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BIBLE STUDY

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“THE ETERNAL SECURITY**

**OF THE BELIEVER”**

**John 10:22-42**

***John 10:22, "And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter."***

***John 10:23, "And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch."***

***John 10:24, "Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly."***

This Feast of Dedication is the same as the Feast of Lights, which began on the 25th day of Chisleu (December) and continued for eight days. Today the Festival of Dedication is commonly known as Hanukkah, which celebrates the rededication of the temple in 165 BC after its desecration by Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 168 BC. This Feast did not require attendance at Jerusalem. The Jews illuminated their houses for eight days to commemorate the miracle of the oil in the temple which multiplied and lasted eight days when there was only one day's supply. We see from the verse 22 above, that this Feast, indeed, did occur in winter. This location where Jesus came was a popular place to speak to the people. During this particular festival, a group of Jews accosted Jesus and demanded, If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly. Really, the reason they were doubting was because they did not know the Scriptures very well. He had already told them, and they did not believe Him. They were trying to say that their lack of faith was His fault. The only reason they really want Him to come right out and say that He is, is so they will have something to accuse Him of.

***John 10:25, "Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."***

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

There should be no question at all of Who He Is. Not only has Jesus told them over and over, but the miracles that they saw Him do should have left absolutely no doubt. The works he did in the Father’s name were his proof. No mere man can do these miracles. He had to be Christ (their Messiah). They had all the evidence they needed, but they had no interest in listening to him because they had no interest in being his sheep. The only ones who are His sheep are those who believe. Jesus (the great Shepherd) leads those who believe in Him (His sheep). You see, the key word is BELIEVE! If we believe in Jesus, He is our Shepherd; and we are His sheep.

***John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"***

***John 10:28, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."***

***John 10:29, "My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."***

A shepherd knows his sheep. It is strange, but you can have two men's sheep in one pen, but the only ones that follow their master's voice are his own sheep. We see here, again, that the will of the Father and Jesus' will are the same. No mere man can take Jesus' sheep away. Those who decide to follow Jesus shall have eternal life. The reward of following Jesus is eternal life. What happens to those who do want to be Jesus’s sheep? He gives them eternal life so that they will never perish. How secure are those who receive eternal life through Jesus? No one can snatch them out of Jesus’s hand or the Father’s hand. Thus, believers are not eternally secure because of their grip on God, but because of his grip on them. If you come to Jesus by faith, he’s got you. When you’re too weak and your hands go limp, he’ll still be hanging on to you. This describes what theologians call the “Doctrine of Eternal Security!” This teaching states that the eternal security of the believer is guaranteed by the person and works of Jesus Christ. Therefore, anyone who has eternal life has it forever and cannot be lost.

***Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”***

***Romans 8:28-39***

***28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

***29For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.***

***30Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.***

***31What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?***

However, because God has given us freewill, we can choose to “turn loose” the hand of God. A corruption of this doctrine teaches “once saved always saved” regardless of choice. This is not true. If a believer, after being chosen to obtain salvation, willfully chooses to reject God, they will suffer the eternal consequences of their choice and God will allow you to be lost.

***Hebrews 6:4-6***

 ***those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,***

***5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,***

***6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.***

***Romans 1:28-32***

***28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;***

***29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,***

***30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,***

***31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:***

***32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.***

***Jude***

***1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:***

***2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.***

***3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.***

***4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.***

***6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.***

***7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.***

***John 10:30, "I and my Father are one."***

***John 10:31, "Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him."***

Jesus emphatically declared, “I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE!” You can’t get a clearer claim to deity than that. And the Jews knew exactly what he meant. Correspondingly, they (religious scholars) picked up rocks to stone him for what they considered blasphemy (an unforgivable sin worthy of death). This man (human) was claiming to be God (divine). Though they wouldn’t accept it, he was only telling them the truth. Many (trinitarians) today still refuse to accept the biblical fact, that JESUS IS GOD, and likewise accuse those who do (apostolics) with blasphemy (cultism). The “ONENESS” (Unity not Trinity) of God is taught consistently throughout scripture. God is, ONE in essence, ONE in person, and ONE in spirit! He is not one God in three persons. He is one God in one person! He has manifested himself as the GOD THE FATHER in CREATION, THE SON OF GOD IN REDEMPTION, AND GOD THE HOLY GHOST IN REGENERATION! Below are a few scriptures demonstrating the continuity of God’s Word.

***Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:”***

***Ephesians 4:4-6***

***4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;***

***5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,***

***6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.***

***1 John 5:8-9***

***8And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.***

***9If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.***

***Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”***

***1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”***

***Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”***

***2 Corinthians 5:19 “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”***

***Colossians 2:9 “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”***

***Hebrews 1:1-3***

***1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,***

***2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;***

***3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:***

***Isaiah 35:4 “Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.”***

***Jude 1:24 “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.***

***John 10:32, "Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?"***

***John 10:33, "The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God."***

Jesus nearly always answers with a question. Jesus points to the miracles that He had done and says that they were actually from the Father. The works they could not deny, because many of them had been done in their presence. When He asks for which miracle they stone Him for, He shifts their thoughts from His claim of being equal with the Father to the miracles which they cannot deny. This has been the struggle ever since Jesus (the Word) came to earth and was housed in the body of a man. These Jews did not accept that Jesus was not a man, but was Emmanuel, God with us. Today this same argument still rages. Men cannot believe that Jesus was God the Word who took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us.

***John 10:34, "Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said Ye are gods?"***

***John 10:35, "If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;"***

***John 10:36, "Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?"***

***John 10:37, "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not."***

***John 10:38, "But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."***

This statement Jesus makes here is a quotation from Psalms. You see, Jesus knows just exactly what to say to stump these Jews. They must renounce the Scripture or gracefully get out of the accusation. In this psalm, God referred to human rulers, who were made in God’s image and responsible to imitate God’s character, as “gods.” So if sinful men in honored positions could be called “gods,” what about a perfect man?

***Psalms 82:6, "I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High."***

If Jesus was doing the Father’s work, and clearly he had been, how could they accuse him of blasphemy? If they had trouble with his words, all they had to do was look at his works. Where had he fallen short? Why hadn’t they believed him? Jesus declares that Scripture cannot be broken, that is, canceled or annulled. This means that Scripture is inerrant, authoritative, and binding. Jesus has trapped them again. He says here, the Scripture does not change. Then He tells them that He is the Son of God, and that the Father, Himself, sanctified Him and sent Him into the world. This is almost saying, show me anyone besides myself who has done these fantastic works. They know they cannot answer this, because Jesus did miracles that no leader of the church had ever done before. Many times, it was said, only God could do this. Jesus is really saying, you know that no one but God can do these miracles. He also says, if you don't believe me, you cannot deny the miracles I have done. Then He says, don't you understand that I am in the Father and the Father in me? These works are truly divine in nature and there is no way they can deny that. Perhaps, if they recognize that part, then maybe the realization of who Jesus is will dawn on them, as well.

***John 10:39, "Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,"***

***John 10:40, "And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode."***

***John 10:41, "And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true."***

***John 10:42, "And many believed on him there."***

They were trying again to seize him, but he once again, he supernaturally eluded their grasp. You’d think that by this point they would realize that seizing Jesus is a dead-end street. No one could take his life from him. But soon he would lay it down. Jesus as God in the flesh, was sovereign over his own death. Jesus had such great power that He could have temporarily blinded them, or else He could have made Himself where they could not see Him. At any rate, Jesus walked right by them without them apprehending them. It was not time for them to capture Him yet. It must be done at Passover.

***John 7:30 “Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.”***

***John 10:18 “No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”***

Jesus left Jerusalem and went to the Jordan river area where He had been baptized of John. This was a friendly area where a great deal of His ministry had taken place. John the Baptist had been a messenger from God, preparing the way for Jesus. Many had believed him and received Jesus freely. John was not a healer, he was a baptizer. Jesus was the healer. This was friendly territory for Jesus. John the Baptist had been popular here, and they believed his message about the coming Messiah. John had spoken of Jesus, as he had baptized here at the Jordan, and people were prepared and ready to receive their Messiah. John the Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness. People believed him, and repented, and were baptized. John's message was of Jesus, and here Jesus found many eager to believe on Him and receive eternal life.

**QUESTIONS**

1. When was the Feast of Dedication?
2. What other name was this Feast called by?
3. What day and month did the Feast begin?
4. How many days did it last?
5. How did the Jews go about celebrating?
6. What did it commemorate?
7. What did these Jews ask Jesus to tell them outright?
8. Who were they trying to blame with their lack of faith?
9. In verse 25, Jesus said what bore witness of Him?
10. In verse 26, why did Jesus say they didn't believe?
11. Who are His sheep?
12. What does Jesus say He gives His sheep in verse 28?
13. Whose hand can no man pluck them out of?
14. When Jesus said this, what did the Jews do?
15. Why did they say they were stoning Him?
16. Jesus says, if you don't believe me, believe what?
17. When they tried to take Him, what did He do?
18. Where did Jesus go when He left Jerusalem?
19. The people said John the Baptist did no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
20. Was His ministry successful here?