**Jesus Gives Eternal Life**

 ***22****At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,****23****and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.****24****So 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.”****25****Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,****26****but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.****27****My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.****28****I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.****29****My 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.****30****I and the Father are one.”* (John 10:22-30, ESV)

 Through Jesus, we will receive a sure and imperishable eternal life. Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters as today we complete our sermon series on “Giving”. In the previous two weeks we talked about how God is giving and generous. We said that God, through one of Jesus’ healing miracles, was showing us that he gives us sight – both physical and spiritual. The Lord also gives us a Shepherd in Jesus. In addition, Jesus is given as a complete offering on our behalf for our sins and salvation. Today, we are going to add to the above the truth that through Jesus, we will receive guaranteed eternal life. Again, through Jesus, we will receive an imperishable, certain, unshakeable eternal life. Let’s talk, then, about this all-important truth.

 Jesus is the guarantor of our reception of eternal life. For some, this saying seems strange. How is it that Jesus is already saying that people will receive eternal life? After all, will there not be a Judgment experience at His Second Coming? We can answer the above in two parts: First and foremost, when we realize that Jesus and the Father are one, then we must understand that Jesus’ sayings are Father God’s sayings. Also, when God the Father says that no one will be able to snatch His sheep from His hand, that saying becomes absolute truth, above and beyond all human doubt. Jesus’ sheep are his followers. They know His voice; He knows them, and they are in His hands. Therefore they will never be lost. It is the Lord Jesus that give them eternal life, and that gift is inviolable or untouchable.

 In this life of ours, there are often many guarantees that are bought. People buy insurance for their house. They buy it for their cars and their health. However, these purchases only provide money in the case of certain events – they do not guarantee that everything will go back to normal.

 What Jesus gives, however, is guaranteed by His Word and His Identity. Jesus gives His followers true, safe, unshakeable, imperishable, indubitable eternal life. The latter is a reason why we cannot have any pride about our salvation. We are not worthy of that eternal life – we didn’t do anything to buy or to earn it. We (as Jesus-followers) simply said “yes”, and we accepted Christ’s saving deeds for us and in place of us.

 Being a saved person has three tenses: it is in the past as our initial conversion experience. It is a present reality because of the “process” of salvation, often called sanctification. Salvation is also a future reality because we are headed to that reality, which is a kind of “harbor of peace”.

 Therefore, let us approach our Lord Jesus Christ with thankfulness and gratefulness, because he establishes and guarantees our eternity with Him and God the Father.

 If the above had been the whole of today’s message, it is already a huge truth. However, there is an unwritten expectation within these sayings of Jesus. It is not important to simply know all this – rather, we all called to respond to these truths. What is our response to the gift of eternal life? If He gives us eternal life, what is it that we can do to reflect that life even now through our lifestyle and expressions? He gave us something that only He can give – we, in turn, are called to give whatever we can give.

 Jesus is the guarantor of our reception of eternal life. Through Him, we are going to receive an imperishable, certain, and unshakeable eternal life. May God solidify the joy of this truth within us, and may we answer this in faith. The Lord bless you all. Amen.