

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and bright, golden light rays emanate from the pages, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out. The overall mood is one of divine inspiration or enlightenment.

BOOK *of* JOHN

GOD'S ONLY SON

John 10:22-42

The church has been arguing over and debating this passage for 500 years—Calvinists and Arminians each with five main points to their soteriological model.

Three key biblical doctrines that come into view here:

- Eternal security: Can a believer lose their salvation?
- Predestination: Does God pick us or do we pick Him?
- Election: When did God choose us, and by what means?



THE ENCOUNTER AND EXPLANATION

First, Jesus reminded the religious legalists of what He had already taught them.

- From the *human standpoint*, we become His sheep by believing; but from the *divine standpoint*, we believe because we are His sheep.
- God has His sheep and He knows who they are; they will hear His voice and respond . . . **both are equally true!**

HIS SHEEP ARE SAFE AND SECURE

The security of God's sheep is assured in several ways:

- Salvation is a free gift. **v. 28; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 11:6**
- Jesus did not promise security to anyone but His true sheep. **2 Peter 2:20-22; Matthew 7:13-29**
- True sheep may backslide, wander to some awful places—but they can never perish eternally.
- The true Christian's joy, prosperity, and blessings can be impaired through backsliding; but his or her destiny is never in doubt. We are in His hands held by His love.

THE PLAIN ANSWER

The word *One* does not suggest that the Father and the Son are identical persons. **Rather, it means that they are one in essence.**

- The Father is God and the Son is God—One God!
- **John 10:36** is crucial because it gives a double affirmation of the deity of Christ—Jesus is God!
- God's sheep hear God's voice, do what He says, and therefore are safe in His hands . . . forever by grace!
- Predestined to be chosen by adoption and election

THE GRACE GIFT

- Eternal life is the free ***GIFT OF GRACE*** God gives to a sinner who truthfully and fully believes in Jesus Christ. This ***MIRACLE OF GRACE*** is endorsed and attested to by the transformed life which follows salvation.
- **GOD'S GREAT GRACE GRIP (v. 28)**: We may lose our grip on God, but He cannot lose His grip on us.
- Have you answered the ***CALL OF GRACE***—found through the cross—for Christ?
- Are you now ***LIVING IN GRACE?***

GRACE EXPLAINED: His
body broken and His blood shed
for us . . . GRACE RECEIVED

LORDS SUPPER

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME