



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA
Richard Cimino
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The Gospel of John

The Absolute, Essential Deity of Jesus

John 10:22-42

Related Topics:

This morning we come to the close of this incredible **10th** chapter **John**. Let's roll back a bit for the sake of review and context.

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem.

Between verses 21 and 22, two months have passed. The Feast of Dedication came into existence around the 1st century BC. It remembered and celebrated the tremendous victory of the Jews, under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus, over Antiochus Epiphanes who had slaughtered upwards of 100,000 Jews and had desecrated the Temple of the Living God. After defeating the mad man Antiochus, the Temple was cleansed and rededicated to the worship of the Living God of Israel. This feast provided the backdrop for this moment in the Life of Jesus — and the question that was about to be asked of Jesus.

It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

It's the Feast of Dedication! The religious establishment concluded that the Messiah would be just like the hero of the Feast of Dedication — Judas Maccabeus — a man who would deliver Israel from Roman oppression. With this preconceived set of ideas as to what the Messiah will do they're basically saying

— “*We’re looking for someone to fit into this box. Are you that guy?*” *Are you the guy that’s gonna do that?*

We made a contemporary application of the question by noting that men and women do the same thing with Jesus today — They have their preconceived ideas about Jesus and then they try to stuff Jesus into those preexisting beliefs. **WE NOTED THAT Jesus doesn’t fit into any world religion or philosophy.** Jesus becomes **the cornerstone** on which any understanding of reality — any understanding of the world — is constructed. **You can’t stuff Jesus into your thinking.** You have to start with Jesus and let Him shape your belief system. Once again — Christianity is ALL ABOUT JESUS! It starts with Jesus and Ends with Jesus — He is the “*Founder and perfecter of our faith.*” He is called the *Alpha and the Omega* (A and the Z of the Greek alphabet). He is *the First and the Last; the beginning and the End.*

²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me,

Jesus appealed to His works as His Messianic credentials.

²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock.

The grammar here **does not say** that we **believe** and **become** a sheep in His flock. What Jesus says here is that those who do believe, believe because they are His sheep.

²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

The emphasis here is not so much on election but on IDENTIFICATION. This is one of the identifying trademarks of His sheep. Paul would put it like this in his letter to the Romans.

***Romans 8:14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

You can say that you belong to Jesus — but if you don’t hear Him and follow Him, you’re not one of His sheep!

WE NOTED THAT for you and me to hear the voice of God and follow is a miracle. Can you think back on the times that you heard people talk about Jesus

— heard someone share from the Bible — and you didn't hear — you didn't want to hear? But He is so longsuffering — so persistent in his love for us — He kept speaking. And finally there came that time when He spoke — and for reasons beyond you — you HEARD Him and said — *“I think I just heard God.... that's my dad!”* — and you RESPONDED to Him and surrendered to Him.

²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

We spent a lot of time examining

- 1.) The meaning ETERNAL LIFE
- 2.) The fact that this ETERNAL LIFE is GIVEN to us
- 3.) The fact that we can never lose that gift because we are held by Jesus and the Father.

The question, *Can I lose my salvation?* actually boils down to this — *“Can God be overpowered?” “Can God fail?”*

THAT BRINGS US TO THE HEART OF THIS MORNING'S STUDY

³⁰I and the Father are one.”

To a good believing Jew, there was nothing in this statement that was shrouded in mystery. To the good believing Jew those words would have been inescapably clear. Three times a day every good Jew would recite **Deuteronomy 6:4** which was called the *Shema*, and it was simply this: *“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, he is one.”*

The word *“one”* in **Deuteronomy 6:4** is the Hebrew word *echad*. It means singularity and plurality coexisting simultaneously. It literally means “Israel, the Lord our God, he is one God.” It sounds very peculiar, but it's a reference to the Trinity. As Christians, we believe there is one God who eternally exists in three distinct persons; God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, each fully and equally God. Each is a distinct and unique person, but there is one God. That

is exactly what Jesus is saying here. He says, “*I and the Father*”— God the Father and God the Son — **We are one** — One God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.

QUOTE: A.T. Robertson — Says this about the word **ONE** used in [John 10:30](#)

*Not one person (cf. [heis] in Gal. 3:28), but one essence or nature.*¹

HUGE — Jesus is NOT saying that He is the Father and the Father is the Son. That view of Jesus and the Father is known as **modalism**. This heresy essentially says that there is one God who puts on three masks. In the OT he acts like the Father; in the Gospels He acts like Jesus; and from the Book of Acts forward He acts like the Holy Spirit; but He is only playing one role at a time. **Matthew 3** — Which records the Baptism of Jesus presents a problem for this view because in that passage Jesus comes out of the water – the Father speaks – and the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. You can’t play three parts at the same time.

The Father was NOT born of a virgin — Jesus was. **The Father did not** grow up as a Galilean peasant — Jesus did. **The Father did not** die on a cross and walk away from the tomb — THAT was THE SON!

The FATHER SENT the Son. The SON DIED for sin. The SPIRIT WAS SENT to convict us of our sin, regenerate us and indwell us. They are working together. They share the same divine nature — But they are distinct.

IT IS VERY POPULAR for people to say that Jesus never claimed to be God. There are a lot of people who say that Jesus was a good man, who taught moral principles on how to be a good person. But they say that Jesus never **thought** he was God, Jesus never **taught** that he was God, and no one ever **understood** him to be God. They claim that it was only after he died that his followers made up this crazy story that he was God.

Unlike many who hold to such views — the Jews knew exactly what Jesus is saying.

³¹The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³²Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for

¹ Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Jn 10:30). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

which of them are you going to stone me?” ³³The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”

I would encourage you to mark this verse in **John 10**. You will come back to it often. Jesus has just said — *“I and the Father are one.”* The Old Testament scholars of the day of Jesus responded to that by saying — *“You are a blasphemer. You are a man, and you’ve just claimed to be God.”* It can’t get any clearer than that. Jesus was so obviously stating the fact of His ABSOLUTE, ESSENTIAL DEITY — that these men accused Jesus of blasphemy! Anyone that tells you otherwise is wrong.

THIS IS HUGE AS WELL — Jesus didn’t stop them and say — wait a minute — you misunderstood me. They had already determined that Jesus should be killed on these very same grounds

John 5:18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Again in **John 8:58-59**

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Jesus NEVER tries to explain that they are misunderstanding Him. He just keeps making claims to be God.

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? ³⁵If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— ³⁶do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; ³⁸but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” ³⁹Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

Verse 34 is very controversial — *“Has God not said you are gods?”*

Religions throughout the course of human history can be subdivided into two very general categories: Monotheism and Polytheism. Mono = singularity, one; theos = God. One God. Poly = many, hence, many gods. Some religions teach that there is one God. Jews, Christians and Muslims teach that there is one God. Other religions will teach that there are multiple gods or many gods.

Hindus will tell you that there are millions of gods. Mormons will teach you that there is a pantheon of gods, and that if you're a good man, one day you'll become god and get your own planet, and your wife will be eternally pregnant and help you populate that planet. I do not know why that is appealing to women. She gets eternal morning sickness; he gets divinity and perpetual sex. By the way — this is very similar to the lie of Islam where good Muslim men have 70 virgins to enjoy forever in paradise. A guy named Ergun Caner said that if you want to understand Islam, think of it as a medieval form of Mormonism.

Mormonism in particular points to this verse to endorse their perverted theology. *“See, Jesus said right here that there's lots of gods.”*

I'm sorry — but no, Jesus did not teach that. We'll do a little work here to prove the point. Please go to **Psalm 82** — because Jesus is quoting from that particular Psalm. When Jesus uses this word *“gods”* — and when the Psalmist uses this word *“gods,”* the word means rulers.

Psalm 82:1 “God presides in the great assembly, and he gives judgment among the gods (the little-g gods.) “How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked, defend the cause of the weak and fatherless, maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed, rescue the weak and needy and deliver them from the hand of the wicked?”

The context is about men who have been appointed to rule and judge. And what they're supposed to do is bring God's law to bear on human circumstances. So if there's a crime committed, or something happens and there's an injustice that needs to be corrected, these men are rulers, and as rulers they are to render rulings from God's law for the purpose of bringing justice. They are not divine — they do not eternally exist. They are men with authority, sitting in seats of authority and ruling — but in **Psalm 82** they were doing it in an unjust way — and God is displeased with them.

Psalm 82:5 “They know nothing; they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness, and all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, ‘You are gods. You

are all sons of the most high, but you will die like mere men. You will fall like every other ruler.’ ”

So the Holy Spirit tells us that they are merely men, sinful men, who have used their authority in negative ways and will die. The Psalm ends with — *“Rise up, O God, and judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance.”*

The last thing I’d like you to do is turn with me to the **Book of Isaiah —Chapter 43, verse 10.**

The reason we are going to look here is because some people will ask us very complicated questions — and we don’t want to miss an opportunity to answer questions that can help open their hearts to the Jesus. The apostle Peter said this to the first century Christians —

1 Peter 3:15-16a but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience,

So as people ask questions, it is our responsibility to be able to nicely and kindly answer their questions.

One of the common questions is — If you believe in God, why do you believe there is one God? We should not only know WHAT we believe (that there is ONE God); but we should know WHY we believe that (where the Bible says it).

So I want us to look at this section in Isaiah, because I think it is one of the clearest and most concise sections of Scripture that declares there is one God — and it says it repeatedly. Again — I would encourage you to mark this section in your Bible — because at some point in your life you will need it.

Isaiah 43:10b-11 “Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed. I am not some foreign god among you.”

God says, “There is no God but me, and you may develop your own gods and your own religions and your own thoughts, and you may watch Oprah and come up with your own opinions, but I don’t recognize any of them.”

He goes on in **verse 15**. He says, *“I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.”* Throughout the Book of Isaiah, repeatedly and continuously, God refers to himself as the Holy One, that he alone is holy and he alone is God.

Isaiah 44:6, he says, *“I am the first and the last. Apart from me there is no god.”* It doesn’t get any clearer than that.

Isaiah 44:8 *“You are my witnesses. Is there any god besides me? No, there is no other rock. I know not one.”*

Over in **Isaiah 45:5–6** *“I am the Lord, and there is no other. Apart from me there is no other god.”* He goes on to say, *“I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.”*

Isaiah 45:14; 18; 21 *“Surely God is with you, and there is no other. There is no other god....”*¹⁸ *“I am the Lord, and there is no other....”*²¹ *“And there is no god apart from me, a righteous God and Savior; there is none but me. Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is no other.”*

Isaiah 46:9 *“Remember the former things, those of long ago. I am God, and there is no other. I am God, and there is none like me.”*

I’m not the sharpest tool in the shed, but I think I know where He’s going with this — I’ve got the feeling that He’s trying to tell us is there’s just one God.

I would encourage you to mark that section.

HUGE — On a number of occasions you've heard me say that when you are trying to interpret a difficult passage of Scripture that you start FROM the light and move forward into that which seems dark — you start with what you do know with a certainty in trying to understand that which seems uncertain.

There’s a name for that rule of interpretation — It’s called **Perspicuity**.

Perspicuity means that if I have 1,000 verses that tell me there is one God, and then I have one that looks like maybe it’s not saying that, I should interpret that one in light of the other thousand. The cults and bad Bible teachers will ignore the thousand verses and elevate the one peculiar one as the proof text for their erroneous or heretical view. That’s not a faithful way to handle the Scriptures. That’s not a faithful way to handle any sort of relationship. If every day for 33 years I came home and told my wife that I loved her— and then one day I came home and didn’t tell her I love her —she should interpret my feelings toward her in light of every other day for those 33 years — and understand that whatever I said in a moment, or whatever I failed to say in a moment, did not undo or disprove the previous 33 years. If God has been clear in saying something to His people through the duration of human history and throughout the Scriptures —

and then there's a single passage of Scripture that seems a little peculiar, we should go with the duration of human history and the rest of Scripture in understanding Him.

Let's finish the chapter.

Jesus has so lovingly suffered with these men — the majority of which have simply refused to hear what the Scriptures have to say about Jesus, what the Works of Jesus have to say about Jesus, and the very words of Jesus Himself. Some of them will break ranks with the majority who want to kill Jesus —and they will believe in Jesus.

But Jesus is being **persecuted** — He's being **openly opposed** — and there are **open threats of violence** against Him. Jesus does not **RECA****N**T anything He has claimed about Himself — but He does **RETREAT**.

⁴⁰He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. ⁴¹And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” ⁴²And many believed in him there.

This moment in the life of Jesus is just painful. The leaders of His own people are rejecting Him! Again we are tethered to the prologue —

John 1:9-11 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

He knows His death is imminent. The great tide of public opinion is now turned against Him. All of His pleading and correction with the religious leaders is being ignored. With all of this bearing down on Him, what does God Incarnate do? He goes back to the place where He began His ministry — He goes back to the Judean wilderness and the Jordan River. There at the very start of His public ministry Jesus heard the Father say from heaven, *This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased*. There the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus to lead and empower His public ministry. Guys — When things bear down on you and you are undone — go back to where your new life began!

Colossians 2:6-10 ⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk

in him —

Do you remember the utter simplicity of that? The mind blowing reality that the Father loved you! The utter simplicity of just trusting Jesus — clinging to Jesus — relying upon Jesus. The reality of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The **NLT** continues that passage with

NLT ⁷Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. ⁸Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. ⁹For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. ¹⁰So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

⁴¹And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.”

John the Baptizer never spoke in tongues — never raised somebody from the dead — never cleansed a leper — *but everything thing that John said about Jesus was true!* **Take note of that.** Jesus said John was the greatest prophet born among women. The greatness of John was that he was the prophet that the other prophets prophesied of (**Malachi 3:1**). Peter tells us this about the Old Testament prophets —

1 Peter 1:10-12 This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. ¹¹They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward. ¹²They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you.

But John — the cousin of Jesus — was different in that he was the one who could actually point the finger and say *behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.* John the Baptizer was the last of the Old Testament prophets. No Old Testament prophet ever prophesied with greater clarity than John because John

was the only one who could point right at Jesus and say — *There He is, He is the one.*

Now I hope we can take this to heart. John did no miracle. We all LONG to see the Lord work miracles! We have seen the Lord heal — but we long to see more. We see a child suffering and we say, *Lord, in the Book of Acts you healed, you worked miracles.* You said — *“I am the Lord who heals you!”* You said — *“Let those who are sick call for the elders of the church....”* I believe he still does heal — And I believe God wants us to seek him for those things. Yet you and I have the same struggle. *Lord, why don't we see more?* Please remember this — *John did no miracle, but everything he said about Jesus was true.* I pray we can have that testimony. If we go through life without seeing some miraculous thing — I still pray that when we breathe our last people can say — *You know, that person talked about Jesus all the time. Jesus was real in that person. Everything he said about or she said about Jesus was true.* I hope they can say of us what they said of the apostles in the book of Acts — *They took note of them they were unlearned and ignorant men but that they had been with Jesus.*

I want to see miracles Lord — but if we don't — I'll take the second half of this.

⁴²And many believed in him there.

What a blessing for Jesus — getting away from Jerusalem — from the hostility of the religious leaders — and there in the Judean wilderness the common people gladly heard the Good News of the Kingdom and believed. Those are the sheep that Jesus said would believe because they were His sheep.

CLOSING — What a privilege we have to share Christ. I don't think we realize what God has invested in us — especially in regards to the day and age that we live in. The next election is not going to decide the eternal destiny of a single human being. But invested in you and me is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that is **THE** power of God to save! Satan trembles, not at who is in the White house — but he does tremble at who is living in **YOUR** house — who comes to **THIS** house. He trembles at men and women who are in love with Jesus and who go into their world and live for Jesus and share Jesus!

We can't lead every man to Christ — But we can bring Christ to every man! What an **AMAZING** and **DIVINE** plan — putting eternal life into the likes of you and me and then letting us loose to infect the world.

