



**lētheia**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
*February 5, 2023*  
*“The Hand”*

*SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

News:

**Wednesday Evening Classes 6:30-8:00**

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

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**John 10:22-31 ~**

1) He said that His “\_\_\_\_\_” proclaimed who He was and what He was going to accomplish.

2) He said that they \_\_\_\_\_ get it, because they \_\_\_\_\_ get it, but for those who did, He would personally give them eternal life.

3) He said that none who \_\_\_\_\_ in Him would be lost because He and Yahweh God were one.

The “Feast of Dedication” is the backdrop for this \_\_\_\_\_ and final argument recorded by John.

Slavery in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ years in the wilderness resulting in tribal land allotment.

David of the Tribe of Judah made \_\_\_\_\_ 3,000 years ago, he moved the capital from Hebron.

Solomon’s heir, David’s \_\_\_\_\_, lost the other tribes and they formed \_\_\_\_\_, leaving him as King of Judah.

722 B.C. the Assyrian empire conquered the \_\_\_\_\_ Kingdom.

605 B.C. the Neo-Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar takes over. By 587 B.C. Jerusalem and Solomon’s \_\_\_\_\_ were completely destroyed.

538 B.C. Cyrus the Great, founder of the Achaemenid Empire, takes over and releases the \_\_\_\_\_ from exile.

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

330 B.C. Alexander the Great takes over and makes all things \_\_\_\_\_, including the language, called Koinê \_\_\_\_\_.

167 B.C. the Seleucid King Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and Judas Maccabeus fought back.

164 B.C. the Jews purified and rededicated the \_\_\_\_\_. The Hebrew verb meaning “to dedicate,” is roughly \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 24, “The Jews then gathered around Him,” is κυκλόω (kük-lō-ō), meaning to encircle or surround, contextually, with \_\_\_\_\_ intent.

Verses 27 to 29, Jesus again asserted that His sheep hear His \_\_\_\_\_. That actually means that His true disciples \_\_\_\_\_ His commands.

Do you hear Him? If so, Jesus knows you. Believing in Him was His command to BE His; His command AS His, is that you would \_\_\_\_\_ others. Do you still hear His voice?

He bestows eternal life. Jesus went on, “and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” Eternal life isn’t about living forever, \_\_\_\_\_ speaking, it’s about living abundantly (in His presence).

Verse 29 means, “That which My Father has given to Me is greater than all things, and no one is able to take it out of My Father’s Hand.” We don’t have the hand of Christ being supported by the greater hand of the \_\_\_\_\_, what we have is only one hand – the hand of Almighty \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 9:6).

He just said His hand is, in essence, the Father’s hand and so we get to verse 30 where Jesus plainly announced, “I and the Father are one.”

Certainly, the Jews fully \_\_\_\_\_ what Jesus was claiming – they immediately tried to \_\_\_\_\_ Him right there in Solomon’s Portico in the Temple court.

Modalism is a heresy popularized by Sabellius in about 215 A.D. It was thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_ at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

The hand of Jesus holds you as one perfectly unified hand of Almighty God. IF, IF, IF, you are \_\_\_\_\_. He is the perfect, beautiful, Good Shepherd. How could that be if He’s \_\_\_\_\_ sheep?

If God took back His gift of eternal life for any reason, including your failure to perform, then His love would not be \_\_\_\_\_ – it would be the same fickle self-love any human can show.

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Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# lêtheia

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP




 **lêtheia**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

the gospel of  
**JOHN**

ΕΝΑΡΧΗ Η ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΗΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ  
 ΘΝ ΚΑΙ ΘΕ ΤΗ ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΥ ΤΟΣ Η ΝΕΝΑΡΧΗ ΤΙΡΟΣ  
 ΤΟΝ ΘΝ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΥΕ ΓΕΝΕΤΟ ΚΑΧΩΤΙΣ



John 10:22–31, 22At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; 23it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. 24The 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.” 25Jesus 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; 28and 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." 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.



There is a lot to unpack there – before we get started, let's note at the outset the dramatic claims by Jesus made here. 1) He plainly said that His "works" proclaimed who He was and what He was going to accomplish. 2) He bluntly told them that they didn't get it, because they couldn't get it, but for those who did, He would personally give them eternal life. 3) Finally, He said that none who believed in Him would be lost because He and Yahweh God were one and the same.

None of that sat well with the assembled mob.



## THE FEAST OF DEDICATION

The “Feast of Dedication” is the backdrop for this 7th and final argument recorded by John. So, a little bit of history is in order. The Jewish people settled in the Promised Land after 430 years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years taking laps around Mount Sinai. That entire generation died in the wilderness because they refused to trust God. Under Moses’ successor Joshua, the next generation claimed the land by tribal allotment. While they were all descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they remained extremely tribal – literally. Each Tribe of Israel maintained their unique tribal identity, a significant distrust of the other tribes, and a tremendous degree of autonomy.

When David of the Tribe of Judah was named king 3,000 years ago, he knew that he needed to make overtures to the other Tribes. As a first order of business, he conquered the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and moved the capital from Hebron in the territory of Judah, to Jerusalem, a neutral city taken from the enemy of all the Jews.









This unified the Jews until David's son and successor King Solomon died. Solomon's heir, David's grandson Rehoboam, arrogantly belittled the other tribes and 10 of them broke away forming their own nation called Israel, or the Northern Kingdom, leaving Rehoboam as King of Judah, or the Southern Kingdom.

2,700 years ago, in 722 B.C., the Assyrian empire conquered the Northern Kingdom. To help prevent revolts, the Assyrian policy for newly conquered lands was to swap the indigenous people for people from other parts of their empire. They deported huge numbers of Jews to the other side of their empire and

moved others into what was Israel's territory. The resulting mixed-race people are the Samaritans.



The Kingdom of Judah in the south made an agreement whereby they would pay tribute to the Assyrians thus becoming a client state to the empire. Fast forward a hundred years to 605 B.C. and the Neo-Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar has defeated and replaced the Assyrians. He made the same deal with Judah for tribute, now they are the client state of Babylon.



Within a few years King Jehoiakim of Judah stopped payment which resulted in the Babylonian-Jewish war. By 587 B.C. Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple were completely destroyed and the surviving people of Judah were rounded up and force-marched to Babylon, near modern-day Bagdad, Iraq.

In 538 Cyrus the Great replaced the Neo-Babylonian empire as the founder of the Achaemenid Empire, better known as the Persian Empire. He released the Jews from exile and ordered them to return to their native land and rebuild their Temple. This of course was as a client state of the Persians, now paying tribute to them.



In 330 B.C., a Greek dude, a student of Aristotle, and the son of King Philip of Macedon, defeated the Persians, creating the vast Greek empire. He was Alexander the Great. His policy was to allow people to keep their culture, language, and religion, but to add to it by also embracing all things Greek. That included learning a simplified version of the Greek language, called common Greek, or Koine Greek, the very thing that enabled Christianity to spread like wildfire some 3 ½ centuries later.

Upon Alexander's death, the Greek empire was split into four pieces with the General Seleucus taking what had once been the Persian empire and the General

Ptolemy taking the African empire including Egypt. The new Seleucid and Ptolemaic empires began fighting each other for control of the Levant, including the land of the Jews. The Jews bounced back and forth as vassals, or client states, of both empires.

In 167 B.C. the Seleucid King Antiochus Epiphanes outlawed the practice of Judaism, looted the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, and had large numbers of pigs sacrificed on the altar to Zeus and other pagan gods. Needless to say, the Jews lost their minds over the desecration of the Holy of Holies, and under a dude named Judas Maccabeus, known as Judah the Hammer, following his dad who was a Priest, they fought back.

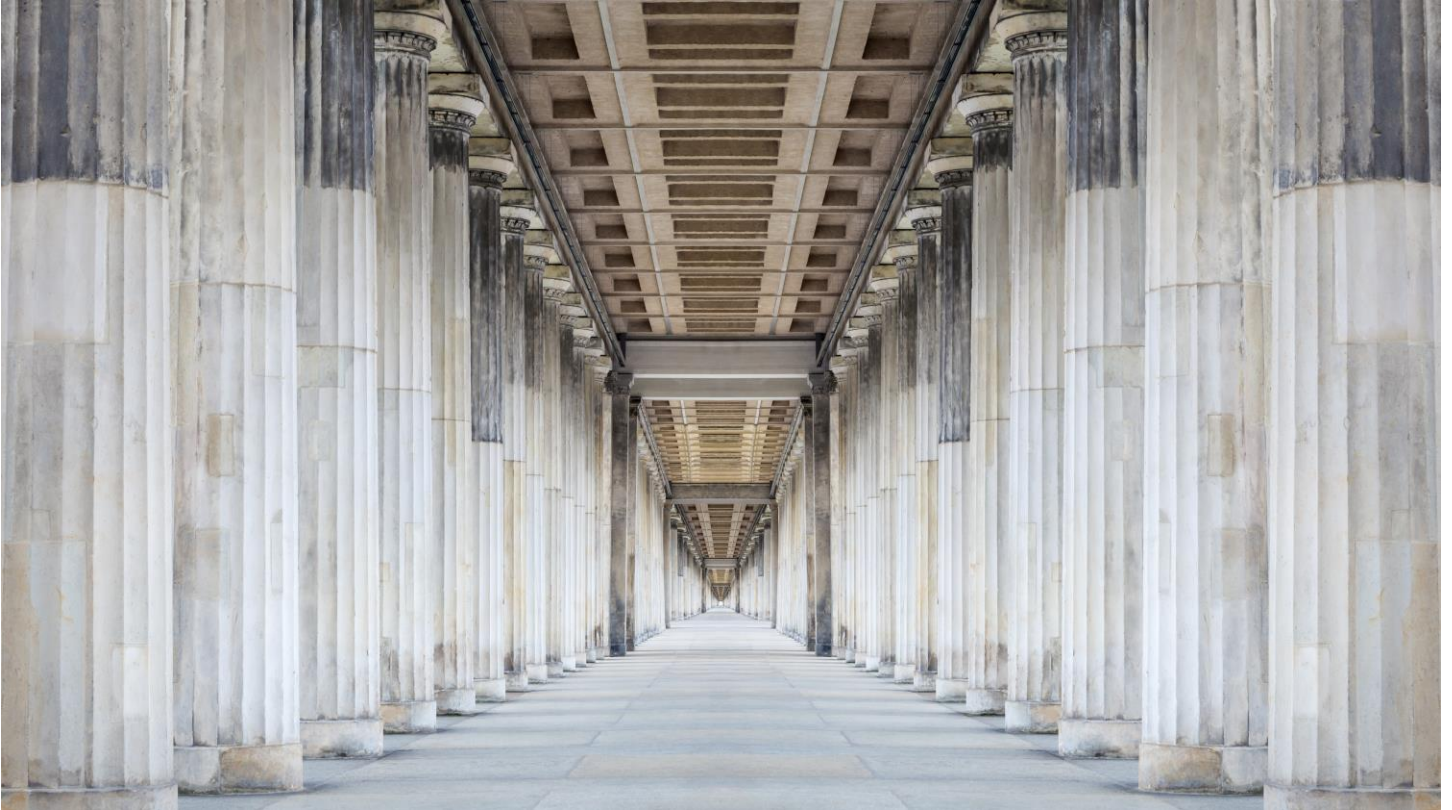
Although the conflict raged for decades, the Jews were able to eject the Seleucids from Jerusalem in just a few years and on the 25th of Kislev (basically December) in 164 B.C. they purified and rededicated the Temple. The Maccabees commanded that the people celebrate an 8-day-long commemoration of the new dedication, but more than a remembrance of that event it was to be a time of honoring all the great things that God had done throughout the centuries and ultimately a look to the

future Messiah who would make all things perfectly pure.



The Hebrew verb meaning “to dedicate,” is roughly Hanukkah. So, yes, the feast we see Jesus attending here is Hanukkah. Because the Jews use a lunar calendar, the 8-day feast moves in relation to our calendar, but usually occurs very close to Christmas each year. Like John said, it was winter. That’s the background.

We are to see this as the 7th and final encounter and the winter of the possibility of reforming Judaism.



Jesus was in the relative shelter of the portico of Solomon built into the Eastern Wall of the Temple Mount. It was bounded on three sides by walls and probably protected on the fourth side by curtains. The average December temperature in Jerusalem is 54°F (Kalispell is 23°F).





Verse 24, “The Jews then gathered around Him,” is the nicest way you could render what was going on. By now, we are to know with certainty that the term the Jews in this context, refers to those adamantly opposed to Jesus – those who have already been planning how they might murder Him. The verse starts with the word κυκλόω (kük-lō-ō), meaning to encircle or surround. The whole phrase is literally, “encircled, so, Him, the Jews.” It has obvious overtones of hostile intent. To put it the way the NASB does gives the wrong impression. The enemies of Jesus are out in force this morning and they have surrounded Him.



Their question wasn't so much a desire to know who Jesus thought He was – they got that – it was more a question about His intentions. The sense of it is “IF you are the Messiah, as you indicate, tell us plainly what you plan to do in that regard.” IF you are the guy, stop vexing us, stop annoying us, stop dragging this out and keeping us in suspense. You're killing us here – what are you going to do and when are you going to get on with it?

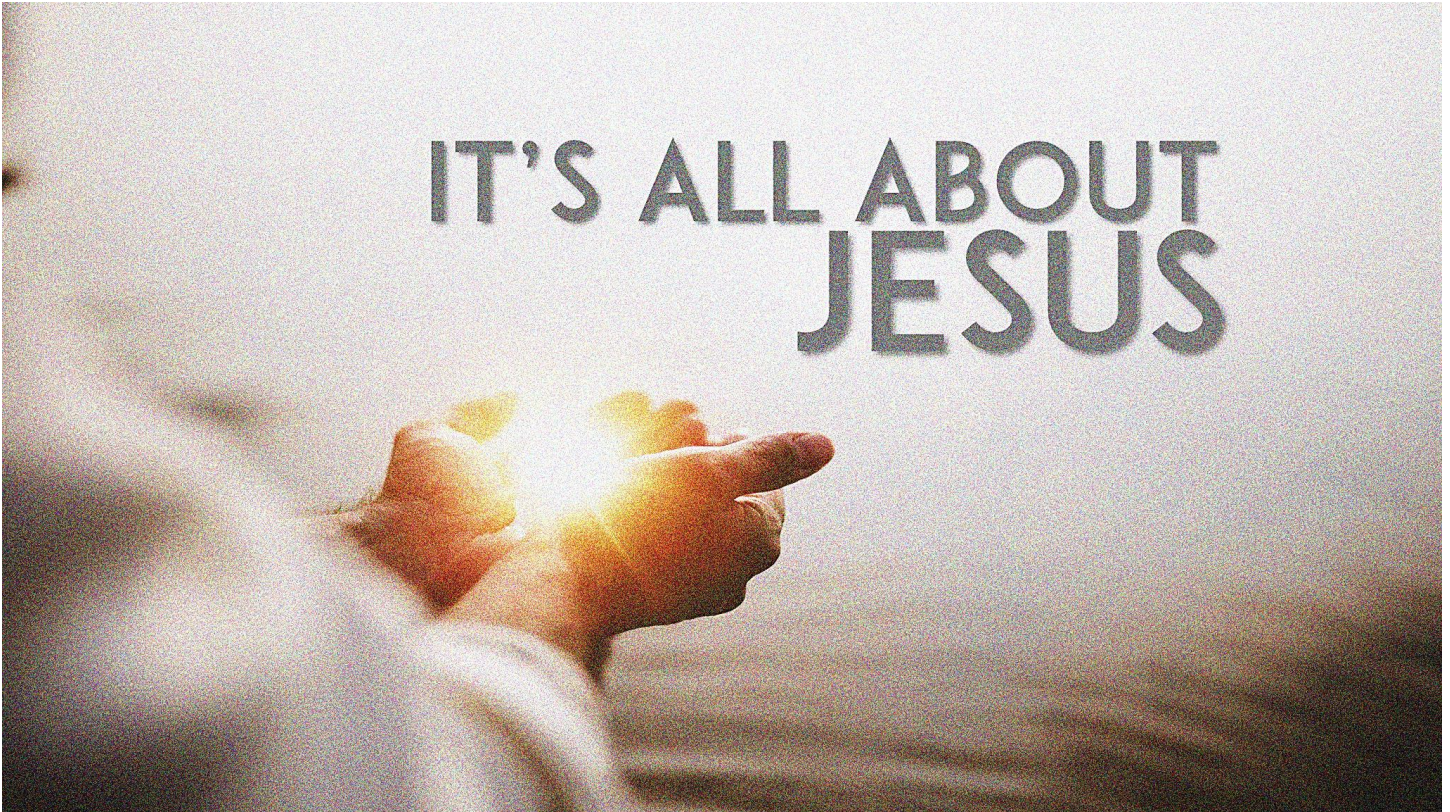
Jesus' answer was two-fold. First, He claimed that He had been telling them all along Who He was and what He was doing. Second, the things that He had already done confirmed His words. He was doing things that

pointed to Who He was and to what He was there to accomplish.



Then the direct charge against them – you do not believe because you are not Mine. Jesus had previously said that they were the children of the Devil, not the children of God.

Verses 27 to 29 are some of the most beloved verses in the Bible, as they demonstrate God's absolute commitment to His children and the assurance of Salvation come what may for the Born-Again Christian. They do serve that purpose, but only secondarily.



We are spring-loaded to make everything about us, but these three verses are all about Jesus, not about you and me. Jesus was telling His antagonists something about Himself not something about the security of His Believers. It's important to get that distinction. Once we get that straight, then and only then, can we allow ourselves to see the implications for us. Because it is true, that what Jesus says about Himself, ends up being a tremendous encouragement to us.



So again, John 10:27&28, 27“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” That’s pretty straightforward because we’ve seen most of this before. Jesus again asserted that His sheep hear His voice. That actually means that His true disciples obey His commands. Sheep follow the direction of the shepherd – they obey his voice. Jesus commands His Disciples to believe in Him. One must obey that command to be one of His – that is hearing His voice.

Do you hear Him? If so, Jesus knows you. After that, as one of His, He further commands you to do as He

did. In other words, believing in Him was His command to be His; His command as His, is that you would love others. Do you still hear His voice?

Jesus once again declared that He personally bestows eternal life upon His Followers. Contrary to the typical vampire movie, eternal life actually means that it is impossible to die, not merely hard to kill.



Jesus went on, “and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” That seems like a new bit, but really, it’s a logical implication to what He just said. Eternal life, while meaning that it is impossible to die, isn’t about living forever, Biblically speaking, it’s about living abundantly. Eternal life is Heaven and Heaven is

perfect harmony with God and with all our Christian siblings forever, and ever, without end.

To say that a person has eternal life implies that they will live together with God and His other kids for all eternity. It is implied that nothing can take them out of Christ's hand otherwise it wouldn't be eternal life in the Biblical sense.



Verse 29 causes a bit of confusion because many translators don't recognize the subtle rhetorical point. The verse reads in the NASB, 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. That's the

usual translation based upon the easiest way to make sense of the complicated Greek syntax.

Keeping it that way means that while Jesus holds His sheep in His hand, the Father doubles the protection by putting His hand around the hand of Jesus. Because the Father is greater than all, His hand around Jesus' hand makes it all the surer.

While that's nice, it's not what it means. I'm going to give you a more accurate meaning that will correctly incorporate the gist of that typical understanding as well – to a higher degree.

The Greek words are literally, “My Father has given to Me – all greater than is – and no one can seize from the hand of the Father.” I know it makes no sense... yet. The strange phrase “all greater than is” in the middle here, is awkwardly applied to the Father to give us the NASB rendering, “the Father is greater than all.”

Understanding the nuances of the Greek language and of Greco-Roman rhetoric, we know that what it really applies to is all that the Father has bestowed on Jesus, including the sheep. Translated accordingly we would have something like, “That which My Father has given



to Me is greater than all things, and no one is able to take it out of My Father's Hand."

**NASB:** "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.

"greater than all," applied to the Father...

**ZECNT:** "That which My Father has given to Me is greater than all things, and no one is able to take it out of My Father's Hand."

"greater than all," applied to what has been given by the Father...

You might think that this reading would elevate the sheep as the greatest thing that there is, but it's actually the totality of what the Father has given to the Word made flesh.

As Jesus has already said, in Him alone is life. He is the Judge of all things, and He exists as the only Door to God and the only Shepherd God has for His sheep. I could go on and on, but suffice it to say, that God has granted to Jesus all of His power and authority.

By recognizing what the “greater than all” phrase modifies, we don’t have the hand of Christ being supported by the greater hand of the Father, what we have is only one hand – the hand of Almighty God, which can be thought of legitimately as the hand of the Father, but also as the hand of Jesus. To put it another way, the hand of Jesus is the hand of the Father – to take a person from the hand of Jesus is identical to taking that person from the hand of the Father. There is only one hand and while it is specifically the hand of Jesus, it can legitimately be thought of as the hand of the Father – it’s the same power. The Father gave Jesus His power to protect the sheep. It shouldn’t come as a surprise, the great prophet Isaiah foretold the Messiah in chapter 9, verse 6, “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

Understood properly it not only gives us greater insight, it makes better sense of the verse. It would be ridiculously redundant for Jesus to say to the Jews that the Heavenly Father is greater than all... That was the one thing they absolutely agreed on already. Why say

that? It also makes what Jesus is about to say, in the next verse, make more sense as well.

He just said His hand is, in essence, the Father's hand and so we get to verse 30 where Jesus plainly announced, "I and the Father are one." Now, you can also easily understand verse 31, "The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him."



Some people try to minimize Jesus' statement that "I and the Father are one." They appeal to what Jesus said in John 17:11, "Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are."

What Jesus meant in chapter 17, which we'll get to eventually – I think, was that we would be one with each other in unity of fellowship and purpose as members of God's family. So, they say, that it must be the same kind of relationship between the Father and Jesus as well. What Jesus meant by saying He and the Father are one in our passage, was merely that they were both on the same sheet of music.

That interpretation would have some merit if we don't understand the nuance of verse 29. If it is the Father who is the greatest of all, that's a "duh," statement that keeps a level of individuality between the Father and Jesus.

Understanding verse 29 correctly as we do, we can see that the oneness of the Father and Jesus is far more than mere unity of fellowship and purpose within a family – far more. That's why understanding the finer details of God's Word matters.

Certainly, the Jews fully understood what Jesus was claiming – they immediately tried to murder Him right there in Solomon's Portico in the Temple court.



By picking up rocks with the intent to kill, the Jews could have been arrested and whipped – if they had followed through, they could have been crucified. Sure enough, the Scriptures call for the stoning death of all blasphemers, but only by those who are properly empowered by the officials and only after a fair trial and conviction.

Even so, the authority to sentence a person to death, let alone carry it out, was reserved for the governing Roman authorities. They all knew that and were willing to test those waters by killing Jesus on the spot. Clearly, they fully understood what Jesus was claiming

and to them it was unconscionable, intolerable blasphemy.

### NICENE CREED

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
The only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:*

One more word on this subject before we move on...  
When it comes to the nature of God – specifically here  
the relationship between the Father and Jesus – we  
need to be precise.

Often, people go too far in one direction or another.  
The oneness of the Trinity is so deep, so complete, so  
perfect, that you can rightly see the Father in the Son  
and vice versa. Jesus said that. “If you have seen Me,  
you have seen the Father” (John 14:7, etc.).

The unity is so great that the totality of all that God is, can be seen in any individual of the Trinity, and yet none of the three are the totality of God by themselves.

That's the clarification I want to make. While the members of the Trinity are in such perfect harmony to be One, they are nevertheless three individuals in a perfect eternal relationship with each other. Oneness Pentecostals, as an example, believe that the individuals are really just one God wearing different costumes at different times. Sometimes God is the father and sometimes he's the son, but it's all really only one guy in different guises or modes of being. It is therefore called Modalism.

Modalism is a heresy popularized by a dude named Sabellius in about 215 A.D. It was condemned by early Christians leading to Sabellius' excommunication by Callixtus the Bishop of Rome in 218 A.D. Modalism, also called Sabellianism was thoroughly denounced at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. with the Nicene Creed.

As I've mentioned many times before, the common explanation of the Trinity that people use is comparing it to water by saying that water can be liquid water,

solid ice, or water vapor as with steam. It's three things, but really all the same. Unfortunately, that example is the perfect example of modalism. It's actually just one thing with three different modes.

The other ditch is when we individualize the Trinity too much – when we go the other direction too far. That will always result in three different gods cooperating. The Truth is between those two extremes. That may find that to be a little unsatisfying.

The trouble is that we mere mortal human becomings cannot comprehend God. To think that God's exact nature would be easy to explain is to have a very limited view of God. So, what we must do is remain in the middle ground and have faith that the details that elude us presently, will one day be revealed in all of God's glory.





Okay, Jesus in explaining His role to the Jews said something incredibly profound. He came because He was empowered by the Father to gather His sheep and protect them from every possible hazard. He had the Father's authority to grant to them eternal life – life without end in the presence of God.

That's Who Jesus is, and that's what He was doing. He answered their question.

Now, in His answer, there is something for us personally. The hand of Jesus, which is the hand of the Father, and the hand of the Holy Spirit, holds you as one perfectly unified hand of Almighty God. IF, IF, IF,

you are His. IF you hear His voice, which as we saw means that you obey what His voice commands: “Believe in Me.”

If you are a Born again, Holy Spirit filled Christian, you are absolutely secure forevermore. At the moment of Salvation, God grants you, through Jesus, eternal life. He doesn't make mistakes. He won't rescind His gift. He is the perfect, beautiful, Good Shepherd. How could that be if He's losing sheep?

If God took back His gift of eternal life for any reason, including your failure to perform, then His love would not be Agapê – it would be the same fickle self-love any human can show.

My Arminianist friends counter, perhaps nothing can take us out of His hand, but certainly we could change our mind and take ourselves out of His hand. Ridiculous on multiple levels! First, what is taking yourself out of God's hand other than a crisis of faith, which is a form of failing to perform? Can you see how thinking that you can lose your Salvation is all about you and thereby a denigration of Jesus?

But let's look at it this way. Jesus said that He was the perfect Good and beautiful Shepherd and that nothing could remove His sheep from His hand – which covers all the bases right there, but let's continue. Do you imagine that this ultimate shepherd with the power of the totality of God can fail to keep His sheep protected from any threat? So, let's say that a sheep says, "I think I'm tired of the flock and tired of the shepherd. I believe I'll wander over here and see what greener pastures I can find."

Do you believe that this ultimate Shepherd would say, well My sheep, if that's what you want? "Well, My sheep, if you want to wander over by the raging river, over by the jagged cliff, over by the crouching wolf, go ahead – I'm all about My sheep doing their own thing." My dear friends, the perfect Good and Beautiful Shepherd will protect you even from yourself.

Scott, are you saying that once a person is a genuine Spirit-filled Christian they are eternally secure – that there's nothing they can do to mess up their eternal life? No! That's what God made flesh said – I'm just repeating Him.

Well, Scott, if that's the case, what's to prevent a person from accepting Christ and then living like the Devil? The indwelling Holy Spirit. I have never met a true Christian who acts contrary to the Holy Spirit who is not miserable.

Non-Christians are miserable, but most of them don't know it... Either they don't recognize it, or they assume that it's just the way it is for everyone. A Christian knows better. A Christian has tasted freedom from sin in Christ Jesus their Lord. Such a person going off the rails is miserable beyond belief. The Holy Spirit makes them miserable beyond belief. Once in that place only one of two things will happen.

The first option: The person seeks relief from the only relief there is in Jesus. They confess and repent; they accept forgiveness and move forward.

The second option: they continue to wallow in the mud like a once clean pig – they chow down on their own vomit like a mangey dog. They rationalize until the voice of the Holy Spirit – the voice of their Shepherd becomes smaller and smaller, as they become bigger and bigger, until it is no longer heard consciously. Now,

do you think that the Shepherd simply gives up on that person? The Shepherd carries a staff for a reason.

I've personally been whacked with His Shepherd's Crook on more than one occasion. What's interesting about the crook, or staff, is that it can be used by a skilled Shepherd so gently as to be almost unnoticed and it can be used with extreme force and everything in-between. My advice is to take the direction with the least amount of encouraging force possible.

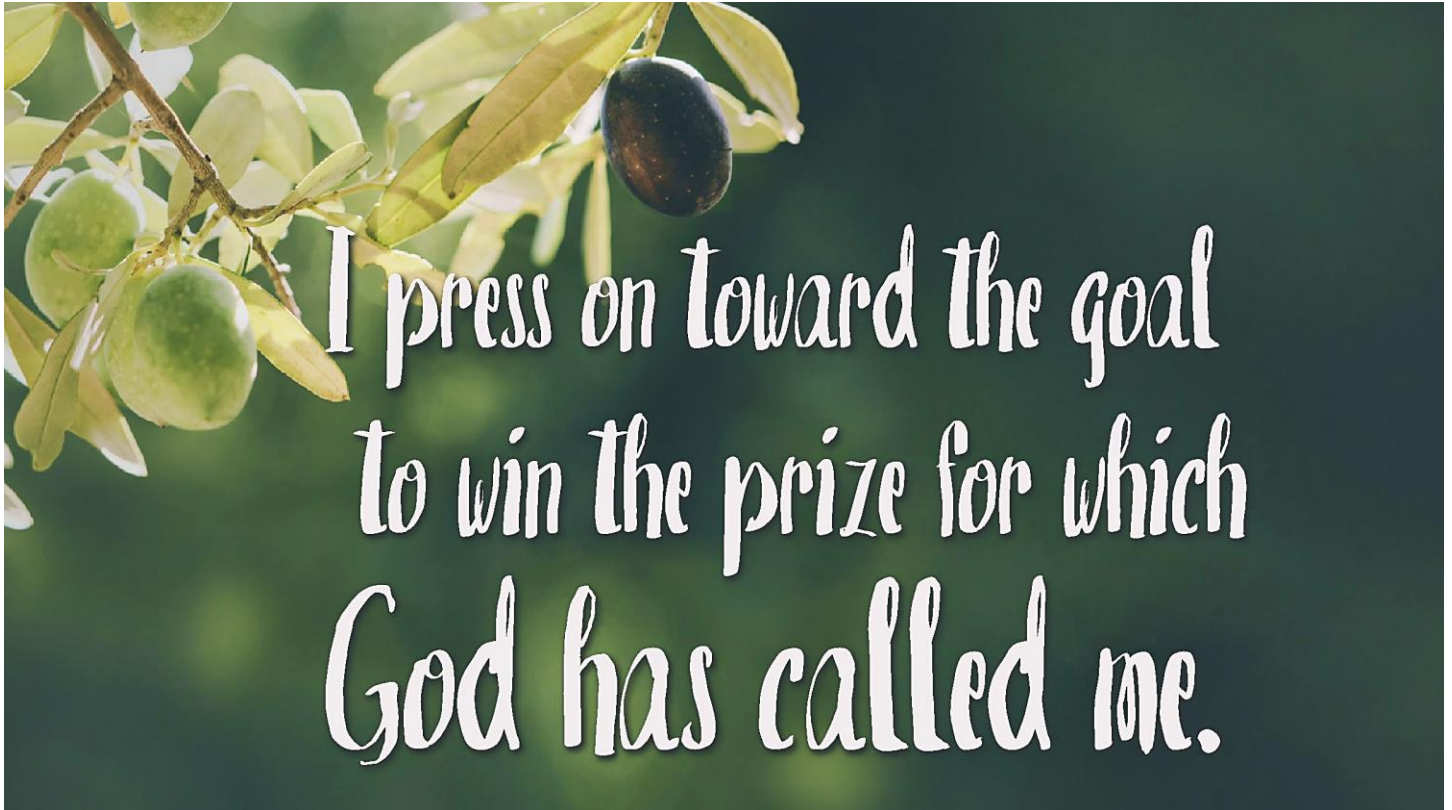
Regardless of your stubbornness, Jesus isn't about to lose you.

Do you think that you can outlast the Shepherd? Do you think that the Shepherd would ever get to the point where He said, "Enough, is enough, this sheep is too difficult for Me to deal with anymore – I give up"? What kind of failure would He be as a Shepherd to let a sheep defeat Him?

VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Mz2WfBFdOAU>





A final thought on our passage... The Jews had only two options concerning Jesus. They could believe Him for Who He said He was, or they could believe that He was a deceiver. C.S. Lewis said that Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. It's even easier than that. A lunatic is a self-deceived deceiver, but a deceiver all the same. Whatever the particulars might be, Jesus was either right or He was wrong. You and every other person must decide for themselves which it is. The decision of the Jews that day was clear.

How about you? What's your decision? Are you His?



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Emails: pastor@myaetheia.com, stacey.sundt@myaetheia.com

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167 B.C. the Seleucid King Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the HOLY of HOLIES and Judas Maccabeus fought back.

164 B.C. the Jews purified and rededicated the TEMPLE. The Hebrew verb meaning “to dedicate,” is roughly HANUKKAH.

Verse 24, “The Jews then gathered around Him,” is κυκλόω (kük-lō-ō), meaning to encircle or surround, contextually, with HOSTILE intent.

Verses 27 to 29, Jesus again asserted that His sheep hear His VOICE. That actually means that His true disciples OBEY His commands.

Do you hear Him? If so, Jesus knows you. Believing in Him was His command to BE His; His command AS His, is that you would LOVE others. Do you still hear His voice?

He bestows eternal life. Jesus went on, “and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” Eternal life isn’t about living forever, BIBLICALLY speaking, it’s about living abundantly in His presence

Verse 29 means, “That which My Father has given to Me is greater than all things, and no one is able to take it out of My Father’s Hand.” We don’t have the hand of Christ being supported by the greater hand of the FATHER, what we have is only one hand – the hand of Almighty GOD (Isaiah 9:6).

He just said His hand is, in essence, the Father’s hand and so we get to verse 30 where Jesus plainly announced, “I and the Father are one.”

Certainly, the Jews fully UNDERSTOOD what Jesus was claiming – they immediately tried to MURDER Him right there in Solomon’s Portico in the Temple court.

Modalism is a heresy popularized by Sabellius in about 215 A.D. It was thoroughly DENOUNCED at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

The hand of Jesus holds you as one perfectly unified hand of Almighty God. IF, IF, IF, you are HIS. He is the perfect, beautiful, Good Shepherd. How could that be if He’s LOSING sheep?

If God took back His gift of eternal life for any reason, including your failure to perform, then His love would not be AGAPÉ – it would be the same fickle self-love any human can show.

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Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

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 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_