

IN HIS GRIP

John 10:28-29

Introduction:

1. A Marvelous Gift for Jesus' Sheep

A) Eternal Life is a Gift Given to Jesus' Sheep (John 10:28a)

> Eternal life is a Gift

> Eternal life is a Gift given only to Jesus' Sheep

The antecedent for "them" is the sheep in verse 27

> Jesus "gives" eternal life to His sheep

Note: "gives is a present tense verb ... not future tense

B) The Nature of Eternal Life (John 10:28a)

> What is "eternal life?"

Eternal – means everlasting or never ending.

Life - It is the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God (John 1:1-4; 14:6)

> What is not "eternal life?"

Temporary life is not eternal life

Potential life is not eternal life

C) The Threat to Eternal Life – to perish (John 10:28b)

> What does perish mean? To destroy utterly, kill, demolish, waste, to lose utterly (Matt. 10:28; 18:11; John 3:16)

> God will discipline His children and His punishment may be severe (1 Cor. 11:27-30)

But His children, His sheep will never perish – suffer eternal death in hell

D) God Secures both the Gift and the Promise of eternal life

- > His sheep are secure in the hand of God the Son (John 10:28c)
- > His sheep are secure in the hand of God the Father (John 10:29)

2. Jesus' Promise is the Source of Great Encouragement

A) This text reveals that Jesus' sheep are "eternally secure"

- > Our security is not found in our strength or worthiness but in His gift and promise

B) This is not the only place in Scripture where we find this precious promise

- > He who began a good work in you (Philippians 1:6)
- > Nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35-39)
- > We are kept by the power of God (1 Peter 1:3-5)

3. Jesus' Promise has an Important Context

A) Notice the first word in verse 28 – "And"

- > What we know is that verse 28 is a continuation of verse 27

B) The security of the sheep is contingent upon the identity of the sheep

- > My sheep hear My voice (John 10:27a)
- > I know them (John 10:27b)
- > His sheep follow their Shepherd's voice (John 10:27c)

C) The security of the sheep cannot be separated from the character of the sheep

- > We refer to this aspect as the perseverance of the saints
- > But let's consider the significance of that qualifier lest we pervert eternal security

Jesus' warning in Matthew 7:21-23

Judas – one who certainly looked like one of Jesus' sheep on the outside ... for a while
(John 6:66-70; 13:1-2; 17:12)

Never forget the precious promise made by the Good Shepherd to His sheep (John 10:28-29)