

# The True Sheep

## (A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #39)

John 10:22-30

- A. Before you were born you were on the mind of God - you still are
  - 1. In John 10:1-9, we focused on sheep (people) coming into the fold (Church) through the Gate (Jesus)
  - 2. In John 10:10-21, we focused on the true shepherd (Jesus) caring for His sheep (followers) so much He was willing to die for them (us)
  - 3. Here in John 10:22-30, we're focusing on His sheep; i.e., the Church
- B. Jesus is surrounded by people who want to know, is he or is he not, the Messiah
  - 1. Interestingly, one of Jesus "I AM" statements isn't "*I am the Messiah*"
  - 2. Jesus always gives enough of himself to make faith possible while always hiding enough to make faith necessary
  - 3. If you really want know if Jesus is Messiah, follow Him into the fold

### THE CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH (10:27-28)

- A. Jesus says His sheep (those who follow him) are doing [must do] three things:
  - 1. Jesus says His sheep are "*listening* (present tense, continually) *to his voice*"
  - 2. Jesus says His sheep are those Jesus is getting to know - experientially
  - 3. Jesus says His sheep are those who are walking with Him (i.e., following Him)
- B. Jesus says His sheep (those who follow him) are experiencing three realities:
  - 1. Jesus says His sheep are those who are experiencing lasting life from Him
    - a. John 10:27 suggests Jesus [already] "*knows*" us (cf. Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4)
    - b. Notice the tense of the verb: Jesus says, "*I give them eternal life*"
    - c. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you have eternal life
  - 2. Jesus says His sheep have a special assurance of an indefectible security
    - a. Jesus promises His "walking companions" the unparalleled security and assurance that they will persevere on their Christian journey
    - b. This assurance of faith is the perseverance of believers
  - 3. Then Jesus repeats - for emphasis - His sheep are forever safe in His hands

Q1: "*What is your only comfort in life and in death?*"

A2: "*That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death. Not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Who at the cost of his own life has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; in deed,*

*that all things must serve his will for my salvation and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*" (Heidelberg Catechism)

*"Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned."* (John 15:6)

*"It is one of the most precious things about the Christian faith that our continuance in eternal life depends not on our feeble hold on Christ, but on his firm grip on us. We should note that the teaching of this verse is not that believers will be saved for all earthly disaster, but that they will be saved, no matter what earthly disaster may befall."* (Leon Morris)

- C. These promises provide an invitation that is hard to decline

### THE VALUE OF THE CHURCH (10:29)

- A. This is a great verse that can be translated (correctly) in at least two ways:
  - 1. "*My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all* [anything else]"
  - 2. "*That which my Father has given me* (i.e., the sheep) *is greater* (more excellent) *than all* [everything else]"
- B. Jesus adds - a third time - "*No one can snatch them out of the Father's grip*"
  - 1. Jesus assures us we're in his grip, then assures us we're in His Father's grip
  - 2. What Jesus loves, Jesus protects; what the Father loves, the Father protects

### THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH (10:30)

- A. Then comes a most dramatic sentence: "*I and the Father are One*"
  - 1. Paraphrase: "*I and the Father are together, one great grip*"
  - 2. This promise of assurance is in the exact center of John's Gospel and summarizes the main message of the whole Gospel
- B. Theologically, this is a significant word/verse: "*I and the Father are one*"
  - 1. This sentence invites the Church to explore mystery of the Godhead
    - a. God has been explained, revealed, known, grasped, and made available through the presence of Jesus
    - b. Jesus is the eternal Son of God who came down, did amazing life and world changing things, and then returned to the Father to bring us home to him
  - 2. Jesus affirms that everyone in the grip of the Father is assured of eternal life
- C. Those who honor the Son are assured their relationship with God is forever