

I. NEVER AFRAID

A. At Jerusalem

1. Jesus is STILL there
 - a. Only the Gospel of John records Jesus at 4 different feasts
 - i. Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, and now Dedication
 - ii. May indicate that this stretches back to Zerubbabel
 - iii. Could be instituted/renewed by Judas Maccabeus (BC 165)
 - iv. After desecrations to the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes
 - v. Interesting: Dec. 25 / About 2 months after Tabernacles
 - b. It was winter (vs. 22)
 - i. Maybe inclement weather
 - ii. Walking under the porch out of the cold winter rains
 - iii. Not as cold as their hearts towards the Word of God
 - c. They try to stone Him or take Him twice in this chapter alone
2. After trying to take Him or stone Him half a dozen times already
 - a. Now they will try again... but to no avail
 - b. He already told them, only HE could lay down His life (vs. 15)
 - c. They could not take His life – His is DEFINED by LIFE
3. He was not cowed, not scared, never afraid
 - a. He is the same God today! (vs. 30)
 - i. He is neither scared nor surprised at the state of the USA
 - ii. He is not shocked by the riots but saddened
 - iii. He is not offended by brutality, He is already OFFERED
 - iv. He is not divided by our sin, UNIFIED with His Father

B. And the Jews surrounded Him (vs. 24)

1. This was not a pleasant meeting in the street but a confrontation
 - a. They “took up stones” vs. 31
 - i. Has the connotation of “undertaking” or assaying.
 - ii. Rather than picking up stones...
 - iii. In fact, they may have already had them with them
 - iv. They were likely prepared – “There He is!”
 - b. How long will you make us doubt? (vs. 24)
 - i. Even though they used the word meaning “suspense”
 - ii. This is not a question seeking information
 - iii. This is meant to drive them into religious fury
 - iv. They already KNEW what He would say
 - v. They wanted Him to say it AGAIN! We DARE you!
 - c. Jesus saw through them and told them so (vs. 25-26)
 - i. I already told you, but you WOULD not hear
 - ii. And you COULD not hear

- iii. Isn't it interesting that He calls them Deaf to the Word?
 - iv. Right after saying they were blind to the Light (in ch. 9)
 - 2. He speaks of "MY" sheep (vs. 27)
 - a. That means they were a certain species (easily proven)
 - i. They have a particular genetic makeup
 - ii. They have a demonstrated pattern of behavior
 - iii. They are NEW creatures in Christ!
 - b. Sheep means not just a religious profession
 - i. But to become God's possession – bought and paid!
 - ii. Some people claim to be sheep but aren't
 - iii. We look at them and assume them to be backslidden
 - iv. When they may have never been Saved
 - c. Matthew 7:21 – "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth** the will of my Father which is in heaven."
 - i. And what is that will?
 - ii. 2 Peter 3:9 – "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not **willing** that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
 - 3. They hear His voice - He is the WORD of God
- C. So they try to stone Him again (vs. 31)
 - 1. Making Himself equal with God? (vs. 33)
 - a. And Jesus catches them in their own conceit
 - i. Psalm 82:6 – "I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High."
 - ii. This is a Psalm written to the judges of the people
 - iii. Telling them to make righteous judgments
 - iv. To deliver the poor and needy; to defend the fatherless!
 - v. God was telling judges their verdicts were ordained of God
 - b. He makes a comparison in vs. 35
 - i. The word of God came unto these judges in the O.T.
 - ii. But the Word of God NEVER came to Jesus Christ
 - iii. The Word the God came BY Jesus Christ
 - iv. The miracles of God didn't come THROUGH Jesus Christ
 - v. The miracles of God came FROM Jesus Christ (vs. 41)
 - 2. But the Scripture CANNOT be broken (vs. 35)
 - a. Jesus signs His name to the entire Bible with this verse
 - i. The O.T. and the N.T. alike is the Word of God
 - ii. Even today so-called scholars call the Bible into question
 - iii. Jesus Christ calls the Bible confirmed!
 - b. These Jews never had a problem with the words of the Psalms
 - c. So Jesus asks, a simple question:
 - i. Can you say one God confirmed with works blasphemes?

- ii. Believe the works and KNOW (vs. 38)
- iii. And they tried again to take Him (2nd time in chapter)
- 3. But instead, He went beyond Jordan to the place John baptized
 - a. And many believed on Him there
 - b. People resorted to Him – not the Jews in the temple!
 - c. Why? Because He told them the Truth of the Gospel
 - d. So often mistaken, misapplied, and misrepresented
 - e. 3 Nevers: Never Die, Never Perish, and Never Removed

II. NEVER DIE

- A. He makes three wonderful statements in vs. 28
 - 1. The first is that His sheep, His followers – will never die
 - a. He gives them eternal life
 - i. Notice the precision and accuracy of that wording
 - ii. He didn't say "I will give" in the future
 - iii. Nor did he say "I hope to give" or "I may give"
 - b. He is certain on the subject
 - c. It is a statement positive, present-tense, and full of potential
 - 2. He has tied our future to His very existence
 - 3. He used the word "eternal"
 - a. Now other places, He says "everlasting"
 - b. But here – eternal
- B. Not long life on the earth
 - 1. That's a terrible prize! Who wants to live very long down here?
 - a. Don't you think Methuselah's back bothered him every so often?
 - b. At 969, he probably couldn't drive at night any more
 - c. 1 Corinthians 15:19 – "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."
 - 2. Praise God, not just here but with Him
 - a. In heaven – 1 Corinthians 2:9 – "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."
 - b. Eternity
 - 3. And with a glorified BODY!
- C. He said His sheep would never die.
 - 1. We may leave this body and go to Him
 - 2. But we will never die eternally in the fires of Hell
 - 3. He also said His sheep will never perish (vs. 28)

III. NEVER PERISH

- A. He KNOWS me (vs. 27)
 - 1. Perish is such a terrifying word. To waste, to render useless

2. Here's what I know
 - a. In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man
 - b. No one knows the rich man's name
 - c. Because it doesn't matter any longer. He has perished.
 - d. Destroyed. All that was special about him rendered moot.
3. He was wasted. He was LOST. Even the memory of his name.
- B. But I don't have to worry about that as one of His sheep
 1. He KNOWS me.
 2. He REMEMBERS me. Want a perfect picture?
 3. Luke 23:42 – "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."
 4. Here's His answer: Luke 23:43 – "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."
- C. Never have to die. Never will I perish!
 1. And I can never be removed from His loving arms!

IV. NEVER REMOVED

- A. No man shall pluck His sheep out of His hand (vs. 28-29)
 1. No one can say it better than God
 2. Romans 8:35 – "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. (37) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 3. That's a comprehensive list. I'm certainly in there somewhere!
- B. I had a talk with a free will Baptist once
 1. She said a Christian could let go of God's hand
 2. I said, no, I am in Christ's hand. He is in God's hand.
 3. And He and His Father are ONE!
 4. That means I am SAFE and forever secure!
- C. I will never be removed.
 1. No power exists that can take me out of God's Salvation
 2. Not even me!

V. NEVER BETTER

- A. There has never been a better time to get Saved

- B. 2 Corinthians 6:2 – “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”
- C. Be Saved today
 - 1. You will never die
 - 2. You will never perish
 - 3. You will never be removed