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 to know if Jesus is Messiah, follow Him into the fold

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 were 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

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,