

John # 65 “For Which Of These Do You Stone Me?” *John 5:17-23; John 10:22-33*

There is nothing more vicious than a self-righteous legalistic religious person.

When religious bigots are motivated to kill someone they hate, they’re the most prolific murderers in history.

And if God the Father was not sovereignly protecting our Lord, the Gospel of John would be wrapping up in just a few more sentences.

But Jesus had a wall of protection around Him while surrounded by the most hateful people in the world at that time and perhaps at any time.

Sheep can’t even guide themselves and therefore, our Shepherd the Lord Jesus Christ provides the ultimate in guidance for us because we would have no clue as to what divine viewpoint regarding the will of God is as we go through our spiritual life, so He has to provide us with His mind of biblical truth and we must respond positively to Him and what He says in the Word.

Jesus from eternity past knew every Jew who’d respond to His message and based on that, He made provision for them in eternity past to lead them out into green pastures.

The deity of Christ knew His sheep from eternity past and knowing them means He provided for them.

When we, His sheep know Him, it is because we’ve learned of Him through His Word and trusted in Him through His Word but in eternity past, He knew us before we even existed.

The sheep follow their shepherd only; so when the shepherd leads his sheep, there is something they have to do and that is follow him and he certainly doesn’t lead them to wolves; he leads them outside the gate into green feeding pasture.

To follow Jesus Christ, we must first know Him and knowing Him literally means knowing from experience or having knowledge of a person with whom one has a relationship and in this case, it’s a mutual loving relationship.

The Lord Jesus Christ loves all His sheep and it is possible for His sheep who know His Word to love Him.

The Father and the Son’s love for us is understood by the illustration of the love of a shepherd for his sheep and as Their sheep, we share in Their love which has existed from eternity past.

God the Father and God the Son have always had a love for each other and in time we as believers in Jesus Christ share this love as recipients of it and sometimes with enough spiritual growth, as responders to it.

The first thing we as believers in Jesus Christ must have for continued success in the plan of God is security because without it our relationship with God isn’t real to us.

Security is something we all have from God but realizing and experiencing that security from orientating to the grace of God is quite another thing.