

John 10:22–39 – “The Promise of the Good Shepherd”

Unbelief is not ignorance—it’s a willful refusal to believe the truth. Yet for those who believe, eternal life is a gift that can never be lost, held securely in the hands of the Father and the Son.

The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:

This scene takes place during the **Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)**, a Jewish celebration that commemorated the temple’s rededication after its desecration by Antiochus Epiphanes in 164 BC. It was a time of joy, lights, and thanksgiving for God’s deliverance. Yet, during this very “festival of lights,” the Light of the world stood among them—and they refused to believe. Jesus walked in **Solomon’s Porch**, a large covered area in the temple where rabbis often taught. The religious leaders surrounded Him, demanding, “If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Despite years of miracles, fulfilled prophecies, and direct claims, they hardened their hearts. Their unbelief was not due to lack of evidence but due to spiritual pride and refusal to accept the truth.

Passage Outline

- **I. Unbelief is a willful refusal to believe the truth. (vv. 22–26)**
 - **II. Every believer is secured in the hand of God. (vv. 27–30)**
 - **III. The truth they refused to believe. (vv. 31–39)**
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Passage Notes

I. Unbelief is a willful refusal to believe the truth. (vv. 22–26)

During a feast celebrating God’s light and deliverance, the religious leaders rejected the very One who is **the Light of the world**. Jesus had already revealed His identity through His words and works, yet they refused to believe. Their unbelief was rooted not in confusion but in defiance. The evidence was overwhelming, but their hearts were closed.

II. Every believer is secured in the hand of God. (vv. 27–30)

Jesus describes His sheep as those who believe in Him. “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.” Salvation is a free gift, not a reward—it cannot be lost or taken away. Both the **Son’s hand** and

the **Father's hand** hold the believer forever secure. Jesus' statement, "I and My Father are one," not only affirms eternal security but also declares His deity. The same divine power that gives life guarantees its permanence.

III. The truth they refused to believe. (vv. 31–39)

The leaders' reaction was violent—they picked up stones again. Despite witnessing undeniable works of God, they accused Jesus of blasphemy for claiming to be the Son of God. Jesus answered with Scripture (Psalm 82:6), showing their hypocrisy and challenging them to believe His works, which clearly proved His divine origin. Yet they refused, exposing hearts that loved power more than truth.

The Modern World – Relevance Today:

Many today still celebrate God outwardly while rejecting Him inwardly. Unbelief thrives where pride blinds the heart, but faith grows where humility receives truth. At the same time, believers can rest securely—our salvation is not fragile, because it rests in the unbreakable unity of the Father and Son.

What This Means for Us

- **Let us recognize and respond to the Light of Christ that we have received with true worship.**
 - *Respond to the light God has already given us through His Word.*
 - **→ The more we walk in that light, the more we experience the life and truth of our Shepherd.**
- **Eternal security is grounded in the unbreakable power and unity of the Father and the Son.**
 - *Our confidence in salvation rests entirely on who Jesus is, not on how well we perform.*
 - **→ We can rest knowing we are eternally cradled in divine hands that never fail.**
- **Refusing to believe God's clear revelation blinds the heart.**
 - *Faith is not about needing more evidence but humbly accepting the truth God has already revealed through His Word.*
 - **→ Believe what He's revealed, to experience life and light .**