

The Power That Keeps You Saved!

John 10:27-29 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 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.

The Lord Jesus gave a great promise in this text. He gives seven truths that bind genuine believers to a salvation that is eternal, and not one that depends on our spiritual ability to keep ourselves saved. We are like a little fishing boat moored to the great Rock, Christ Jesus.

There are seven ropes that moor our small ships to the dock of eternal life. The Lord Jesus wants us to know we are secure. Our salvation is eternal. We can never perish. That's not a church made up doctrine. Jesus taught it.

Let's look at the 7 ropes that bind us eternally to Christ—seven great reasons why that if you are saved, you will always be saved. He initiated it, we know. It was His death that paid in full our sin debt. But, some believe that we maintain our salvation by keeping from sinning, or by always confessing our sin, or baptism, or by one's continued sincerity, or some other act that depends on us.

However, in this passage in John 10, He declares He alone maintains your salvation. We are responsible not for one second of our Christian life to keep ourselves saved. Those He invested in at the cross will be His in glory. If the cross is the reality for you, so heaven will also be reality.

Truth number one, verse 27, "My sheep," "**My** sheep." Don't hurry on. Stop right there. Whose sheep are you? You're Christ's sheep. Because you are Christ's sheep, it is His duty as Shepherd to care for you and protect you. If He loses you, that is in effect a failure of His own ability as The Great Shepherd. Do you understand that first truth? If you are His sheep, and the Shepherd is to care for the sheep, then for someone, if anyone, is lost, then that reflects upon the character and quality of the Shepherd. He failed to do what He promised to do.

There's a second rope that binds us to Christ. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." His sheep are different than other sheep. His sheep follow Him—His

sheep do that—no exceptions. They will not listen to strangers. They listen only to Him. True Christians, then are given the desire to follow Him and they do.

Third, they are kept by the power of the great Shepherd—that's the first rope that moors us to the Rock. Secondly, those who are His sheep will follow. They may stumble, they may need restoring because of sin, but they'll be there with His sheep, following Him.

Fourthly, "I give"—verse 28— "unto them eternal life." Eternal life lasts how long? Forever. It is an "eternal" kind of life. To speak of it as ending is a contradiction. Eternal life is eternal life. We are bound to the Shepherd by the very definition of the promise He made...it is the gift of ETERNAL life—it is forever. That's the only kind of life He gives.

Further, it is a gift. "I give unto them eternal life." You didn't do anything to earn it; you can't do anything to keep it. It's a gift. It is grace...without any of your works in its beginning and onto its maintaining. Salvation is the work of the Lord, not a co-partnership with the sheep.

The fifth rope that binds us to Christ is His promise. He says, "They shall never perish." If one Christian, one of His sheep ever did, then Christ didn't tell the truth. If Christ didn't tell the truth, then throw away your Bible, forget Christianity, all of it is wrong. But that cannot happen.

Further, John 10 says, "No man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand." There is no power in the universe is stronger than God. The creator is always stronger than the created. Because God wants to hold on to each of His sheep, then that's the way it's going to be. Nobody can take us out of the Father's hand because no one, not even you, have power strong enough to undo what God has done.

The Lord Jesus gives the seventh rope in verse 29. "My Father who gave them to Me is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand." Notice in verse 28, He says "My hand" and in verse 29, "My Father's hand"—double protection. Do you see the picture? We are in the hand of Christ, whose hand is in the hand of God, the Father. What a comfort! What blessed Truth! He who has begun a good work in us (saving us) will maintain it until the very end. He promised. (Philippians 1:6) All that is left is for you to believe it.