

Week 23

Eternal Security

John 10:17-18

One of the reasons the Father loves Jesus is because He was willing to die for His flock. Never forget He laid down his life and took it up again. No one took it from Him. Here Jesus is claiming authority over life and death and He is predicting His death.

Don't think that Jesus statement of receiving a commandment from His Father implies inferiority. There is an everlasting covenant between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the salvation of man, the "commandment" would be understood as commission or a charge, which the Second Person of the Trinity was given and sent into the world to carry out for the purposes of the Trinity. This use of the word commandment or charge-the Greek "entola" is defined as something prescribed to one by reason of his office. No one but Jesus could receive this commandment/charge because no one but Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity, no one but Jesus can save us.

The truth is that Jesus submitted to death on the cross of His own free will, because He knew that His death was the only way of making atonement for man's sin, He took the punishment for my sin which I deserved. He had determined to pay your sin debt and my sin debt, to pay our debt to God and redeem us from hell. The bible says; "for the joy set before Him He willingly endured the cross, and laid down His life, in order that we, through His death, might have eternal life".

His death was not the death of a martyr but the death of a triumphant conqueror Who knew that even in dying he wins for Himself and His people, a kingdom and a crown. He is a willing Savior, and a loving Savior who came into the world to bring life to man, He is just the Savior we need. John told us in the first chapter of his book "in Him (Jesus) was life and that life was the light of men. If you hear His voice today, repent and believe, follow Him, you will enter into the most satisfying relationship you have ever had and gain eternal life.

John 10:19-21

John lets us know that the Jewish leaders were disagreeing about Who Jesus is and how to understand what He was teaching. His actions were consistent with what their scriptures said would be the works of the Messiah. Most of them knew this; they did not want Jesus to be their Messiah.

Please note that some were impressed with Him and His miracles and His teaching and disagreed with those who accused Him of demon possession.

I believe that these statements of disagreement prove the credibility of the scripture. After all, if John was making up this book and trying to sell us on Jesus he would never have included this type of negative comments that Jesus' contemporaries were making about Him. If you were trying to sell something you would put the best spin on possible.

The Gospels are not propaganda; they present the facts, eyewitness accounts of what happened. It's up to you, the reader, to decide if you will believe it.

What do you say about Jesus? Is He God, LORD of the universe or is He insane as the Jewish leaders claimed? He said He is God, if He is not God then He is insane. There is no in between.

There has always been controversy about Jesus; however, there will not always be in the future. The bible says, "Someday every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD". How much better to do that right now than to wait until the judgment and miss an opportunity to have a relationship with Him and eternal life. I pity the people who will have to bow to Him and then go to everlasting damnation.

John 10:22

John is giving us another time reference. It would appear that a few of months have passed between the teachings in the temple, which concluded with verse 21 of John 10. Those teachings were given at the Feast of Tabernacles, which occurs in September or October.

John 10:23

The Feast of Dedication occurs in December. This feast was not one of the official feasts instituted by God in the Old Testament. Judas Maccabeus instituted it in 165 BC to commemorate the cleansing of the temple after

Antiochus Epiphanies had defiled it by sacrificing a pig on the altar of burnt offering. Even though the Priests ran out of oil the lamps in the temple kept miraculously burning through this even. This holiday is still celebrated today and is called Hanukkah or the Feast of Lights. John tells us it was winter, in case the reader was not familiar with the Jewish holidays. Jesus was walking in Solomon's Colonnade. Colonnades were roofed porches with tall stone columns that surrounded the temple on all sides and faced inward, forming long walkways. Solomon's Colonnade was located on the East side of the Temple and was believed to be a part of the original temple built by Solomon.

These areas were common places for teaching so it would have been normal for Jesus to be here teaching.

John 10:24

The Christ was another name for Messiah, Christ being Greek, and Messiah, being Hebrew, both meaning "Anointed One". I believe they asked Him if He was the Messiah. Perhaps they hoped he would declare openly that He was Messiah, this was a military term and they were ready to get on with their own agenda, that is get rid of Roman rule. Some hoped He would declare He was Messiah so they could accuse Him of blasphemy and get rid of Him.

John 10:25

His answer. He had not openly declared He was Messiah but He had told them of his heavenly origin, He had given several I AM statements and then the miraculous works or signs. Remember John's purpose in recording the ones we have seen, so far, is so that we might believe Jesus is Messiah and believing have eternal life. But John also said that there were many other signs or miracles which he did not write about in his book.

John 10:26

Here is what Jesus said about why they don't believe. And notice He again refers to us as sheep. We have already discussed this comparison perhaps the leading idea in Jesus mind is to point out the dependency of the sheep. True believers will hear His voice, by faith and by faith lean on Him, submit to Him, commit their souls to Him and those who do not hear His voice, or believe in Him, are not true believers.

John 10:27-28

Jesus tells us a wonderful truth; the blessing of those who truly believe. The believer in Jesus knows Him personally, has eternal life, will not perish and is secure in Jesus care. Not "I hope I am saved and secure and going to heaven" but "I am sure by the promise of the Savior Himself". How could a loving God leave your eternal destiny to "I hope so"? The phrase, "My sheep" points to the close connection between Jesus and believers. They are His by a gift from the Father, purchased by His blood. Let these words comfort you; you are His in special relationship, He knows you, He will lead you.

God's power guards and preserves the flock for salvation. Jesus gives eternal life. Not one will be lost. If they sin, and repent, they will be brought back. 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". The enemy of the our souls might be strong but our Savior is stronger, we cannot be pulled away from Him.

Have you been told you can lose your salvation? Friends, this is a direct contradiction to what Jesus has just said. He has stated that no one can pluck you out of His hand. You cannot even pluck yourself out of His hand. If He has you, He is not going to let you go. There is no sin that can come between you. This is not a license to sin, as some have said, no; now it is expected that if you are a believer you will have a life of purity, a holy life. No one is perfect but your lifestyle should agree with the bible.

If no works of yours can save you, except believing in Jesus then how can your works unsave you? Putting it another way; born again, made spiritually alive is what you are, it cannot be undone. It is not something you get; it is something you become, born again. Remember His Hand is holding you, not your hand holding Him, that provides your eternal safety. Also remember, the Father is as interested in your eternal security as the Son. He has promised it, He cannot lie.

John 10: 30

The Father and the Son are One in essence, given this essential oneness; they think and act as one person. What the Father does, the Son does. Jesus claim to be God is unmistakable. They never act independently from each other. This is a deep and mysterious truth that we cannot fathom, it is ours to receive it by faith and believe.

John 10:31

Their law said anyone claiming to be God should be killed for blasphemy. Nothing He would say would make them believe Jesus was telling the truth. There was no crime that He could be charged with however; John 15 says "they hated Him without a cause". Why did they hate Him? Because He exposed their false doctrines and sin and they knew in their hearts He was right. I believe the His purity made His Presence a hateful thing to these wicked men.

John 10:32-33

Notice the importance Jesus attached to His miracles; He said they are the best evidence of His divinity. Those who say the record of Jesus miracles is false should take one main miracle, His resurrection, for which there is historical proof and start there to dispute His authenticity.

They knew He claimed to be God, they would not believe, even though His miracles backed up His statements.

John 10:34

First of all, please notice Jesus is quoting the Old Testament, in fact He referred to many of the Old Testament scriptures that contain things, which modern day teachers dispute. For example; He referred to Creation, Noah and the flood, and also His reference to Jonah. Friends, the entire bible is true and the inspired word of the Living God. If there is a problem, it's not with scripture but with weak minds of men who can't understand and refuse to approach it in faith.

John 10:35

Scripture cannot be broken means annulled, or subverted. They had accused Him of blasphemy which is defined as "speaking reproachfully or spitefully of God". And so He gives 2 arguments as to why He is not a blasphemer. Using scripture; Psalm 82 Through Asaph, God spoke to Jewish leaders accusing them of unjust rule, and yet they were called gods, little "g". What does this scripture mean; these men were commissioned by God for certain offices and the scripture called them gods, or sons of God, or delegates of God.

This is an argument from less to greater, in other words; if they were called gods, how much more am I. So we have the application; they condemn Jesus as a blasphemer for calling Himself the Son of God, when

that is what they called their magistrates or leaders. Rabbis when teaching frequently used this type of reasoning.

Secondly; God sanctified Jesus and sent Him into the world. Sanctified means, set apart or sealed, so He was set apart by God Himself for this work. The magistrates were set apart for their work of bringing the Law of God. God set Jesus apart to be the Mediator of all mankind. God sent the magistrates to certain people or countries, He sent Jesus to the entire world.

The men He came to save looked Him in the eye and called Him a blasphemer. One commentator said "its hard to say which is more surprising that the men who breathe God's air should speak such things or that having spoken these things were still permitted to breathe God's air". The wickedness of man and the patience of God are amazing.

John 10:37-38

Here Jesus proves He and the Father are One by His works, His credentials for these men were His works. They were works of the Father, works only God could do works of divine power. He is not demanding blind faith, He gave them proof.

Then He said, if I don't do works requiring divine power, don't believe in me.

Today many "learned people" teach "higher criticism"-such an interesting term I think. They do not believe the works of Jesus either. There is a group who meet annually to determine whether any of the recorded miracles actually happened. God still allows them to breathe His air, even though they regularly put themselves in the place of the judge of His Word.

Friends do you know and believe, believe intelligently and with confidence that the Father is in Jesus and He is in the Father. Jesus is not arguing like salesman with promises and gimmicks, He is giving proof for us.

John 10: 39-42

What is their response to His reasoned proofs?

They tried to attack Him by force. He escaped because His hour had not yet come.

Some say that Christ going out to the Jordon is a picture of Him taking Truth from these foolish Jewish leaders to the Gentiles.

Look what happened; many came to Him and believed. He didn't run away to seek security; He did many good works there and many people believed in Him.