

## The Gospel of John - #40 - 10/24/2021 - "Nothing Can Separate Us!" John 10: 19-30

**Introduction: IL-** In 1935, during Franklin Roosevelt's first term and right in the middle of the Great Depression, Social Security was initiated to help the elderly, the unemployed and the disadvantaged in a financial way. Now, once again, Social Security is in trouble. The current Trustees Report for 2021 shows that Social Security will be bankrupt by 2034 (just 13 more years) unless the government raises the retirement age and/or raises employment taxes! In a powerful passage about eternal security we are going to look closely at this wonderful doctrine often called, "Once Saved- Always Saved!" We will see in John 10: 19-30, and especially in verses 27-30, that:

ALL believers can be assured that they are saved forever because eternal security...

**-is the clear context of this passage- verses 19-26** One key word in verse 19 is the word, "division" since it lays before us, yet again, the fact that there were conflicting reactions to Jesus and His powerful teachings. His public ministry comes to a close in this chapter and He begins private teaching times with His disciples. But the reality is that there are many today who are divided over who Jesus is and what their reactions and responses to Him should be. Some in this chapter thought Jesus was demonically oppressed, some thought He must be insane, and yet others could determine that demonic influence was not on the side of healing a man blind from birth, as Jesus did in chapter 9. Many today want nothing to do with Jesus and are content to do their own thing and hope for the best when life grinds to a halt. But if a person humbly admits to God that they are sinners, sinners who cannot save themselves, sinners who need God's grace and need Christ's blood to be applied to their sinful condition- such people can and will be saved and, praise God, saved forever! This was Jesus' final confrontation with the largely Jewish crowd and their consistent hostility. He will now go to the other side of the Jordan River and spend that time with His closest and most committed followers. This section of John 10 occurs in mid-December during what was known as the Feast of Dedication- a Jewish feast to be sure, but not one spelled out in the Old Testament. Rather, this was an eight-day feast to commemorate the re-dedication or re-consecration of the Jewish Temple after it was desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes, a Greek military general who took over the city of Jerusalem and its Temple in 168 B.C. His most egregious act of humiliating the Jews was to offer pigs on the altar in the Temple proper. Judas Macabees was a Jewish hero for taking on General Epiphanes in 164 B.C., routing his military and re-establishing proper worship in the Temple. The text states that this celebration was in the winter and that Jesus walked and talked with the crowds, for and against Him, as they walked along the covered walkway known as Solomon's Portico on the east side of the Temple Square. (See an artist rendition of it on the screen). You can find two other references to this colonnade in Acts 3 and Acts 5. These Jews who accompanied Him on His walk made it clear that they were not responsible to accept Him as Messiah unless He would tell them for sure He was THE Messiah. But they had no real heart to know Him as their Messiah and Savior! He made it clear that His deeds and words revealed that He was who He said He was according to Old Testament prophecy- Isaiah 35: 5-6- "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man

leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute shall sing for joy!" If Jesus is who the Scriptures say He is, then all of us have an obligation to receive Him as our Savior from sin. When we do, God grants us new life, eternal life, life that will never come to an end! That doctrine is so clearly expounded in the next four verses- you can't mistake what Jesus says about the eternal life He gives to His sheep! **IL-** Dr. Ray Stanford- "The moment you are saved you have become a member of the Body of Christ. If you could ever be unsaved, part of Christ's Body would go to Hell!" That simply cannot be- so let's look carefully now at the rest of our text...

**-commences with a personal relationship with Jesus as MY Shepherd- verse 27** Jesus had already declared, in verse 18, that He had the authority to lay down His life for His sheep and the authority from the Father in Heaven to take His life up again and offer the gift of life, eternal life, to His well-loved sheep. While the crowd debated, one follower of Christ knew his Savior and loved Him deeply- the man "formerly blind". When Jesus asked the man if he believed in Jesus as the Son of Man, Son of God, the man formerly blind said, "Lord, I believe" and to express his passionate love for the Savior, the text in chapter 9, verse 38, says that he "worshiped Him." And even in this context of division, there were many, according to the last verse in chapter 10, who "believed in Him there!" Jesus had the authority to sacrifice His own life for the sheep, but would that put the sheep at risk through His dying on the Cross? No! Just the opposite would be true! The sheep then would not have to wait to have eternal life- He was offering it then and there! And we do not have to wait for it either- it is ours here and now if we have given our lives to Him by faith in His already finished work at Calvary! We can praise Him for the solid truth, given to us as sheep, in that well-known Psalm- the 23rd- "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord FOREVER!" Here in verse 27 we learn, once more, that real followers of Jesus, His true sheep, hear His voice, He knows us intimately, and we follow Him unreservedly and with no doubt about the direction He takes us! Why? Because we're smart and can think that far ahead? No- but because we listen, we respond to commands, we praise Him for our secure future and we thank Him consistently and gladly for the GIFT He gives, because it is accompanied by many promises! Hebrews 10: 14- "For by a single offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified!" Let's talk a bit about that "forever" concept...

**-centers on powerful promises that Jesus makes- verses 28 and 29** Jesus states, in verse 28, "I give" and that is characteristic of Him as God, the Son of God. He gives, present tense, here and now, today and tomorrow and...eternally- forever! He states it so plainly as to not be misunderstood if our minds are open and uncluttered with man's ideas. He says, "I give to them, My sheep, eternal life!" He doesn't offer a ten-year warranty on new life. He doesn't add- "If they don't mess up..." **IL-** A. W. Pink- "No stronger passage in all the Word of God can be found guaranteeing the absolute security of every child of God." And Jesus isn't guaranteeing eternal security for some of His sheep- 75% or so- but for ALL His sheep! He expands His promise- "And they will NEVER perish!" The NEVER part does not depend in the frailty of the sheep! So many people who disagree with the Bible on this important doctrine of "once saved, always saved" claim that we can "snatch" ourselves out of Christ's hand. Really? A mere human is, on this point, stronger than Jesus, stronger than God? That cannot be! It is impossible to be born again, to be unborn somehow and then, confessing their failures as one of the lowly sheep, to be

re-born again! Certainly a believer can sin- we all do at times. But praise goes to God that we are able NOT to sin as well! I John 2: 1, 2- "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father- Jesus Christ the righteous!" That same righteous Jesus is the God who keeps us saved even when we sin. If our salvation was based on anything WE did, we could undo our salvation. But since God is the one who saves and since salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, I cannot lose my salvation- it is mine forever because Jesus says we can NEVER perish and that no one, not even ME, can take away my standing with God. Questions arise in some people's minds about the issue of sin in the life of a believer- the thought that maybe sin will cause God to abandon me and revoke my "always saved" status. Let's think that through for a bit. Here are MY questions to those who wonder: how many sins would remove me from the family of God? And how often would I sin before God says, "That's enough- I'm done with you!"? Or is my standing or falling with the Shepherd connected to BIG sins or any sin? Is it even possible to go back and forth between condemnation and salvation? If I lose my salvation can I be re-redeemed? Can I be saved a second or third or tenth time? I hope you see my point. IL- Charles Spurgeon, in a sermon titled, "The Matchless Mystery" said, "The idea that Christ can lose part of His Body is, to me, grotesque and at the same time ghastly!" No- Philippians 1: 6 says, "I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ." Jesus says He gives His sheep ETERNAL life- endless, not "for a season". The word "never" is used in this text, not the word, "until". He gives, we receive and do so with thanksgiving that His gift is eternal, starting on day one of my new life in Him! God's character far outweighs the sheep's wandering tendency! Jesus says we are secure in His hand and in the hand of the Father. In John 5: 24 Jesus truly, truly said, "Whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me, HAS eternal life. He does NOT come into judgment but HAS passed from death to life!" God's love is perfect, His power is unstoppable and His knowledge is beyond our comprehension! He is a truthful God who truthfully keeps His promises- ALL of them! 1 Peter 1: 5 is a great example- of God's people it is said that we are "...kept (guarded) by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!" It may help you to know that the word "eternal" is used 66 times in the New Testament. God means what He says and not one of those "eternals" will become a different word or phrase, like "for a season".

**-is confirmed by proof of Christ's deity- verse 30 IL-** Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, founder of Dallas Seminary, writes extensively in his third volume of theology about "33 riches of Divine grace" being mostly about eternal security. I'm going to share with you just a snippet of what He writes about the Triune Godhead and security. The Father brings to bear His sovereignty- His total control of everything in His universe- 1 Timothy 6: 15-16- "He who is the blessed and only sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see." Could that sovereign God make a promise and not keep it? No way! The Son intercedes for us about our eternal destiny- John 17: 24- "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am to see My glory that You have given to Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world!" Could God the Son ever have an unanswered prayer to the Father? No! The Spirit permanently indwells us and seals us to Himself. Ephesians 4: 30- "And do not grieve the Holy

Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Could the Spirit ever discover that someone has broken that seal? No! That is not possible! God is a great God with holy plans for you and me as His sheep. Before we wrap this up, let's look closely at verse 30- already we are in Jesus' hands and in the Father's grasp. Salvation is ours through the blood of Jesus, we're kept in His capable hands, surrounded too by the Father's all-powerful hands. But those hands together prove the Deity of Jesus and thus the certainty of His promise of protection. What the Father is, the Son is. What the Son does for the sheep, the Father does as well through the Son. If the Father is all-powerful, so is the Son. Father and Son are of one essence- united in one purpose and one task: to bring all the sheep to Heaven to dwell together with the Good Shepherd forever! Perfect love and with it perfect protection now and for all eternity!

**Conclusion: IL-** I really want to drive home the point of verse 30 and I want you to take out your 3 x 5 card and envelopes in three sizes. If you know Jesus as your Savior, write your name on that card, and put it in the smallest envelope- that illustrates your salvation through faith in what Jesus did for you on Calvary's Cross and His strong hands. Next, put that small envelope in the largest one. That represents your eternal security in the Father's loving and powerful hands. Finally, these envelopes together picture eternal security and the Good Shepherd's perfect protection forever! Seal it, write the word "FOREVER" on it and then thank Him in prayer for doing all of that for YOU!

I John 5: 13- "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may **know** that you have eternal life!"

**Let's close with the song, "Take My Life- I Am Yours"**