

Every person who hears the gospel knows in their heart that if they really admit that Jesus is God...

And if they truly believe that He is... then, His claim to be the Savior is inescapable.

It becomes unavoidable that He is Lord of all... even Lord of you.

And if that is true then you must believe... all of it, what He says about God, you, and everything.

You must repent and forsake your sin. You must follow Him. Your life must change.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God the Father.

In John 10 Jesus is having a conversation about who He is with the Jewish leaders.

This conversation follows His teaching that He is the Good Shepherd, in contrast to all the bad shepherds.

Bad shepherds in Old Testament Israel...

Bad shepherds among those to whom Jesus is directly speaking...

And bad shepherds even today, stuck on themselves, leading people astray.

This conversation follows the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem after which Jesus healed a blind man in the Temple.

Only recently, Jesus has been teaching that He is the Light of the World.

Then he heals this blind man, and He does it on the Sabbath, knowing that this would upset the Jews.

The Light of the World opens the eyes of a man born blind.

But the Jewish leaders cannot see Him for who He is because they are spiritually blind.

Now, in chapter 10, they continue their appalling inability to see the obvious.

They refuse to trust in Jesus as the Christ. Why?

I. Jesus is the Christ, and some will not trust Him because they are not His sheep. John 10:22-26

We discover here that the Jews are engaging in a great (and unnecessary) struggle, trying to figure out who Jesus really is.

It is unnecessary because they have the prophets, the miracles Jesus has done, and the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus has already told them of His divinity, His intimacy with God the Father, and His fulfilling of prophesy.

Thus, the question that they ask in verse 24 is not an honest question.

If Jesus answered, “Yes, I Am,” which He has essentially done before, they would only want to stone Him.

They are here looking for an opportunity to stone Him.

In vs. 25 Jesus explains to them that they should have figured it out already.

And then, in vs. 26 we have this incredible statement.

Now, we might rather Jesus said, “You are not My sheep because you do not believe.”

If He had said that, it would be true, and we would readily understand it.

But that is not what He says! He says something quite different, and, of course, no less true.

He says that the reason for their disbelief is that they are not His sheep...

He does not say their unbelief is because they are arrogant, uninformed, unwilling, blind...

He could have said this, but He didn't.

They do not believe because of who they are... they are not among His sheep.

This is why they do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah, that He is God's Son, that He is God Himself.

Here is the metaphor, from earlier in John 10: Jesus is in the world, gathering His sheep.

These sheep are people, and His father has given these sheep to Jesus.

His disciples right there are His sheep and still many of His sheep have yet to be found...

they do not know yet that they are His sheep, but He will find them.

However, these Jews who are questioning Him, they are not His sheep... therefore, they do not believe.

This way of thinking is found throughout the gospel of John.

John 6:44, 64-65 “No one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

John 12:38-40 They could not believe because God blinded them.

John 17:6, 12 The Father gives the disciples to the Son.

This way of thinking is found elsewhere also.

Acts 13:48 “appointed to eternal life.”

Acts 18:9-10 Paul's vision... telling Him God is going to save people in Corinth. But not all of them.

We find it in the letters of Paul.

Romans 9:6-24 God is the potter; we are the clay. He decides who gets saved.

Ephesians 1:3-6 “He chose us... predestined...”

We find this in the letters from Peter as well.

1 Peter 1:3-5 He has “caused us to be born again...”

2 Peter 1:10-11 If He has called you, you need to obey His words. So we trust Him, not ourselves.

Now, you might say that this is hardly fair... this is a question that Paul deals with in Romans 9:14-24.

After all, they didn’t choose to be “not one of Jesus’ sheep...” Did they?

Well, not so fast... they did choose this.

God has not violated their wills in causing them to continue in their misguided direction.

This is what they want to do, how they want to believe, how they want to live.

It turns out that we see this in the Bible, and in everyday experience,

God never violates the freedom of people in order for those people to live in ungodliness and rebellion.

This is how people want to live. Rom. 3:10-18

And God allows them to live this way, and they are in complete agreement with this course of life.

Now, you might say, “But it still isn’t fair. They don’t realize that this lifestyle will end in disaster.”

Couldn’t God do something to turn them around?

Could He not violate their wills in order to save them?

Yes, He could... but He is under no obligation to do so.

If He does something, it is pure grace and mercy... which is precisely how it is we are saved.

We are saved by Jesus not because we are smarter, better, nicer, or more holy than others.

We are saved by the totally undeserved and amazing grace of God.

Now, don’t make the mistake of thinking that you know who is it that God is saving and who He’s not.

I’m sure the disciples all thought that Judas was good to go.

But he wasn’t. He was a fake follower of Jesus. He would betray Jesus.

There are people like that today. When Jesus doesn’t do what they want they fall away. They leave.

But for those who are saved, His sheep, Jesus doesn’t lose one of them.

II. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loses not one of His sheep.

John 10:27-30

Thanks be to God that, due to His grace and mercy, He does violate our wills in order to save us.

I used to believe that God is careful to NOT cause us to be saved because He will not violate our free will... in order to be fair... Then I began reading my Bible.

When you read the Bible, you discover that God is constantly violating people’s wills for their own good.

And it is a good thing that he does.

Because the Bible teaches that, left to ourselves, our wills are not free at all, but are slaves to sin.

Consider Ephesians 2:1-10

And why does Paul write this way? Because that is exactly what happened to him.

Paul did not ask to be saved. He did not want to meet Jesus.

He was persecuting Christians before the Lord met with Him.

And, on the road to Damascus, the Lord significantly violated Paul’s will. It was grace, a gift to Paul.

And after that gracious intervention, Paul saw everything differently. His eyes had been opened.

And, if you are one of Jesus’ sheep, you will see everything completely differently.

Jesus describes His sheep in John 10:27-28.

His sheep hear the voice of their Shepherd. vs. 27

You hear what Jesus says... in the Bible... and you listen to it. You recognize it as the truth.

Before you were saved the Bible was boring, or irritating, or just really big and long.

But now it is amazing, like we read in Psalm 119.

His sheep share a relationship with their Shepherd. vs. 27

He speaks to us. We speak to Him. He says, “I know them.”

Do you know, more than anything else, People want someone to know them? God made us this way.

His sheep share the same life path as their Shepherd. vs. 27

“they follow Me” = obedience. We want to live like Jesus would live. WWJD?

His sheep gain life from the hand of their Shepherd. vs. 28

And not just regular life that ends in death... but “eternal life.”

His sheep are protected and provided for by their Shepherd. vs. 28

I recall a series of commercials that began airing when I was a kid...

and I believe they continue even to this day.

You’ve probably all heard the slogan, “You’re in good hands with Allstate.”

The idea is that everyone likes to feel secure and not be worrying about accidents...

and if you have their insurance, then you will be safe, “in good hands.”

Actually, the idea is really quite silly. No insurance company can really keep you safe.

At best they will pay you money if things go badly... and even that they don’t do well.

My daughter Emily just had a car accident.

I won’t tell you what insurance she has, but they have been unimpressive. They all are.

However, God’s track record is impressive.

He has kept every promise, is in control of everything, and is able to protect you from anything.

In these three verses, Jesus is saying, “You’re in good hands with Me and My Father.”

He doesn’t just promise us some compensation when things go badly.

His promise has a goal. “I give eternal life to them.” vs. 28

His promise keeps us from disaster and gets us to the goal. “They shall never perish.” vs. 28

His promise cannot be disrupted by accidents or painful circumstance. **Romans 8:28**

His promise comes with the best assurance to be found in the entire universe... or any other universe.

Jesus and His Father (who is greater) have teamed up to make sure that this happens.

If you or I are this little Winnie the Pooh... and Jesus has you, and His Father has you...

And these are the strongest beings in all the universe; in fact, they made everything...

Are you going anywhere? Can Satan break the grip of God? Can someone else?

Here is the reason for what Paul writes in **Romans 8:31-39**.

Dear friends, you’re in good hands with Jesus. So trust Him all the way to heaven.

III. Jesus is the Son of God the Father and people refuse to trust Him.

John 10:31-39

It turns out that understanding what Jesus is saying here is difficult.

In fact, the teaching of Jesus is always both very simple and very challenging...

He is both easy and difficult to understand.

Here... He is quite obviously saying He is one with God.

“I and the Father are one” = the word means “made of the same stuff.”

His hearers understood this and accused Him of blasphemy. vs. 33

And... He is quite obviously blasting his hearers for their disbelief and lack of understanding.

Their lack of faith is not God’s fault. It is their fault. They are responsible.

In verses 34-36 Jesus is quoting then referring to Psalm 82.

He obviously expects that they ought to know what it says.

Anyone who even begins to criticize Jesus ought to make sure they know what they are talking about.

But the way He makes his point is not easy to understand.

First, the context of His quotation... Ps. 82:5-7. Clearly, those who are described as “gods” are not God.

Jesus is merely pointing out that the use of this language is not, in itself, wrong.

Jesus is not trying to prove Himself to them, not in Psalm 82.

He is merely pointing out the wrongness of their thinking.

Merely identifying with God is not wrong.

Why kill someone for that?

No. But if you would listen to ALL that Jesus is saying you would discover what He’s really saying.

He is saying something even more audacious.

He's saying that He is the one who has come into the world to save sinners.

John 3:12-21 Whoever had been listening would have known that Jesus was speaking of Himself.

John 4:10, 25-26 Messiah, giver of living water.

John 5:19-27 Is it not obvious that Jesus is this "Son of Man?" ...and the rest of chapter 5.

John 6:37-40 Sent from the Father... John 7:28-29

John 8:12-29 He came from heaven and is going back and speaks only the truth.

John 9:35-39 He is the Son of Man who gives sight to the blind.

John 10:30 He is one with the father... the same essence.

If you want to disagree with Jesus about who He is, you need to show why His claim to be Messiah is false.

Because, if this is true, His claim to be God is hardly a problem at all. Unless you won't listen.

What will you do with the words of Jesus?

Jesus challenges His accusers in vs. 32 with His "good works."

He challenges them again in vs. 37-38 with these "works."

He challenges His accusers to think about the works.

Here is the challenge, "If you will not believe what Jesus says, what will you decide about His works?"

Let us consider the works that Jesus does. What are they? Are they enough to make us sit up and notice?

So far He has turned water into wine (Ch. 2) and known a woman's personal mess (Ch. 4)

He has healed a man's son (Ch. 4) and a lame man by a pool (Ch. 5)

He fed 5000 (Ch. 6) and walked on the water (Ch. 6). And, in Ch. 9 He healed a man born blind.

Let us consider what some say about these works in order to disbelieve them. Is their opinion credible?

1. He didn't really do it. His followers lied?
2. Nice guy... good teacher... but, his disciples made him into God.
3. He did do it, but the power came from Satan. The Pharisees claimed this. **John 10:20**
4. He faked everyone out... and people were really stupid then and fell for it... and they all died for it.

Why does He do these things? vs. 38 "so that you may know that the Father is in Me and I in the Father."

And they only get angry. Why? Because they do not want to consider these things.

They do not want to believe... because they are not His sheep.

IV. Will you trust in Jesus?

John 10:40-42

And the person whose testimony John points out for us is that of John the Baptist.

Why? John knew John the Baptist. He knew him to be honest. He knew Him to not be a people pleaser.

He knew John the Baptist was a student of the Scriptures, God, and spiritual truth.

He had nothing to gain by others listening to him...

no money, no fame, no career advancement. Herod killed him.

What kind of person do you listen to about Jesus? Are they reliable on the subject?

Are they honest? Or are they trying to be popular?

Are they arrogant? Do they think that they are really smart?

Consider all those who testified about Jesus even then...

Mary, Joseph, Elisabeth, shepherds, magi, Simeon, Anna, people healed, John, then Peter, then Paul.

These are just humble, regular people who's lives had been changed by Jesus.

Don't be someone like the religious people pleasers...

who rejected all the evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, God Himself.

Jesus tells a parable... **Matthew 21:33-41**

Don't be like them.

They ought to have believed in Jesus as their Savior and followed Him obediently.

But they just got angry.

Who are you going to trust?

Jesus, or the people who get angry about Him?