**The Divine Protection**

*John 10:27-29*

**Introduction**

1. Jesus’ promise to His sheep – **John 10:27-29** – Salvation, and continued protection.
	1. There is a protection by the hands of Jesus and the Father for the sheep.
	2. None are capable of taking us away from Him. (**cf. Romans 8:35-39** – none can separate us from Him.)
	3. **Jude 24-25** – able to keep us faultless.
2. This is not the Calvinist doctrine of the perseverance of the saints – i.e. once saved always saved.
	1. **Jude 20-21** – keep yourselves in the love of God.
	2. **Cf. Philippians 2:12-13** – God is working, but we are working as well.
	3. **John 10:27-29** – protection through our hearing, knowing, and following.
3. This promise of Jesus brings great comfort.
	1. **Hebrews 12:15** – we must be careful, for falling from grace is possible.
	2. However, God has made provisions for us to stay safe, or in a saved state.
4. The Example of Christ
5. The Life of Christ is an Example
	1. Contrary to popular doctrine, Christ’s life was not substitutionary. (His death was, but not His life.)
	2. **Cf. 1 Peter 2:21-23** – called to follow in His steps in regard to the way He suffered for doing good.
	3. **Cf. Philippians 2:5** – having the mind of Christ in humility.
	4. Truly knowing Christ is walking “JUST AS HE WALKED” – **1 John 2:3-6**
		1. **Jeremiah 10:23** – Man cannot direct his steps, so God gave Jesus as a blue print to build our lives by.
6. Called to the Standard of Christ
	1. **Ephesians 4:13** – gifts to build us up to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.
		1. God does not call us to matters impossible to fulfill.
		2. He wants us to live like Christ, and we can!
	2. To the degree of not sinning – **1 John 2:1, 6, 29; 3:9** – not sin, walk as He walked, righteous as He is, does not sin.
		1. We sometimes try to rationalize, and reconcile this Biblical truth with the erroneous views of denominationalism.
		2. GOD SAID WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT SINNING, AND EXPECTS US TO.
		3. Not sin less, but DO NOT SIN – **John 8:11** – SIN NO MORE.
	3. THE REASON WE FIND OURSELVES FAILING OVER AND OVER IS LARGELY DUE TO OUR LACK OF FAITH IN THE ABILITY TO BE WHAT GOD CALLED US TO BE:
		1. Called to be like Christ, not sinning any longer – IF WE DOUBT THAT IS POSSIBLE, WHY WOULD WE EVEN TRY?
		2. Need to have faith – **Luke 17:5-6** – if God said to do it, and that we can do it, then we should trust that we can with His help.
		3. WE MUST SET OUR EYES ON THE STANDARD WE’RE CALLED TO – **1 Corinthians 11:1; Hebrews 12:1-2**
	4. In this effort we have the constant aid of the one Man who indeed was able to live without sinning – **Hebrews 4:14-16** – “AS WE ARE” – we must not minimize the feat of Christ. He knows what we’re going through.
		1. **Cf. Matthew 19:26** – with God all things are possible.
7. The Resurrection of Christ
8. The life of sinning no more is brought about by the working of God.
	1. **Romans 6:1-4** – Just as God raised Christ, we are raised to walk in newness of life.
	2. **Cf. Colossians 2:12** – faith in the working of God who raised Jesus.
	3. **Romans 8:9-11** – life given to our bodies to work righteousness.
		1. I.e. when we obeyed the gospel we put to death the deeds of the flesh, and were given the power of God to live as Christ lived.
		2. **Cf. 1 Corinthians 6:19** – sin and the Spirit cannot occupy the same temple at the same time!
9. The Power of His Resurrection is Appropriated Through Scripture
	1. **Cf. Romans 8:11** – will give life through His Spirit.
		1. **Romans 8:2** – law of the Spirit of life.
		2. **Romans 1:16** – POWER of God to salvation.
			1. Power – *dynamis* – might, strength, force (Arndt and Gingrich; 206).
			2. Where we get the English, dynamite.
			3. Such power which raised Jesus from the dead is available to us in the gospel!
	2. We find ourselves failing when we quench this power – **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**
	3. **Philippians 3:7-11** – count things loss for the knowledge of Christ to know the power of His resurrection.
	4. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – effectively works in you. (Word of GOD – power of God to salvation)
		1. **1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:2** – establish you blameless, abound more and more, commandments through Lord Jesus.
		2. **Psalm 119:11** – God’s word keeps us from sin. (**2 Peter 1:10** – shall never stumble)
10. The Plan for Future Pardon
11. The Standard is No Sin
	1. **1 John 2:1-2** – John wrote so that his readers wouldn’t sin.
		1. “These things” – **1 John 1:5-7** – we must walk in the light with NO DARKNESS AT ALL to be in fellowship with God.
		2. **Cf. Romans 6:1; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-12** – the grace of God does not permit sin, but appeared to lead us the other way. THE GRACE OF GOD ABOUNDS IN TRANSFORMING US TO BE LIKE CHRIST.
	2. NOTE: “IF anyone sins” – NOT WHEN, BUT IF.
12. Upon the “If” is Provision
	1. **1 John 2:1-2** – Jesus’ blood is still available for the cleansing of sins needed.
		1. **1 John 1:7** – walking in the light has access to Jesus’ cleansing blood.
		2. What is walking in the light? – After you have sinned, you meet God’s conditions of pardon – **1 John 1:8-10**
			1. **(v. 8)** – Do not pridefully act as though you are above the condemning aspects of sin. Don’t deceive yourself.
			2. **(v. 10)** – Do not reject the truth of God’s word, acting as if what you did was not a sin at all. Don’t make Jesus a liar.
			3. **(v. 9)** – Confess your sins and ask forgiveness.
	2. Need for repentance – **1 John 5:14-17** – sin not leading to death is sin that is repented of.
	3. Jesus practices what He preaches, and will always be willing to forgive if we meet the conditions – **Luke 17:3-4** – AGAIN, NOT A PERMISSION TO KEEP WALKING IN SIN.
13. The Family of God
14. Added to the Body
	1. **1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 24-26** – added to ONE body that cares for each member.
	2. **1 Peter 1:22** – “in” or to, or into sincere love of the brethren.
		1. You have a responsibility to love the brethren.
		2. You have the benefits of their love.
15. The Protection of the Body
	1. Edification – **Ephesians 4:15-16** – every part does it’s share to build up through teaching.
	2. Exhortation – **Hebrews 10:24-25** – such exhortation is available every time we come together to assemble. (Are we denying ourselves this gift?)
	3. Rebuke – **Galatians 6:1-2** – we are there to help each other when we see our brethren struggle with sin.
	4. Discipline – **1 Corinthians 5:4-5** – sometimes drastic measures are necessary, and the church is there to enforce God’s wisdom.
	5. Comfort – **2 Corinthians 2:6-7** – we comfort each other with the knowledge of forgiveness, and further help provided.
16. The Longsuffering of the Lord – **2 Peter 3:14-18** – the longsuffering of the Lord is not incentive to sin because you have enough time. IT IS THE BLESSING OF GOD GIVEN FOR US TO GROW, AND BE FOUND BLAMELESS WHEN HE DOES COME.

**Conclusion** – God has not saved us, and left us alone to fend for ourselves. He has promised His continual and unfailing protection (**John 10:27-29**). We must trust in God’s provisions, and give our due diligence to be found saved in the end.