

The Good Shepherd Loses None So Loved By the Father

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends
(John 15:13).

The topic is the love of God.

God's love differs from man's love in that it is unconditional and all-powerful.

Those sinners loved by God will find their natural hostility toward Him removed and replaced with a heart which loves their Savior (Ezek. 36:26).

Christ is able to categorize those for whom He dies as 'friends' because His sacrifice will never fail to save those He loves.

Those enemies will infallibly become His 'friends.'

God's infinite love and Christ's infinite love are coterminous.

God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to save the world.

In turn, the Son so loved the world that He willingly laid down His life for those of the same world that God so loved.

None whom God so loved will ever perish because it was God's will that His Son lose none given to Him:

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day (John 6:39).

God's will and Christ's will are coterminous, (as proven in my previous post).

God's power and Christ's power are coterminous (Matt. 28:18).

Neither God nor Christ can fail in their united eternal purpose to save loved ones.

Failure for God is not an option.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep (John 10:11).

The sheep to which Christ refers are those loved by both He and the Father.

Christ does not give His life for the goats.

The vast majority of the religious Jews were not Christ's beloved sheep.

They were not among the chosen Elect.

But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you (John 10:26).

Christ's sheep believe because they were beloved by Father and Son, and therefore, elected to be recipients of saving faith and predestined to glory.

These are the same ones drawn by the Father and given to Christ (John 6:39).

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand* (John 10:27-28).

The phrase 'hear my voice' is analogous to 'believe on Me.'

They have been graciously and effectually given ears to hear and a heart to believe.

Their faith is evidenced by their obedience to 'follow' Christ.

The phrase 'and I know them' refers to Christ's eternal knowledge.

As the eternal Son of God, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, Christ knew them as those loved and chosen by the Father from eternity.

These were 'elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father' (1 Peter 1:2).

It was for these Christ volunteered to die.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10).

Today Christ is seeking and saving all the lost He and the Father loved from eternity, a number so great no man can count them (Rev. 7:9).

To God alone be the glory!