

## Saved and Kept By Christ

### Intro

John 10:22-30

#### Truth and controversy (v.19-21)

- There are many points in Scripture in which we are forced to come to terms with the question: *Will I submit to what **God** says about reality?*
- Truth always comes to at least two audiences. Some listen, are drawn, inquire, believe. Others resist, doubt, mock, ignore.

#### Sporting skeptics and would-be believers (v.24-26)

- Jesus speaks more 'plainly' to some than others.
  - Matt 16 – disciples; Jn 4 – Samaritan woman; Jn 9 – healed blind man

### Portraits of Jesus in John 10

#### The Shepherd of the sheep (v.1-6)

- Contrasting Himself with religious leaders whom elsewhere He calls false teachers. Here, He uses the metaphor of 'robbers and thieves' – men posing as true shepherds, who, instead of feeding the sheep, 'kill and destroy' them (v.10).

#### The Door to the sheepfold (v.7-9)

- Entering through the Doorway (Christ) signifies, in context, obtaining eternal life (vs.10, 28).

*10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

- And the only way to come into eternal life is through Jesus Christ (who is the door)

## The Savior-Substitute (v.11)

- Before He can give this eternal life, He must die/lay down His life “for the sheep”

*Isaiah 53:5-7 “But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”*

## The Omnipotent Missionary (v.14-17)

- If we stop before v.14, Jesus is One who simply *offers* salvation. He is the *potential* Savior of everyone but the *actual* Savior of no one.

*Jn 6:37-40 (compare to 10:27-29)*

*Jn 10:18*

## The Preserver-Protector of the sheep (v.27-29)

- ▶ “The greatest of all Protestant heresies is ...”

**“If justification is not by faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone; if faith needs to be completed by works ... then something always needs be ‘added’ for final justification to be ours. That is exactly the problem. If final justification is dependent on something we have to complete, it is not possible to enjoy assurance of salvation.... But if Christ has done everything; if justification is by grace, without contributory works; if it is received by faith’s empty hands – then assurance, even full assurance, is possible *for every believer.*”**

-Sinclair Ferguson, *In Christ Alone*, p149-150

## Foundations for Assurance in John 10

### The power of the Shepherd's voice (v.27)

Psalm 29:3-9; Rev. 1:14-16

#### ▶ My mom's 'mom voice'

- Jesus has a 'Shepherd voice' and it is powerful enough to draw His sheep to faith and to keep them in the faith.

### The eternity of eternal life (v.28)

*Jn 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life."*

*Jn 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life."*

*Jn 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."*

- Assurance/security is not something we wait for heaven to experience.
- Eternal life = ETERNAL ... LIFE

### The grip of the Shepherd (v.28)

*Jn 1:3-5 "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

- This all powerful Creator, this One who conquers evil, is the same One who holds us. He says with all confidence and authority, "No one can, no one *will* snatch you from My hand!"

### The grip of the Father (v.29)

- The Father doesn't give His sheep to the Son and then walk away. He keeps His hand on them, so that they are together holding the sheep. No greater assurance is conceivable!

Phil 1:6

**“Let it be noted, that to *be* safe in Christ’s hand, and so never to perish, is one thing; but to *feel* that we are safe is quite another. Many true believers *are* safe, who do not realize and *feel* it.”**

-J.C. Ryle, Expository Thoughts on John v.2, p239

**Q: “What is thy only comfort in life and death?”**

**A: “That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.” -Heidelberg Catechism (1563), question 1**

- Christ’s sheep are more secure than they could ever imagine because Jesus Christ not only saves His sheep, He keeps them ... forever.