

The Sheep of His Pasture

Believers are the Lord's sheep (see Psalm 23).

In John 10:27 Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." Notice, it doesn't matter what profession a person makes if he doesn't, at some stage, hear the voice of the Saviour (in the gospel), he is not a sheep. The Great Shepherd does not know him as His own. No matter what he may say if he does not end up in some way following the Lord Jesus Christ, he is only a fraudulent sham and hypocrite. Lest I am misunderstood on this point, let me stress that a person's following of Christ does not save them, but because they already are sheep, they will follow the shepherd.

Some people profess to be saved and seem, for a while, to be following, but they turn away. They are like those of whom the apostle Peter speaks, who walk in the way of righteousness and then turn from it. (2 Peter 2:22). The verse says, "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." The dog was always a dog, the sow always a sow ... they never were sheep. But the sheep of Christ are different. Jesus says, "They follow Me,"

John 10:27-28 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

Do you believe this?

We were once owned by sin, self, and Satan ... but now we belong to the Shepherd. I do not understand how people can read a passage like John 10:27-28 and then talk about a Christian losing their salvation. It would not be eternal life if it could be lost. Listen again, "And they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand."

The original language is powerful here. It reads, "They shall never, no never, perish." It is impossible, it is unthinkable, that one who has eternal life should ever perish. "Here I am, a lost sinner, but the Lord, because He is gracious, picked me up and saved me. He, as it were, put me in His hand, and I shall "Never perish." The sheep have "eternal life" ... what an amazing thought!

However, in spite of this, people try to put guards around that truth and say, "Yes, you will be justified by faith if you have enough good works."

What a serious error.

We are saved by Christ and His accomplishments apart from and outside of us. Faith unites us to that which has already been accomplished, and it is from this union that good works spring. When we have salvation, we will find an increasing desire to live for His glory. Even if

we do manage to have lives filled with good deeds and the glorifying of God, we are saved by Christ through His accomplishments on our behalf alone.

We are safe!