

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: April 30, 2023

Title: "Secure and Sure of It"

Text: John 10:1-18, 27-29

INTRODUCTION / REVIEW

1. One of the things that pastors deal with is the problem that people have when they lack the assurance of their salvation. The question is *WHY?* What is it that steals a believer's assurance?
2. No metaphor is more widely used throughout the Bible to explain the relationship between God & His people than the metaphor of a shepherd and his sheep. The most familiar passage in the N.T. using the shepherd/ sheep metaphor is John 10.
 - A. John 10 is the *sequel* to chapter 9.
 - B. John 10 is the *fulfillment* of OT prophecy (e.g., Jer. 23:1-6).
3. In John 10, the work of the "Good Shepherd" stands in contrast to the work of the false shepherds (i.e., religious leaders of Israel).
4. Last Sunday we identified three specific ministries the Good Shepherd performs on behalf of His sheep.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd . . .

PROVIDES _____ FOR HIS SHEEP (vss. 11-18)

He does this by "laying down His life" for them; a thought emphasized five times in the passage (vss. 11, 14, 17, and twice in vs. 18).

Jesus, the Good Shepherd . . .

_____ EACH OF HIS SHEEP BY NAME (vss. 1-10)

- (1) The sheep know the shepherd's voice
- (2) Each sheep has a name
- (3) Theologians: The Effectual Call (or ... Irresistible Grace)

Jesus, the Good Shepherd . . .

_____ HOLDS HIS SHEEP (vss. 27-30)

One of the clearest statements in the Bible that one who believes in Jesus for salvation will never be lost. See also Romans 8:28-39. The security of Christ's sheep is here guaranteed in several ways:

- (1) By definition. We are given "eternal life" (at the moment of new birth).
- (2) Eternal life is a "gift" - a gift of grace (e.g., Eph. 2:8-9).
- (3) Jesus made a promise: "they shall never perish" (e.g., 1 Peter 1:3-5).

HOW CAN I HAVE _____ OF MY SALVATION?

1. Know that _____ & _____ are different. Assurance is the confident realization that one has eternal life. Security is a true fact whether or not an individual has assurance of that or not.
2. God _____ to have assurance of our salvation. We should not live our Christian lives wondering & worrying each day whether we are truly saved. Consider 1 John 5:11-13.
3. Why do Christians _____ with assurance?
 - A. Because they cannot pinpoint a specific _____ a specific when they trusted Christ's finished work for their salvation.
 - B. Because they question the correctness of the _____ they went through when they expressed faith in Christ.
 - C. If one doesn't believe in the _____ of the believer, then he will lack assurance more than once in his/her lifetime.
 - D. When _____ enters the believer's life, especially a serious sin, then doubt sometimes accompanies such an experience.
4. How can I have assurance?
 - A. The _____ ground (is based upon God's Word). See John 5:24; 10:27-30; 1 John 5:11-13; Rom. 8:28-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5
 - B. The _____ ground (relates to my experiences). Certain changes do accompany salvation, and when I see some of those changes, then I can be assured that I have received new life (2 Cor. 5:17; 2 Pet. 1:5-11).
5. Take _____ in what God's Word is saying to you. Instead of doubting, we can live with confidence. We can have the assurance from Christ's own Word that our salvation will never be in question. Our assurance of salvation is based on the perfect and complete salvation God has provided for us through Jesus Christ. That is why the Bible makes the plan of salvation so clear. Believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Acts 16:31). Do you believe that Jesus died to pay the penalty for your sins and rose again from the dead (Joh. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21)? Do you trust Him alone for salvation? If your answer to these questions is "yes," you are saved! Assurance means freedom from doubt. By taking God's Word to heart, you can have no doubt about the reality of your salvation. Are you trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior? If the answer is "yes," rest assured, you are saved.

Effectual Call

The effectual call is understood as God's sovereign drawing of a sinner to salvation. The effectual call to a sinner so overwhelms his natural inclination to rebel that he willingly places faith in J. Christ. The apostle Paul refers to the effectual call when he writes, "It is God who works in you to will & to act in order to fulfill His good purpose" ([Phil. 2:13](#)). The necessity of the effectual call is emphasized in Jesus' words, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them" ([John 6:44](#)).