

John 10:22-30

It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. ²³He was in the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

²⁵Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name. ²⁶But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

Background

The events from chapter 7 up to this point in chapter 10 occurred in autumn, but now a couple of months have passed. The Feast of Dedication, also known as Hanukkah or the Festival of Lights, is mentioned only once in the Bible, and it's not one of the feasts ordained by God under the Law of Moses. This occasion celebrates the Temple's cleansing and rededication in the 2nd century BC after the Syrians had desecrated it.

In these verses, Jesus was in Solomon's Colonnade, a covered walkway along the east side of the Temple. Although named after Solomon, this structure was part of the Second Temple, or Herod's Temple, built long after Solomon's original temple was destroyed. It was a gathering place for religious discussions, where rabbis would teach and crowds would gather.

Teaching Points

1. Those who are not sheep do not believe — because they are not sheep.

In verse 26, Jesus tells the unbelieving Jews, "*You don't believe me because you are not my sheep,*" highlighting God's sovereignty in salvation. He doesn't say they're not His sheep because of their unbelief, but that their unbelief is a result of not being chosen. The Bible teaches both God's sovereign choice and human responsibility to respond. These are two truths that coexist without contradiction. While it may be challenging for our finite minds to fully grasp, it's clearly taught in Scripture. John 6:37 reflects this balance: "*Those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them.*"

2. The eternal security of sheep lies in the strength of the Shepherd and not in the weakness of the sheep.

Verses 27-29 affirm the eternal security of believers: Jesus' sheep hear His voice, follow Him, and receive eternal life—right now, not just after death. They will never perish, and no one can snatch them from the hand of Jesus or the Father. Salvation is secure, not because of the sheep's strength, but because of the Shepherd's power.

3. The Father and the Son are distinct persons of the one true God.

When Jesus said, "*The Father and I are one*" (v30), He meant they are united not only in mind, purpose, action, and power, but also in **essence**. This supports the doctrine of the Trinity: one God in three distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each fully God, yet one in essence.

Application

1. Do you have the "Good Hands" life insurance policy?

A major insurance company has used the slogan "You're in good hands" since the 1950s. But those hands are not perfect. Here in verses 28-29, we read about "Perfect Hands" of the Lord Jesus and God the Father! These are truly in good hands, holding believers safely and securely forever! No one is born with God's insurance policy. You must become an owner by trusting in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Do you have eternal life through His "Good Hands life insurance" policy?