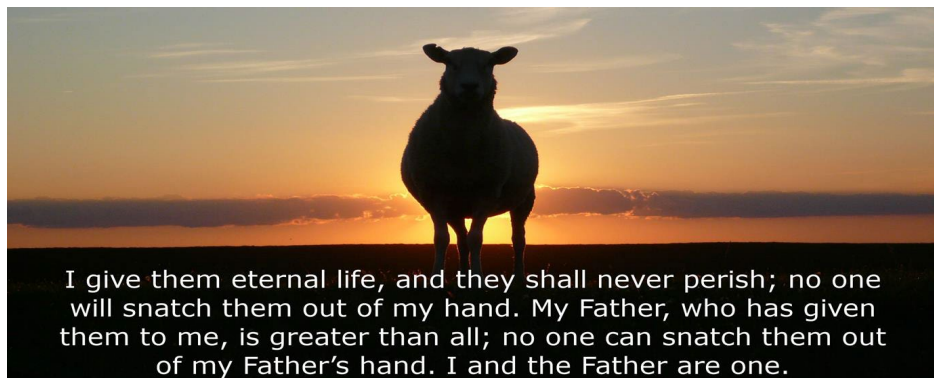


God's Guarantee of Eternal Life

John 10.22-31

Jesus says that those who believe in Him are His sheep – He knows them, gives them eternal life, and they'll never perish! Eternal security, right? It sounds like it, but some say No. And what did Jesus mean when He said, "I and the Father are one?" Let's clear up a theological minefield...

- The Narrative: What you believe makes all the difference!
 - *Unbelievers ignore Jesus' words and works*
 - *Believers hear and respond, and receive eternal life*
 - *Jesus and God the Father guarantee it!*
- Question: Are Christians really 'eternally secure'?
 - An endless series of "What ifs..."
 - The insidious incursion of *good works*
 - The confusion of traditional theologies
 - I'm eternally secure, but how I live matters!
- Question: Are Jesus and the Father 'One'? How?



1. In John 10.24, the Jewish religious leaders ask what *seems to be* a sincere question: "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus replies in verse 25 that He has told them, and performed miracles to prove who He is. Since Jesus had been in Jerusalem three months (since the Feast of Tabernacles; see John 7.14), we can see the evidence. In John 7-9, does Jesus tell who He is, and show it by His works? Are the Jews sincere in their request? If not, why are they asking Jesus to tell them who He is?
2. It's important to avoid silly theological errors. Jesus says the Jewish religious leaders don't believe in Him because they aren't His sheep (26). Some suggest this means they were *unable* to believe, because God did not "elect" them! If Jesus knew they *couldn't* believe, why would He urge them to believe in John 10.37-38?!
3. In v27, Jesus says, "My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (27). Does this mean Christians always 'follow Jesus'? That they never fall into sin? That they never stop believing? How (besides looking at our lives!) do we know this isn't true?
4. Jesus' promise that believers 'will never perish,' and 'no one will snatch them out of His, or His Father's, hands' (28-29) has assured Christians ever since. But some resist the idea of 'eternal security.' Why do you think this is? Why do we tend to judge whether or not a person is saved on the basis of their lives? Have you ever doubted your salvation? Why? When a Christian doubts his or her salvation, who are they looking to for assurance? Who are they *not* looking to?
5. John 10.30 was a key verse in the early church, as Christians fought against heretics who denied Jesus' deity and the trinity. How would you explain that Jesus and the Father are "one"? Careful!
6. If it is true that a person who believes in Jesus as Savior has eternal life and will never perish, does this mean it doesn't matter how they live their life? Why should a Christian live for Christ? See Mt. 5.11-12; Rom. 14.10-12; 1 Cor. 4.5; 2 Cor. 5.9-10; and 1 Jn. 2.28!