

**John 10:22 ff.**  
**Rome Georgia**  
November 29, 1987  
**November 2, 2014**

**SUBJECT:** Jesus' response to the direct question concerning His identity.

**THEME:** The one who heeds the voice of the Great Shepherd heeds the voice of God. 30.

**PROPOSITION:** We either receive Him as God, or we reject God.

In our study – we are referring often to the Sanhedrin and leadership of Israel in the days that Jesus walked among men. We may ask ourselves, how did these political toadies get to be in such a position? They did it on the back of their godly predecessors.

**Joel Osteen, Pastor of the biggest congregation in America, Lakewood Church, has finally declared to the world who he really is by endorsing Obama and his liberal agenda, even though it is an agenda that goes against everything true Christians believe.** Those of us who are intelligent and observant are not really surprised, as we have known for a long time that Osteen's "I'm okay, you're okay" milk toast sermons are far from Bible-based and do not reflect in any way the beliefs of **his father, John Osteen, who started Lakewood Church and preached the uncompromising message of Christ for multiple decades before his death in 1999.** Joel Osteen, however he may have started out, is **currently nothing more than a progressive in Christian's clothing.** . . .

Christians should not be surprised, as the Bible warns that there will be a **falling away in the church during the end times, which is the era we are living in right now.** The Scriptures state that supposed ministers of the true Gospel will abandon Biblical Christianity in favor of their own mystical, man-centered doctrines. Anyone who listens to Osteen preach can see that that is exactly what he has done. . . .

**Oprah Winfrey, a self-professed "new age high priestess,"** felt perfectly comfortable sitting in the front row of Osteen's church with her friend, Tyler Perry. (We won't even go there.) **Why would any true Christian pastor want to give praise to someone who uses her influence with people around the world to convince them that there are many ways to God, rather than the One Way spoken of in the Bible?** Osteen made the following speech when Oprah visited his church: **"we are so honored to have a world changer, history maker and one of the great voices of our generation present today. Oprah has brought a friend with her, Tyler Perry, and we are so honored to have you two here and it is great to see what God is doing in your lives."** From an *Article in the Examiner.*

- (Dr. Charles Stanley's son, ANDY is another that would likewise fall in with this ilk.)

We have our own "Scribes and Pharisees" today who are cut from the same cloth as those in Jesus Day.

**Rom 2:29** But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose **praise** *is* not **of men**, but **of God**.

**Joh 12:42** Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be **put out of the synagogue**:

**John 12:43** For they **loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**

**10:22 "Feast of dedication"** = "Hanukkah" or, "the feast of lights". It is an eight day feast celebrated in the month of **December**. The feast was to remind the Jew of their last great deliverance from their enemies, which had occurred in **165 b.c. when Judas Maccabeus** had rebuilt the temple that had been destroyed 3 years earlier by Antiochus Epiphanes. **It has been two months since Jesus had the dialog with the Jews which is recorded in John 7:1 - 10:21 (this took place at the "Feast of Tabernacles.")**

**10:24** "Then came the Jews round about Him. . ." Literally = "**they closed in on Him.**" He was surrounded. They **wanted to pin Him down.**

- "How long doest thou make us to doubt." *KJV*
  - "How long will you keep us in suspense?" NASB and NIV.
    - literally "HOW LONG WILL YOU HOLD UP OUR SOUL."
    -

"If you are **THE Christ**, tell us **PLAINLY!**"

THEY WERE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF ANXIETY. THEY WANTED TO KNOW ONCE AND FOR ALL. THEY **HEMME** HIM UP AND **DEMANDED AN ANSWER.** END OUR ANXIETY AND THE SUSPENSE OF OUR SOULS. "**If you are THE Christ, tell us PLAINLY!**"

**10:28** To be in the hand of the Son, **28**, is to be in the hand of the Father, v. **29**. Because, "**I and my father are one**", v. **30**.

AND SO, IN RESPONSE TO THEIR ANXIETY OVER THE MATTER, CHRIST GIVES THEM ASSURANCE. HE ASSURES THEM **FIRST OF HIS IDENTITY** / THEN HE ASSURES THEM OF **THEIR SECURITY** if they are His sheep.

### **I. THE ASSURANCE OF HIS IDENTITY 10:25-27**

**v. 25 "I TOLD YOU - and you believed not"**

WHEN?

- ❖ **10:9-11 (TWO MONTHS EARLIER)**
- ❖ **10:10 "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."**
- ❖ **10:18 (Speaking of His Life) "I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.."**
- ❖ **9:58 "before Abraham was, I AM."**
- ❖ **8:19 "If ye had known me, ye would have known the Father also."**
- ❖ **6:35 "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE."**
- ❖ **5:23 "He that honoreth not the Son, honoreth not the Father. . ."**

### **John 5: 17-18**

**Joh 5:17** But Jesus answered them, "**My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.**"

**Joh 5:18** Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

**REPEATEDLY JESUS TOLD THEM WHO HE WAS AND REPEATEDLY THEY REJECTED HIS WORDS.**

NOW IN **HIS FINAL PUBLIC DISCOURSE**, JESUS ONCE AGAIN SEEKS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT **BY ASSURING THEM OF HIS IDENTITY.**

Jesus says that we can know who HE is by three clear signs;

1. **HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE WORKS OF GOD, and they bear witness of Him. 25 , 32, 37 - 38 .**

Nicodemus, **Jn. 3:2** " We know that thou art a teacher come from God for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

**2. HE IS ETERNAL - "I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE." V. 30**

**3 HE IS A GIFT - 36, SANCTIFIED and SENT into the world by the FATHER!**

**BUT YET, THEY WOULD NOT BELIEVE EITHER HIS WORKS OR HIS WORDS. 32 - 33**

**Joh 10:32** Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

**Joh 10:33** The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

**THERE IS REAL IRONY IN THIS STATEMENT BY THE UNBELIEVING JEW. V. 33 . "Thou, being man, makest thyself God." In actuality, they had it backwards. It was not a man who made Himself out as a god, but rather The God who came in the form of a man. PHIL . 2:5-8**

**PHIL . 2:5-8** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

**Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

**Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:**

**Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

John puts it more succinctly in **John 1:14** "THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US."

GOD THE CREATOR CAME AND DWELT AMONG HIS CREATION IN THE FORM OF MAN WHOM HE HAD CREATED. AS HE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THIS TO HIS CREATION, THEY SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM! WHY?

**MEN HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE IN ACKNOWLEDGING THAT JESUS IS A GREAT MAN WHO DID MIGHTY WORKS.**

**THE RUB COMES WHEN WE COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE REALITY OF HIS DEITY. HE IS GOD. WE MUST RESPOND TO HIM AS SUCH!**

**V .25 "I told you AND YOU BELIEVED NOT, BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT OF MY SHEEP.**

How did He know and how could they know that they were not of His sheep?

He gives us a synopsis of the relationship that He sustains with his sheep and they with Him. (as previously revealed earlier in this chapter). In so doing He gives to His sheep some of the clearest and most profound words of comfort in all of scripture as we hear **THE ASSURANCE OF OUR SECURITY**

**II. THE ASSURANCE OF OUR SECURITY IT RESTS IN HIS FINISHED WORK . 10:28-30**

**Jn . 6:28 - 29 "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent."**

**John 10:28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

**And I give them eternal life** AION, AIONIOS The word used for " eternal refers to "time in it's duration, constant, abiding, eternal, continuing forever, everlasting." "without end, never to cease, everlasting."

Jesus Defines Eternal life for us in **17:3**

**Joh 17:3 And this is life eternal**, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

**Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**

**10:28** LITERALLY. "**THEY SHALL NOT, THEY SHALL NOT PERISH, NO, NOT ETERNALLY**"

THE WORD USED FOR "NEVER" = FOREVER OR ETERNALLY

(CF. **JN. 6:51** LIVE "FOREVER". **Jn.10:28** PERISH "NEVER")

**Joh 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

NEITHER SHALL "ANY ONE" = INDEFINITE PRONOUN. "MAN" IS NOT USED HERE.

"ANY ONE" INCLUDES SATAN - AND IT INCLUDES YOU!

**GOD'S HAND IS LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD THE EARTH AND STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP IT ALL TOGETHER. IT IS CERTAINLY ABLE TO KEEP YOU AND I SAFE FOR ETERNITY.**

IN FACT:

**1 Peter 1:5** SAYS: WE HAVE AN "INHERITANCE, INCORRUPTIBLE, AND UNDEFILED, AND THAT FADEETH NOT AWAY, RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU WHO ARE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH UNTO SALVATION READY TO BE REVEALED IN THE LAST TIME."

## **ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT**

**Joh 10:29 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 GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE . . ." **10:28**

"MY FATHER WHO GAVE THEM TO ME" **10:29**

**GAVE = PERFECT TENSE = "A PAST COMPLETED ACTION HAVING PRESENT RESULTS."**

**"THE FATHER GAVE BELIEVERS TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS A PERMANENT GIFT TO BE RETAINED BY HIM PERMANENTLY."** WUEST.

**Romans 11:29 "FOR THE GIFTS AND CALLING OF GOD ARE WITHOUT REPENTANCE."**

**Jn., 6:37** "All that the Father GIVETH me shall come to me; AND HIM THAT COMETH TO ME I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT." Use of two negatives, "I WILL NOT, I WILL NOT CAST OUT." (cast out = to throw out from within. and in the Gk. there is also the word "outside.")

ETERNAL LIFE. Cf. **Matt. 25:46**, Everlasting punishment VS everlasting life. Both are for eternity. Both of equal length.

**Mat 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.**

## Addendum

**82:6, 7** Though exalted to heaven in privilege, they shall be cast down in punishment. The fact that God calls them **gods** and **children of the Most High** does not grant them immunity from judgment. They will be subject to the same treatment as other **men, and fall like one of the princes**. Actually the *degree* of their punishment will be greater because of their greater privilege.

Our Lord quoted verse six in one of His confrontations with His foes ([Joh 10:32-36](#)). They had just accused Him of blaspheming because He claimed equality with God.

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"'? If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

To the western mind, the argument might not seem clear or convincing, but it obviously had compelling power on His hearers. They understood that Jesus was arguing from the lesser to the greater. The force of the argument is as follows:

In Psalm 82, rulers and judges are addressed by God as gods. Actually they are not divine, but because of their position as God's ministers, they are dignified with the name of gods. Their greatest distinction is that the word of God came to them, that is, they were officially ordained by God as higher powers concerned with government and justice ([Rom 13:1](#)).

If the name *gods* could thus be loosely applied to men like them, how much more fully and accurately can the name God be applied to the Lord Jesus. He had been sanctified and sent into the world by God the Father. This implies that He had lived with God the Father in heaven from all eternity. Then the Father had set Him apart to a mission on earth and had sent Him to be born in Bethlehem.

The Jews understood perfectly that He was claiming equality with God, and they sought to apprehend Him but He eluded them ([Joh 10:39](#)). BBC