **because** they **don't** believe...*

The reason they don't believe is because of the evidence – their hearts are hardened!

But that's **NOT** what the text is saying!

That's the way **we read it** but that's **NOT the way** He says it!

Because Jesus is emphatic that the reason they **don't believe** is given in terms of **belonging** – **NOT** of belief!

That is – in verse 26 He tells them:

You do **NOT** believe **because** you are **NOT** of my sheep!

And so we **need to realize** that unbelief is **NOT** the **cause** of man's separation from God – it is **the result** of it!

Unbelievers do **NOT** believe because they are totally depraved!

And there nature is **darkened** in their sin & total depravity!

No Excuse

And **no doubt** there are some you sitting there thinking to yourselves:

*Well if that is the case – If unbelievers **are not capable** of believing in Christ **because of their sin** – and if God **has NOT given** them the ability to believe because of His sovereignty – then how in the world can **He hold them responsible** for their unbelief...*

And the answer is:

Because Jesus does!

Because that's the way that Jesus roles!

Jesus says that:

They are **fully responsible** for their own **sin** – and yet they cannot believe because they are NOT elect!

These are **twin truths** that we must hold in careful **distinction** and **unity** if we're going to make sense of this passage!

Because that's **the distinction** that **NOT only** John is making all the way through this Gospel – but that's **the distinction** that Jesus Himself makes **right here** in these **verses...**

And so **in verse 25** Jesus will say to them that:

I did tell **you** and **you do NOT believe!**

YOU DO NOT BELIEVE!

So He **pins the unbelief** on them – And He pins it on **their sin** – and He pins it on **their very own hearts!**

God's Sovereignty

But then in the **very next breath** He **turns around** and He gives them **a basis** for that **unbelief** in verse 26:

But you do **NOT** believe **because** you are NOT of my sheep!

So the reason they **don't believe** is because they're **NOT** His sheep – and they're **NOT** His sheep **because** they don't believe!

No Excuse

And we sit there, and we **read those words** and we think to ourselves:

*Oh my goodness could it be that Jesus **actually** was...a Calvinist!*

Now of course **I'm kidding** when I **say that** – but you get the point!

There is a reason why Reformed people **love John's Gospel** and specifically John chapter 10 for **this very reason**:

Because Jesus gets to the **very heart** of the issue and gives us **a basis** for the unbelief that we **experience** in the world & in the gospel that we preach!

And so let me just be **real clear** and **upfront** about what Jesus is saying:

This is **NOT THEN** – **NOR NOW** – **NOR EVER** an excuse for people **NOT to believe** in Jesus Christ!

This is NOT a sufficient reason for people to reject Jesus Christ!

D. A. Carson says of these verses:

*The fact that they are NOT belonging to Christ's sheep **does not** excuse them; it **indicts them!***

This gives us a basis for the unbelief that we see and it shows us that we are **all guilty** before a just & holy God!

And the fact that they are NOT part of Christ's flock **does NOT excuse** the fact that they have actively sinned and rebelled against God!!

R.C Sproul gives a good illustration of this in his book (chosen by God) – where he says this:

Imagine for a moment God talking to a man in a garden...

And he says to the gardener:

*I want you to trim all of these bushes and all of these hedges **by 3pm today** – And I want you to be careful because there's a **large pit** at the edge of this garden, and **if you fall in**, you **won't be able** to get yourself out...*

So stay away from the pit...trim the Garden...and I'll be back at 3pm!

And so **as soon as** God leaves the garden, the gardener throws off his sheers, runs to the pit – and promptly jumps **head-long** into the pit!

And so 3 P.M. hits – God returns to the garden – and He finds the man deeply entrenched in the pit – and all of the bushes are **untrimmed** and **untreated!**

And so He goes over to the pit and He finds the man sitting there and He and says:

*Why have you **NOT** trimmed any of my bushes?!?!*

And the man replies:

*Well how do you expect me to trim these bushes when I'm in this lousy pit? And **if you hadn't** of left this pit here, I **wouldn't be** in this mess, and **it's your fault** because you made the pit and you made this garden!*

And so Sproul says that **the point of the story** is to say that:

*Adam in Genesis 3 jumped into the pit... and **in Adam** we all jumped in there with him!*

God did **NOT** throw us into the pit – God did **NOT** push us into the pit – but **in Adam** we all **freely** and **fully** jumped into the pit:

But then we turn around and we shake our fists and **we blame God** that we can't come to Him!

And so morally we have all sinned and **fall short** of the glory of God!

And we have **all rebelled** against God **by our own nature!**

By **our own choice** we choose to rebel against the Creator because that's who are **by nature!**

Our Obligation

And so on the one hand – the bible makes clear that:

We are totally **unable** and **incapacitated** by our sin to come to Him – but **at the same time** God holds us responsible to **repent** and **believe** in the gospel!

These are **twin truths** that we must **believe** and **uphold** as Christians – because this is what the Scriptures ultimately teach!

And **just because** we don't like them – **does NOT mean** we don't accept them!

In the words of one pastor who said it **so incredibly well** – he said:

*Let me just remind you of something when it comes to the Word of God...If Jesus says something that **you don't like** – that's your problem **NOT His!***

And when you realize that there are **only 2 categories** of people in this world:

1. The **Sheep**

And

2. The **non-sheep**

Then you had **better make sure** that you're on the right side of the equation!

You wanna make sure that you're on the right side of His grace!

Eternal life

And so that's why **in verse 27** Jesus goes on to describe **all of the marks** of the true sheep of God – because **He wants us to know** the joy of our salvation and eternal life with God **who will preserve us** unto the very end!

And so from His reply in verse 27 – we learn the **first basis** of our **eternal security** as His chosen sheep – and that is this:

*All of Jesus' sheep are **eternally secure** because Jesus gives them true, lasting, and eternal life*

This is what we see in verse 28 – Jesus says:

*And **I give them** eternal life, and they will **never perish**, and no one will snatch them out of my hand...*

Faith is a gift

Now this is one of the **cardinal tenets** of Calvinism (the doctrines of Grace/Reformed Theology) the belief that **you cannot lose your salvation** because your salvation is **a gift of God!**

And once the Father calls you – redeems you – and saves you:

Jesus will **preserve** you – and **upholds** you – and protect you because you belong to God!

And that once the Father calls you to the Son – **He will NOT let you go** – you **will** persevere – and
He **will** raise you up!

This is what we saw back in John 6:37:

*All that the Father gives to me **will come to me**, and whoever comes to me I will never cast aside – but I will raise him up on the last day!*

So true faith **will hold fast** till the end!

Saving faith will always persevere because of **who it is** that holds that faith in His sovereign hand!

And notice that Jesus calls it ***eternal life*** with God – because when you think about:

Eternal life is **by definition** forever!

It's eternal!

It's everlasting!

It cannot be revoked!

Romans 11:29:

*For the gifts and the calling of God are **irrevocable***

They are **totally unable** to be **revoked, annulled, or reversed** by the hand of God!

Psalm 37:28:

*For the LORD loves justice and **will not abandon** His saints. For they are **preserved forever**, but the children of the wicked will not be preserved – but they will be destroyed!*

God **initiates** our faith – God **preserves** our faith – and God **endures our faith** – which cannot be taken away!

And **even the faith** that we have **to believe** in God for salvation in Christ – **that is a faith** that the bible calls a **saving gift** given by God in His grace – Ephesians 2:8:

*For you are saved by grace through faith, **and this** [Grace & faith] **is not from yourselves**; it is the gift of God – it's **NOT** a result of works lest man should boast...*

Your salvation is **NOT** the result of anything you have done!

Salvation from **first to last** is God's Works!

It is something **God does** to the sinner – **NOT** something the **sinner does** for God!

And remember Peter in **1st Peter chapter 1** gives those remarkable promises of God – where he says to the churches:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Who according to His great mercy, **has caused us** to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, to an inheritance that is **imperishable, undefiled, and unfading**...[it CANNOT be taken away from you] because it is being **kept in heaven** for you, who by God's power are being **guarded** through faith for a salvation **ready to be revealed** in the last time...*

Now imagine Peter writing these words and **reflecting back** on the time when **he in his ministry** rejected Jesus to his face!

3 times Peter denies the sufficiency of knowing Christ – and here he is **30 years later** speaking of this **imperishable** faith that is guarded by God in heaven!

And Peter says that:

He caused us – He saved us – He preserves us – and He keeps us!

And **even Jude himself** says the same thing that Peter says in Jude chapter 1 verse 24:

*Now to Him who is able to **keep you** from stumbling and to present **you blameless** before the presence of His glory **with great joy!***

So this is a joy for Jesus to **preserve our faith** and to **keep us going** till the very end!

This is **NOT something** that He will **ever get tired** of doing!

Hebrews 11

And so the bottom friends is that in **all of these verses**:

Real faith endures – it **perseveres** – it **prolongs** – and it **persists** in the **hardest times of life** because God Himself has **given it to us** – and if He has **given it to us** then our faith **by definition** is:

Supernatural!

It is **the gift of God** which **endures** to eternal life!

You can't do anything to **keep** your salvation – and you can't do anything to **lose** your salvation!

Because your salvation from **first** to **last** is **entirely kept** in the firm grip of a good, gracious, and glorious God!

Phil Johnson says:

*Hebrews 11 is a chronicle of those who **through faith**:*

- Conquered Kingdoms.
- Enforced Justice.
- Obtained Promises.
- Stopped the mouths of Lions.
- Quenched the Power of Fire.
- Escaped the edge of the Sword.
- Were made strong out of weakness.
- Became mighty in War.
- Put foreign Armies to Flight.

- Women received back their dead by Resurrection.
- Some were tortured refusing to accept release so that they might rise again to a better life!

And **through all of that** the writer of Hebrews says that **their faith endured** and it **remained unshaken** because the source of that faith was God

Grace Supplied

And so if you understand that **God is the One** who **began** the work of your salvation – and that Christ is both the **author** and **finisher** of your faith (Hebrews chapter 12) – then you will find **in that truth** an **endless supply of grace** to help in your time of need!

And you'll be able to pray prayers like the **father of the demon-possessed boy** in Mark 9:24 – who said:

Lord I believe but help my unbelief!

Friends this is the power of Jesus Christ giving to His sheep the **gift of eternal life!**

*All of Jesus' sheep are **eternally secure** because Jesus gives them true, lasting, and eternal life!*

You **did nothing** to **earn** your salvation – and you can **do nothing** to **keep** your salvation!

Your salvation from **first to last** is a gracious gift of a glorious God!

No-one can snatch them

And then secondly – in the **second half** of our text Jesus gives us a **second reason** why our salvation is eternally secure & safe in the hands of God...

Reason number 2 Jesus gives is that:

*All of Jesus' sheep are **eternally secure** because both **Jesus and the Father** hold them secure*

So the first one was that Jesus gives us the ability to believe (He gives us eternal life) – the second is that once we believe and belong to Him He and the Father will **NEVER** let us go!

This is what we see now in **verse 29** of our text – Jesus says:

*And my Father, who has given them to me, is **greater than all**. And no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand...*

So first they **couldn't** snatch them out of **Christ's own hand** – and now they **cannot snatch** them out of **the Father's own hand!**

And why is that – why are they so eternally protected?!?!?

Because verse 30:

I and the father are one!

Jesus says:

They are **one God** – with **one purpose** – and **one eternal goal** to protect and preserve the sheep **until the very end!**

World War II

The story is told of a World War II bomber flying in the air and being hit by flak-fire in the process...

And **as a result** the pilot had trouble **steering!**

And so he called to the rear gunner and he asked how bad the damage was...

And so the **rear gunner** looks at the damage and says:

Well there's a 3 X 5 hole in the rear left horizontal stabiliser... do you think we're gonna be able to make it back home...

And the pilot says:

Absolutely! No sweat at all!

And the gunner says:

Okay...?!?!

And yet they **barely made it home** – skewing & skidding **radically** as they landed **just barely** on the runway – almost losing their lives in the process...

And so pilot gets out and runs to the back of the plane and he screams at the gunman:

When you said a 3 X 5 hole I thought you meant inches – NOT metres!

You see they had really **NOT** been safe – but they had been in the **most mortal danger** the entire time!

Leon Morris who tells the story comments:

*A good deal of our earthly security is like that – it's **far from being as secure** as we imagine...sometimes things turn out alright and sometimes they don't...*

*But the wonderful thing about **eternal life** is that it is **absolutely secure!***

Jesus holds His own people in His **own firm grasp** and they can trust His assurance that He will **never let them go!**

And that is **the kind of security** that is promised here **because of** the Father and the Son together:

*My Father, who has given them to me, is **greater than all!***

The word all here encompasses **all things:**

Greater than **sin!**
 Greater than **Satan!**
 Greater than **angels!**
 Greater than **demons!**
 Greater than **storms!**
 Greater than **trials!**
 Greater than **suffering!**
 Greater than the **world!**
 Greater than **life!**
 Greater than **death!**

As Paul writes in Romans chapter 8 that monumental verses about the love of Christ keeping us safe:

*For who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁷ No, **in all these things** we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing **in all of creation** will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus...*

You can't do it

Now a common objection that people will bring to this doctrine (the Perseverance of the Saints) is that:

*Sure enough Paul says that **nothing else in all creation** will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus – but **what about** the person who falls away?!?!*

What about unbelief – cannot unbelief separate us from the love of God in Christ?!?!

Cannot people fall away from God and **NOT** be renewed back to righteousness?!?!

And the answer is:

*Are you **NOT** in creation?!?!*

Is your faith NOT a gift from God?!?!

Are you somehow greater and more powerful than God Himself?!?!

The text tells us that:

NOTHING IN ALL CREATION!

NOTHING!

Including **yourself** – including your **faith** – including your **sin** – including the **world** – including **time** – including **space** – including **all things** – nothing in all creation **will be able to separate you** from the love of God!

And if **you can't do it** – then nothing else can!

Apostasy

And so the question becomes:

Well, what do we do with those who:

- Have a credible profession of faith?
- They seem to produce fruit?
- Their repentance seems genuine?
- And they live a godly life for 20, 30, sometimes 40 years...

But then ultimately **seem to** reject the faith?!?!

They ultimately **seem to** fall away?!?!

And I **don't want to** go too deep into this because I already did a sermon on this back in John chapter 6 if you're interested... but I'll simply say that the bible is clear that:

Those people who fall away never **truly** believed!

They never had **true** and **saving** faith!

They were **never truly** born again!

Never **truly in** the sheep pen of Christ's flock!

John talks about this in 1st John 2 – he says:

*For they went out from us because they were **not of us**, for if they had **been of us** they would **have remained** with us, but they went out **from us** because they were **never truly of us!***

Implications

You see the **doctrine** of *the Perseverance of the Saints* means **far more** than what people **actually realize!**

Because it **doesn't mean** that:

Once you start in the Christian life – you will **automatically finish** in the Christian life!

It **doesn't mean** that if you say the sinner's prayer and come to Jesus by faith that you can live **like the devil**, and go on sinning, and God will still accept you!

But the **true doctrine** of perseverance means that:

Our salvation in Christ is eternally secure, that eternal life is ours and will never be lost, and that God will finish the good work he began within us (Phil 1:6)...

It means that come:

Hell or high waters!

Devils, Serpents, & Snakes!

Sin, Satan, the World!

Suffering, Sorrow, & Sickness!

Grief, Crying, or Pain

Death, Dying, Despair!

Or any other thing in **all of creation:**

Jesus holds us fast!

And He will NOT let your foot slip into destruction!

He will NOT let you go!

He will NOT let you leave!

And it means that **these promises** here in John 10 can be known with **absolute certainty!**

That He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion!

That we who are **truly saved** are **never in danger** of losing our salvation!

And we will **be eternally kept** by the good, gracious, and glorious grip of a good & gracious God
because we are **triplly and secure** in the Good Shepherd!

We are held in the hands of the Son – whose hands are wrapped in the Father’s – and whose Spirit is
set in our hearts ready to be revealed on the last day!

Conclusion

The old hymn says it best:

*I know not why God's wondrous grace
 To me He hath made known,
 Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
 Redeemed me for His own.*

*I know not how this saving faith
 To me He did impart,
 Nor how believing in His Word
 Wrought peace within my heart.*

*I know not how the Spirit moves,
 Convincing men of sin,
 Revealing Jesus through the Word,
 Creating faith in Him.*

*I know not what of good or ill
 May be reserved for me,
 Of weary ways or golden days,
 Before His face I see.*

*But I know Whom I have believed,
 And am persuaded that He is able
 To keep that which I've committed
 Unto Him against that day.*

Do you have that peace here this morning friends?

Do you have that hope of eternal security?

Do you know the one of whom you have believed?!?!

Because if NOT – I pray that you would **this day** come to Him – have your sins forgiven – and enter into that **sheep fold of grace** where the good & glorious shepherd will NOT let you go!

*For the Good Shepherd joyfully **saves and secures His sheep** and gives them eternal life with God the Father forever!*

What joy – what joy – what **marvellous joy** this Shepherd **truly** gives!

John 10:22-30
Discussion Questions

[Read John 10:22-30]

Main Point: *The Good Shepherd joyfully **saves** and **secures** His sheep and gives them eternal life with God the Father forever!*

Q1. According to these verses why can we trust that God is good? – **[Read verses 22-26]**. What do you know about the Feast of Dedication? – Why does John think this detail is important? – How has Jesus already demonstrated His messiahship in John’s Gospel?

Q2. In verse 26 what does Jesus say is the cause of their unbelief? – Why is verse 26 so hard for us to swallow? – How should we handle a difficult text when one comes up in Scripture?

Q3. [Read verses 27-28]. What causes you to doubt God’s ongoing care in your life? – What is the cure Jesus gives in verse 28? – What implications does this verse have for when we experience suffering and pain in our lives?

Q4. [Read verse 29] – What is the confidence Jesus has in the Father here? – Who is the Father greater than in this verse? – **[Read Psalm 37:28; Romans 11:29; Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Peter 3:3-5; Jude 1:24]**. What do all of these verses tell about the security of our salvation?

Q5. What does verse 30 mean in the context of this passage? – How should we understand those who fall away from the faith? **(See 1 John 2:18-19)**.