

THE SHEEP OF THE SHEPHERD

By Henry T. Mahan

John 10:19-31

There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings. And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? Others said, these are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind? And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, how long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 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. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

TV-466b

Henry Mahan T. Tape Library
Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

Let's open our Bible today to the **Book of John, Chapter 10**. I don't do this very often, but last week and this week I'm bringing one message in two parts. Last week's message was from **John Chapter 10** and the title of that message was: "The Shepherd of The Sheep," from **John 10: 14-18**. This morning I want to speak to you on this subject, "**THE SHEEP OF THE SHEPHERD.**" This is taken from that same **Tenth Chapter of John, verses 22-31**.

Our Lord had been speaking to these people in **John Chapter 10** about His divine person and His glorious redemptive work. He declared, "*I am the good Shepherd, I know my sheep and am known of mine; as the Father knoweth me, even so I know the sheep and I lay down my life for the sheep. Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice and they shall be one fold and they shall be one shepherd.*"

Look at **verse 22 and 23**, He was at Jerusalem and it was during a great Feast of Dedication; there were a lot of people there, many religious people were there for this

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feast. Our Lord was walking in Solomon's porch and these people heard this message. Some of them got very angry and some of them said, "*He hath a devil.*" Some of them said, "*He's crazy, why do you listen to Him?*" There was a great division over what He had said about being the good Shepherd and having a sheep.

These religious Jews came round about Him (look at **verse 24**). They came to Him and as they always did, they were trying to trap Him. They were trying to find a way to take Him to the authorities; they wanted Jesus of Nazareth dead; they wanted Him out of the way. They continually tried to trap Him in His speech; they tried to find something on Him that they could report to the authorities; they tried every way.

Here, they came up to Him and this is what they said (**John 10:24**). "*If you be the Christ, if you be the King of the Jews, (the Christ, the Messiah), tell us plainly, tell us in no uncertain terms; tell us in plain words; say it with your own mouth, 'I am the Christ; I am the expected Messiah of the Jews; I am the King of the Jews,' say it, tell us plainly.*"

They wanted Him to do that, not because they wanted to know if He was the Messiah; they didn't believe He was the Christ. Nathanael, said, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" They said, "*We know Him, He's the carpenter; we know His mother and father, his sisters and brothers; we know all about Him.*" Why they were asking Him this, "*Tell us plainly;*" tell us boldly in your own words; say it, "*I am the Christ,*" they wanted to run immediately and tell the Romans and the authorities that He claims to be a King. That's why they crucified Him; that is what they put over His head when they nailed Him to the cross; "*This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.*" That's what Pilot asked them, "*Shall I crucify your King?*" They said, "*We have no king but Caesar.*" That's the charge they had against Him when they brought Him to Pilot. They said, "He says He's a King."

When the soldiers took Him down to the soldier's hall and mistreated Him and humiliated Him; in what character did they mistreat Him, was it not as King? They put a crown of thorns on His head, they put a purple robe on His shoulders, they put a reed for a scepter in His hand, and they mocked Him and bowed the knee and said, "*Hail, King of the Jews.*" That's the character in which He was rejected. That's the character in which He was tried, that's the character in which He was crucified and that's exactly what He is; He's the "*King of King and Lord of Lord's.*" He's God's King. This is the very character in which a man will receive Him, if he's ever saved.

Paul said in **Romans 10**, "*If though shall confess with thy mouth, Jesus to be King and Lord, and believe in thine heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved.*" The gateway into the kingdom of God is the Lordship of Jesus Christ; that's so! They said, "We want to hear you say it, "*I am the Christ, now tell us plainly if you be the Christ.*" How did He answer that challenge?

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Look at **verse 25**. How did the Lord answer? He says, *“I told you, I did tell you and you didn’t believe me. The works that I do in my Father’s name they bare witness of me;”* you didn’t believe the works either. You see, what I told you was crystal clear and what the scriptures tell you is crystal clear and you have no excuse; I told you and you didn’t believe.”

You see, my friends, the Old Testament scriptures testify of Christ. Do you want to know who He is? Read the scriptures. *“To Him give all the prophets witness.”* That is what the Old Testament scriptures are all about, Christ. Not only do the scriptures tell us who He is, but also the works that He did. *“The blind see, the lame walk and the deaf hear and the dead are raised.”* It is the works that He did, the works that the Father gave Him to do, that bare witness of Him. The Father Himself declared who He is. The angels stood on the hillsides of Judea and declared loud and clear, *“We bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people; unto you is born this day in the City of David in Bethlehem, a Saviour who is none other than Christ the Lord.”* We have plenty of witnesses, we have plenty of testimonies, and we have plenty of scripture. We have no reason to not believe Him and know who He is. He is the Messiah, He is the Lord Jesus Christ, and He is God manifested in the flesh.

Why didn’t they believe? There are several reasons you can give for that. One is because of the evil of the heart. Why don’t people believe the gospel today; it’s the same gospel? We have more revelation today than Abraham had. We have more revelation than Moses had. We have more than David, *“A man after God’s own heart.”* We have more revelation than Isaiah; Christ has come and died and risen again, ascended and gone back to heaven and the canon of scripture is complete. Men don’t believe because of the evil in their hearts. Men do not believe because of the pride in their hearts. Men do not believe because of their blindness to spiritual things.

“If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost in whom the God of this world, hath blinded their minds.” There is a veil over their eyes. Paul wrote that about the Jewish Nation, *“The veil is over their eyes when Moses is read.”* Here, chiefly, primarily, why do men not believe? They said, *“Tell us, are you the Christ?”* They said, *“Let’s hear you say it,”* He said, *“I told you and you didn’t believe Me”* and with all these witnesses and works, words and scripture, even My Father; all of these works that I do, bare witness of Me.” You believe not, **Verse 26**, *“Because you are not of My Sheep.”* That’s why you don’t believe; you’re not of My sheep. *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me, and I give them eternal life.”*

Now, that’s what this message today is all about. I’m going to pick it up right there at **verse 27**, the difference between those who are sheep and those who are not sheep. I talked to you last week about the “Shepherd of the Sheep,” the grand and glorious good, chief and great Shepherd. I’m going to talk to you today about the “Sheep of

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the Shepherd,” these sheep of His pasture, these people He calls, “*My sheep.*” These folks of whom He says, “*Other sheep I have, I must bring them.*” He tells these folks, “You don’t believe Me, you won’t receive Me, you won’t come to Me, *because you’re not of My sheep.*”

There are eight things He says about His sheep; here they are right here. Take your Bible and just underline them. First of all, He says in **verse 27**, “*My sheep hear My voice.*” This is two-fold. First of all they hear His voice in regeneration, that is, the dead live. “*You hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin. As the Father hath life in Himself, even so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself. The Son quickeneth whom He will.*”

Just as our Lord stood at the grave of Lazarus, He said, “*Lazarus, come forth.*” Lazarus heard His voice and He came forth. “*My sheep hear MY voice.*” When the dead in sin hear His voice, the voice of regeneration, the voice of quickening, the new birth (life through the Word), they hear. Not only that, but they hear the Word of God when it is preached.

There’s not much preaching going on today. There’s a lot of singing, but not much preaching. This program has 28 ½ minutes of preaching because this generation needs to hear the truth of God. We don’t need more quartets; we have too many. We don’t need any more trio’s; we have too many. We don’t need any more gospel music conventions; we have too many. We need some people to take the scripture and stand and preach what God says to this generation.

We’re raising a generation that is ignorant of God’s Word. They know how to wave their hands, they know how to shout and yell and scream and holler. That’s not we need, we need to hear what God says. I heard a preacher on television recently and they made announcements and then they prayed and then they sang some songs. He said, “Now, I’m going to preach, but don’t you all go away, because we are going to have more music after awhile.” In other words, I know you don’t want to hear me and I know you’re not going to hear me, but hang around and we are going to sing some more.” We don’t need to sing any more, we need to preach. “*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*” Comfort comes by hearing. Spiritual growth comes by hearing the Word of God. “*Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby.*” Any knowledge we have of Christ is going to come through His Word. “*I have manifested thy Word to them. My sheep hear My voice.*”

What is His voice? It’s His Word! He that is of God hears God’s Word and they love God’s Word and they are hungry for God’s Word and they long to hear God’s Word and they love to hear a preacher preach God’s Word.

There’s something else about these sheep. Number one: “*They hear My voice, they hear My Word.*” That’s the green pastures in which we lie down, His Word.

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Secondly, *“I know them. The foundation of God standeth sure having this seal that the Lord knoweth them that are His.”* He knows His sheep. He calls them by name. He’s always known them eternally. In the covenant of mercy He has known His sheep.

Look at this, thirdly: *“And they follow Me.”* It doesn’t say they ought to follow Him. I hear preachers say that *“Christians ought to follow the Lord.”* They do! I’ve heard a preacher say this, *“Well, Christians ought to pray.”* They do! *“Christians ought to forgive, they ought to give, they ought to attend church, they ought to worship,”* and they do, every one of them! *“They follow Me,”* Christ said. *“My sheep hear My voice, (they hear My Word, they long for My Word, they desire My Word, they feed on My Word, they grow in My Word, they are comforted by My Word) and they follow Me.”* They follow me in paths of holiness and righteousness.

Shepherds use to mark their sheep. Robert Murray McCheyne said that *“shepherds use to mark their sheep with tar.”* That’s right, they would put a gob of tar somewhere on that wooly back and they would know their sheep by the mark and brand that they put on them. Our Lord’s sheep are marked.

Sometime, when you have an opportunity; jot this down; write this down. It’s in **Exodus 29: 20**, *“Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.”*

This is the way God’s sheep are branded and marked. The priest of the Old Testament when he was consecrated a priest; they put three marks on him with blood. First of all on his right ear, they put blood and then on his right thumb they put blood and then on the big toe of his right foot. It was the ear, the hand and the foot that were marked with blood. This is how God’s sheep are marked, the ear, they hear His voice; they hear God’s Word. *“Another shepherd they will not follow,”* a stranger they will not follow. They can discern the truth, they can hear the truth; they know when a man is preaching the truth. They know when a man is telling the truth; they know the truth; they hear His voice and they discern truth.

Secondly, he marks them on the hand. They are generous, they are forgiving, they are kind, and they reach out to others. They have the mark of the blood of Christ on their hands. *“Be ye kind one to another forgiving one another as Christ’s sake He hath forgiven you.”* That’s right, they are marked and they are branded.

Then, their feet, they are marked on their foot. They walk in His Word, they walk in His will, they walk in His way, and they walk with Him. *“They follow me.”* That’s my sheep! This is the sheep of the Shepherd.

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I'm not talking about religious folks, and I'm not talking about all those nice folks who made a profession of faith and put their name on the church roll and said, "Goodbye God, I'll see you in heaven, if you make it." I'm talking about the sheep of the Shepherd. They are consecrated, dedicated, ordained, anointed, called, and redeemed in Christ, the sheep of the Shepherd. *"My sheep hear My voice, they follow me."* Listen, *"And I give them eternal life."* They don't earn it, they don't merit it, they don't deserve it; I give it to them.

You see my friends; the eternal life is the gift of God. *"The wages of sin is death;"* I earned that, but the *"Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* I'm telling you the truth. *"This is the record that God hath given us eternal life."* When He prayed in **John 17**, He said, *"Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."*

Jesus Christ has authority over all flesh and power over all flesh that *"He should give eternal life to as many as thou has given Him."* Who has eternal life? *"Those whom the Father gave to the Son."* Where did they get this life? The Son gave it to them. *"I give them eternal life."* He's not an Indian giver. He gives eternal life.

Listen, eternal life, what is it? It's not talking about the length of it. Somebody said, "What's eternal life?" That means you're going to live forever. Everybody's going to live forever; the devils in hell will live forever, but they don't have *eternal life!* They have life that will be eternal but they don't have eternal life. You see; eternal life is the life of God. Eternal life is Spiritual life. Eternal life is a life of God in the soul. Eternal life is what Adam lost in the garden, (the quality, not the quantity). Eternal life is the life of God and He says, *"That is what I give my sheep, eternal life."*

Eternal life is in Christ. He is our life. Our Lord said that to Martha, the sister of Lazarus, when she came weeping to our Lord after *he* had been dead for four days. She said, *"Lord, if you had been here, he wouldn't have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask the Father He will give him."* Christ said, *"Martha, I'm the life, I'm the resurrection and the life;"* I give them Myself." Eternal life is not only in Christ; it is Christ. *"When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall we appear with Him in glory."* Do you understand what I'm saying? Eternal life is not believing a doctrine, it's the indwelling of a person. Eternal life is not making a profession of religion and changing your way of living; eternal life is changing the management of your soul. God comes in and drives out evil and reigns Himself. *"Christ lives in me and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. I give them eternal life."* My Father and I will come in and dwell.

Listen, *"they will never perish."* **Philippians 1:6** says, *"He that hath begun a good work in you shall complete it in the day of Jesus Christ."* Paul said, "I'm convinced of this, that if God begins a good work in you (eternal life in you), He will finish it in

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the day of Jesus Christ.” Paul said, “God revealed His Son in me.” *“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

Who begins the work? He does! Who finishes it? He does! *“He’s the author and finisher of our faith.”* He says, “I will *never leave them; they will never perish.*” Listen to **Jeremiah 32**, listen to this, here is what I’m saying, and I know people sit around and argue “once saved, always saved, once in grace, always in grace.” Listen to me; quit arguing about that foolishness; quit arguing and debating those things. Your eternal salvation depends on *who* saves you. If you saved yourself, you will perish. If your mother saved you, you’ll perish. If the preacher saved you, you’ll perish. If God saved you, you’ll never perish. That’s just so! *“He that hath begun a good work in you; He’ll finish it.”*

He says in **Jeremiah 32**, listen to **verse 38**, *“They shall be my people, I’ll be their God. I will give them one heart and one-way that they may fear Me forever, for their good and for the good of their children. I will make a covenant with them and I will never turn away from them to do them good, and I will put My fear in their hearts, and they will never depart from Me.”*

That’s what I’m talking about, and that’s not this coming down the isle and raising your hand, joining the church, signing a card and getting baptized and quitting and coming back later and leaving next month. They ought to put turnstiles in those places, people going out and people coming in. They are just swapping places, swapping pews and just keep coming out and going in. God’s people, He said, *“I’ll make a covenant with them and I will never leave them, and I will put My love and fear and grace in their hearts and they will never leave Me. I give them eternal life and they will never, never perish.”*

That soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I never will desert to its foes.
That soul, although hell should endeavor to shake
I’ll never forsake.

“What can separate me from the love of God, tribulation, persecution, famine, life, death, enemies?” “I’m persuaded that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ our Lord. He says this, listen to the next thing He says about His sheep; “Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

I thought about that and looked at that while I was sketching these notes down, our Lord said, *“My sheep hear My voice, they follow me,”* (everyone of them). I give them eternal life and they are not going to perish. They are My sheep, they are My children, they are My brethren, they are My jewel and nobody’s going to take them away from Me.

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I'm a daddy and a granddaddy, and oh how I love my children and my grandchildren! Nobody is going to take them away from me if I can help it! Nobody is going to come into my home and take our babies! They are not going to do it! They will have to kill me first! This is what my Lord is saying; "*Nobody is going to take them out of My hand,*" not Satan, not evil, not demons, (nothing)! "*They will never perish and neither shall any man take them out of my hands.*" You see, He says, "*My Father gave them to Me.*"

I had a preacher friend one time, and He said, "Where did the Lord get His sheep? He says that He has some sheep, where did He get them?" I'll answer that question, three-fold.

Number one: Where did He get His sheep? The Father gave them to Him before the foundation of the world. Read your Bible, before the foundation of the world, He gave Christ a people. He said "*All that the Father giveth me will come to me, and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out. I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him that sent Me*" (John 6:37-38).

Secondly, where did He get His sheep? He bought them; He purchased them. "*I lay down My life for the sheep.*" He bought them and He redeemed them; every one of them. "*He restoreth My soul, He redeemeth my soul from destruction.*" He bought me from the law and bought me from the justice of God. *You're not your own, you're bought with a price.*" Who bought me? My Lord bought me. I didn't help Him pay for it either.

Jesus paid it all
All the debt I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.

Thirdly, the Spirit brought me to Him. The Father gave me to Him, He bought me, and then one day the Holy Spirit reached down and called me and brought me to Christ. Nobody is going to pluck me out of His hand (or you either). You see; here's the reason. He says in **verse 30**, "*Because I and the Father are one. No man can pluck them out of the Father's hand, out of My hand, the Father and I are one.*" We (Father and Son) are one in essence He's God, one in purpose in the covenant of grace, one in power, "*The Son quickeneth whom He will,*" and one in glory. Do you know what our Lord said? "*He that honoreth the Son the Father will honor him.*" My friend, whoever honors the Son is going to be honored of the Father.

I tell you; today's religion is a farce and a joke. We better save ourselves from this untoward generation. Seek the Lord and cry out for His mercy. Oh God, I want to be one of your sheep.

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A man knocked at the door one time. She and her husband were sitting in the living room, someone knocked at the door and she was gone a good while and in a few moments she had the strangest look on her face. Her husband said, "What's the matter with you, who was at the door?" She said, "There was a man at the door" and the husband said, "What did he say to you?" She said, "He asked me if I knew the Lord Jesus Christ?" Her husband said, "You told him you were a member of the church didn't you?" She said, "He never asked me that." He said, "You told him you teach Sunday school, didn't you, and that you sing in the choir?" She said, "He didn't ask me that." Her husband said, "Did you tell him that your Daddy is a preacher?" She said, "He didn't ask me that. He didn't ask me if I was a church member, if I taught Sunday school, or who my daddy was. He asked me if I knew the Lord Jesus Christ? I told him no, no I don't, do you?"

"I'm the good Shepherd, I lay down my life for the sheep. Another sheep I have which are not of this fold, them also I must bring. They will hear my voice and they shall be one fold and my sheep follow me and I give them eternal life and they will never perish. No man will pluck them out of my hand, My Father gave them to me, and my Father is greater than all. No man can pluck them out of His hand because I and My Father are one." (Then, they took up stones to stone Him).