

THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

(A Study of the Gospel of John)

Mine NEVER Perish

Jesus said, ...

John 10:11–18 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

17 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

TEXT: John 10:22-30

INTRODUCTION: There are many struggles which we can have in our spiritual lives:

- Am I faithfully walking with the Lord, or am I just playing the game?
- Am I growing to be more like Christ, or am I spiritually stagnant?
- Is the way I am serving Christ really what He wants me to do and all He wants me to do?
- When I get to heaven, will Jesus say to me, “Well done thou good and faithful servant?”

However, I do not know of a more torturous struggle that a person can have spiritually than the agony of doubting one’s salvation.

- A person who when asked if they are saved (if they are truly honest in their reply) says, “I am not sure.”
- A person who has a religious experience to look back upon as the time they think they might have been saved, but who has no confidence that the eternal transaction took place.

- A person who whenever he or she hears a passionate or descriptive sermon about either heaven or hell, listens in misery and silently prays the sinner's prayer over and over again.
- A person like some of you at this very moment who are uncomfortable by my even mentioning the subject. You do not want to wiggle in your seat or scratch your head because someone might see you and think you are one who is worried about your salvation.

Now, let me tell you, it is not my purpose to make you suffer today nor to stir up doubt in your mind about your salvation.

Admittedly, we Baptists have an ironic record concerning this.

- On the one hand, almost all Baptists across the ages have tenaciously held the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer, what we have often described as "once saved, always saved."
- On the other hand, Baptist preachers have sometimes been the most capable of causing doubt to rise to the surface so that people who had long testified of their certain salvation and whom people would have declared with equal certainty that their lives evidenced being born again, nevertheless declared their salvation was not genuine and were saved all over again.

My intent is not to be one of those preachers to you today.

I do want to accomplish two things this morning.

- I want to help you understand this doctrine of eternal security by understanding what Jesus had to say about it.
- I want to help you come to a clear and confident understanding of your own relationship with Christ.

Let's look at the words of Jesus.

John 10:22–30 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. 24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

I want to ask you to just walk through this passage with me by way of five basic questions.

I. WHO ARE THE SHEEP OF GOOD SHEPHERD JESUS?

26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Jesus' Sheep

- **Believe (trust) in Jesus**
- **They know Jesus.**
- **They are known by Jesus.** These two mean personal relationship.
- **They follow Jesus.**

II. WHAT IS THE PROMISE TO CHRIST'S SHEEP?

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.

- **Jesus gives them eternal life.**
- **They shall never perish.**
- **No one can snatch them from Jesus' hand.**
- **They are a gift from God the Father to God the Son.**
- **No one can snatch them from the Father's hand because He is greater than all.**

I do not know how Jesus could have more strongly worded His promise to keep His sheep secure in their salvation for all eternity.

For a person who has been saved to lose their salvation here is what must happen:

THE PROMISES	IN ORDER TO LOSE SALVATION
Jesus gives them eternal life.	Jesus must take back the gift He has given.
They shall never perish.	Jesus' promise must prove to be false. Jesus said "never perish," so if anything in the universe could happen

	to cause one of Jesus' sheep to perish, including the sheep wanting to do disavow his faith in Christ, then this word of Jesus is not true. But we have dozens of promises, proven true millions of times that every word of God is true.
No one can snatch them from Jesus' hand.	Someone or something would have to overpower Jesus for the sheep to be taken from His hand.
They are a gift from God the Father to God the Son.	The Father would have to take back a gift He had already given to the Son.
No one can snatch them from the Father's hand because He is greater than all.	Someone or something would have to be greater than God the Father to be able to snatch the sheep from God's hand.

Folks, Jesus says, "Mine NEVER perish."

III. WHY DOES IT LOOK LIKE SOME SHEEP DO NOT BELONG IN THE FOLD?

- **Because we are looking at man's expression of the sheepfold, and not at God's.** We try to be sure that everyone who becomes a member at SABC is genuinely born again and saved. Even so, we make mistakes. Consequently, we have lost people on our church roll. Someone could look at their life and say, "There is no way that person is going to heaven," and they would be right. But the problem is not that the person lost their salvation. The problem is they were never saved. They put their name on the church roll, but their name was never written in the Lamb's Book of Life. They have not lost eternal life. They never had it.
- **Because sometimes even genuinely born-again believers fall into serious sin that makes other people think they are lost.**

David committed adultery and murder.

Peter denied knowing Christ.

Both of them committed these sins after their salvation. Neither of them lost their salvation.

This does not endorse the libertarian view that believers can do anything after they are saved without consequence. Believers that fall into habitual sin and serious sin will suffer extreme chastisement from the Lord in order to cause them to repent and return to follow Him. Consider all that happened to David!

If a believer is bringing disrepute on the name of the Lord, God may kill him. It is called the sin unto death.

But the one thing God will not do is break His Word. God will not lie. The born again believer fallen into serious sin was initially saved by grace and he or she is kept by grace. God promised they would never perish and they will never perish.

IV. HOW DOES A PERSON BECOME PART OF JESUS' FLOCK?

- **Believe (trust) in Jesus.**
- **Follow Jesus as your Lord.**

Rom. 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

V. HOW CAN YOU KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT YOU ARE PART OF HIS FLOCK?

- **Not by the memory test** because memory is faulty.
- **Not by the “Did I do it all correctly?” test.**
 - Did I really understand?
 - Did I really repent?
 - Did I say the Sinner's Prayer?
 - Did I say it all?
 - Did I say it right?

There is really only one biblical test as to whether or not you are saved.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

- **Is Christ changing you?**
- **Are you being transformed?**
- **Has He made you more like Himself?**

If after hearing that Christ died for you, you believed God raised Him from the dead, and you began to follow Jesus as your Lord, and now, today, there are changes Christ has made in your life to make you more like Himself, you are

saved. You may yet be a long way from all you ought to be, but you are saved by His grace through faith, and you are kept by that same grace.

If you had some religious experience, but the end result of it is nothing. No change. You are the same old sinner you were before that experience or maybe even worse, you have not been saved. For if you were in Christ, Christ would be making you new, making you like Himself.

CONCLUSION:

1. If you have trusted Christ, and He is changing you, whisper a prayer of gratitude for the cross, for drawing you to faith, for the changes He has begun to make. Surrender yourself for more change, greater change, for His glory and for your good. Tell Christ you want Him to make you become all that He wants you to be.
2. If there is no transformation in your life, no evidence that Christ is changing you, you need to be saved. This is not a matter of dealing with doubt. Friend, you are lost. You need to trust in Christ. But you can if you will today.