

Sermon Notes

Answering Two of Life's Most Difficult Questions (John 10:22-42)

1. Can I know for certain that I am saved? (10:22-30)

[22] At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; [23] it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. [24] The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." [25] Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. [26] But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. [27] My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; [28] and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. [29] My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. [30] I and the Father are one."

1 John 2:3 "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments."

1 John 3:7-10, "Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, (meaning he cannot practice sin) because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

Does this mean that if I still want to sin, I'm not really one of Jesus' sheep?

Galatians 5:16, "But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh."

Does this mean that if I'm really one of Jesus' sheep that I never drift or go backwards in my walk with Him?

Hebrews 2:1 "For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard so that we do not drift away from it."

Does this mean that if I keep failing in one area of obedience, I'm not really one of Jesus' sheep?

Hebrews 12:1 "...let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us."

2. Can I know for certain that Jesus can save me? (10:31-42)

[31] The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. [32] Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" [33] The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God." [34] Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'? [35] If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), [36] do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? [37] If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; [38] but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." [39] Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp. [40] And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. [41] Many came to Him and were saying, "While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true." [42] Many believed in Him there

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Why is confidence in our salvation foundational to our spiritual health and growth? What prevents people from being confident in their own salvation?

Going Deeper

3. Please read John 10:22-30. When people ask Jesus why He won't just come out and say He is the Messiah, how does He answer? How can we know if we're Jesus' sheep? (see also Matthew 7:21, 1 John 2:3 and 1 John 3:7-10) How would you answer someone who asked you, "How can I know if Christ is really in my life?" from these passages? What evidence do you have that Christ is in your life? How do you know that you will stay saved?
4. Please read John 10:31-42. Why do people want to stone Jesus? How does Jesus prove that He has not blasphemed by saying that He and the Father are One? What evidence does Jesus give that He and the Father are One? How can we know that the miracles the Bible reports that Jesus performed actually happened? How do these miracles demonstrate that Jesus and the Father are one and that He can give us eternal life?
5. In comparison with the other world religions, why should a person choose to trust in Jesus?

Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?