



BAPTIST CHURCH

## **The Gospel of John**

“Two Options One Choice”

**John 10:31-42**

### Introduction

“Eternity is too long to get it wrong!”

Last week we discovered in **John 10:28**

Jesus Has The Authority To Save And Secure His Sheep Because:

### **The Promises of Jesus to His Sheep v.28**

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.” CSB

Jesus made three Promises to His sheep:

**I give my sheep eternal life**

**My sheep will never perish**

**No one will snatch my sheep out of my hand**

Today we are going to discover Five Factors that lead to the choice we make about Jesus:

## Scripture

Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone him.

<sup>32</sup> Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these works are you stoning me?”

<sup>33</sup> “We aren’t stoning you for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, (**profane, vulgar, indecent language or actions toward God**) because you—being a man—make yourself God.”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Isn’t it written in your law, I said, you are gods?”

<sup>35</sup> If he called those to whom the word of God came ‘gods’—and the Scripture cannot be broken—

<sup>36</sup> do you say, ‘You are blaspheming’ to the one the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I am the Son of God?”

<sup>37</sup> If I am not doing my Father’s works, don’t believe me.

<sup>38</sup> But if I am doing them and you don’t believe me, believe the works. This way you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I in the Father.”

<sup>39</sup> Then they were trying again to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

<sup>40</sup> So he departed again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there.

<sup>41</sup> Many came to him and said, “John never did a sign, but everything John said about this man was true.”

<sup>42</sup> And many believed in him there. CSB

## Quote Of The Day

“Here is a fundamental difference between the person of faith and the person of unbelief. The person of unbelief is 'of the world', judges everything by worldly standards, views life from the standpoint of time and sense, and weighs everything in the balances of their own carnal (selfish) making. But the person of faith brings in God, looks at everything from His standpoint, estimates values by spiritual standards, and views life in the light of eternity. Doing this, the person of faith receives whatever comes as from the hand of God. Doing this, the person of faith has a calm spirit in the midst of the storm. Doing this, the person of faith rejoices in hope of the glory of God.” — A.W. Pink

**What we believe about Jesus is the difference between death and life.**

### **Have you ever been overwhelmed by choices?**

Life used to be much simpler. Consider the following choices at your typical American supermarket or Big Box store:

Crest toothpaste: 27 varieties

Campbell's condensed soup: 53 varieties

Tropicana Pure Premium Orange Juice: eight sizes, from 8 to 128 ounces

Breyers ice cream or frozen dairy dessert: Natural, French, Half the Fat, No Sugar Added, Extra Creamy, Homemade, Lactose Free, CarbSmart (and that's just for vanilla ice cream)

Cheerios cereal: Original, Honey Nut, Honey Nut Medley Crunch, Apple Cinnamon, Banana Nut, Frosted, Chocolate, Multi Grain, Multi Grain Peanut Butter, Cinnamon Burst and a few others.

Tide liquid laundry detergent: Original Scent, Plus Febreze, Plus Febreze Sport, Free & Gentle, Plus Bleach Alternative, Coldwater, Clean Breeze, Mountain Spring, Plus Downy, With Acti-Life

Head & Shoulders shampoo: Active Sport, Old Spice, Deep Clean, Hair Endurance, Refresh, Extra Strength for Men, Citrus Breeze, Ocean Lift, Dry Scalp Care with Almond Oil, Classic Clean, Sensitive Scalp Care, Itchy Scalp with Eucalyptus, Smooth & Silky, Extra Volume, Green Apple, Damage Rescue, Extra Strength, Clinical Strength, plus seven more

Little wonder, then that a *Consumer's Reports* survey of nearly 3,000 shoppers found that 36 percent "were overwhelmed by the information they had to process to make a buying decision." [Source: The editors, "Too Many Choices?" \*Consumer's Reports\* \(3-14\); Tim Wu, "The Case for Less", \*The New Republic\*, April 29, 2013](#)

When it comes to eternal life— We have two options but only ONE CHOICE!

We have the option to Reject or Receive Christ.

The last section of **John 10** is about the choice we must make.

Today we are going to discover Five Factors that lead to the choice we make about Jesus:

Five Factors that lead to the choice we make about Jesus:

### **Rejection of Jesus vv.31-33**

Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone him.<sup>32</sup> Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these works are you stoning me?” <sup>33</sup>“We aren’t stoning you for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because you—being a man—make yourself God.” CSB

Three reasons why many of the Jews Rejected Jesus:

**They Rejected the Words of Jesus**— They thought He was crazy

**They Rejected the Works of Jesus**— They accused Jesus saying He was the prince of Demons

**The Rejected the Deity of Jesus**— He was not the Messiah.

These are the same reasons why people reject people today.

### **People Reject the Words of Jesus**

**John 10:24-25a** “The Jews surrounded him and asked, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>“I did tell you and you don’t believe,”

## People Reject the Works of Jesus

**John 10:25b-26** Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in my Father’s name testify about me. <sup>26</sup> But you don’t believe because you are not of my sheep.” CSB

## People Reject the Deity of Jesus

Many of the Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah because He did not match the vision of what they thought the Messiah should be.

**Many people readily admit Jesus was a prophet, He was a great teacher, He was a great leader but He was not God!**

**Isaiah 53:1-3** “Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? <sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground. He didn’t have an impressive form or majesty that we should look at him, no appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like someone people turned away from; he was despised, and we didn’t value him.” CSB

Many of the Jews Rejected Jesus because:

They were expecting a conquering king

They were expecting a mighty warrior

They were expecting a powerful politician

They were expecting a trained and gifted scholar

**There is soon coming a day when we will see Jesus in all His glory!**

**When Jesus comes back He will not be a suffering servant!**

**When Jesus comes back He will be king of kings, master of everything and Lord of all.**

**When Jesus comes back He will be a conquering warrior, prince of peace and righteous judge.**

**When Jesus comes back He will have complete authority,**

Five Factors that lead to the choice we make about Jesus:

## **Our Perception of Jesus vv.34-36**

Jesus answered them, “Isn’t it written in your law, I said, you are gods? <sup>35</sup> If he called those to whom the word of God came ‘gods’—and the Scripture cannot be broken—<sup>36</sup> do you say, ‘You are blaspheming’ to the one the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I am the Son of God?”

“No verse of Scripture yields its meaning to lazy people.” — A.W. Pink

After reading these verses several times and asking God to give me wisdom as to what these verses are teaching us, the truth became clear.

**Psalm 82** “God stands in the divine assembly; he pronounces judgment among the gods: <sup>2</sup>“How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? <sup>3</sup>Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. <sup>4</sup>Rescue the poor and needy; save them from the power of the wicked.” <sup>5</sup>They do not know or understand; they wander in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are shaken. <sup>6</sup>I said, “You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. <sup>7</sup>However, you will die like humans and fall like any other ruler.” <sup>8</sup>Rise up, God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you.” CSB

Jesus told the Jews, you have no problem calling judges and rulers gods.

The word translated “**gods**” comes from the Hebrew word “**Elohim**” meaning the supreme one, the mighty one.

“ . . . you say, ‘You are blaspheming’ to the One the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I am the Son of God?”

People in our culture today deify (to worship as gods) humans and treat them as if they were gods.

Elvis, Taylor Swift, Michael Jordan, Tom Brady, Wealthy business leaders etc.

**Remember this: Anything that has been created is not divine and is not worthy of worship!**

**Romans 8:18-25** “For God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, <sup>19</sup>since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. <sup>25</sup>**They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.**” CSB

**Nebuchadnezzar** in **Daniel 4:28-33** “All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>29</sup>At the end of twelve months, as he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon, <sup>30</sup>the king exclaimed, “Is this not Babylon the Great that I have built to be a royal residence by my vast power and for my majestic glory?” <sup>31</sup>While the words were still in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared that the kingdom has departed from you. <sup>32</sup>You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals, and you will feed on grass like cattle for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants.” <sup>33</sup>At

that moment the message against Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people. He ate grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky, until his hair grew like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws." CSB

**Herod in Acts 12:21-23** "On an appointed day, dressed in royal robes and seated on the throne, Herod delivered a speech to them. <sup>22</sup>The assembled people began to shout, "It's the voice of a god and not of a man!" <sup>23</sup>At once an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give the glory to God, and he was eaten by worms and died." CSB

**John 1:1-4** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men." CSB

**John 1:14** "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." CSB

**Deuteronomy 10:20-21** "You are to fear the Lord your God and worship him. Remain faithful to him and take oaths in his name. <sup>21</sup>He is your praise and he is your God, who has done for you these great and awe-inspiring works your eyes have seen." CSB

Five Factors that lead to the choice we make about Jesus:

## **Proof that Jesus is the Messiah vv.37-39**

"If I am not doing my Father's works, don't believe me. <sup>38</sup>But if I am doing them and you don't believe me, believe the works. This way you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I in the Father." <sup>39</sup>Then they were trying again to seize him, but he escaped their grasp." CSB

**John 10:24-26** "If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup>"I did tell you and you don't believe," Jesus answered them. "The works that I do in my



Father's name testify about me. <sup>26</sup>But you don't believe because you are not of my sheep." CSB

David Greenglass was a World War II traitor. He gave atomic secrets to the Soviet Union and then fled to Mexico after the war. His conspirators arranged to help him by planning a meeting with the secretary of the Soviet ambassador in Mexico City. Proper identification for both parties became vital. Greenglass was to identify himself with six prearranged signs. These instructions had been given to both the secretary and Greenglass so there would be no possibility of making a mistake. The signs were: (1) once in Mexico City, Greenglass was to write a note to the secretary, signing his name as "I. Jackson"; (2) after three days he was to go to the Plaza de Colon in Mexico City, and (3) stand before the statue of Columbus, (4) with his middle finger placed in a guide book. In addition, (5) when he was approached, he was to say it was a magnificent statue and that he was from Oklahoma. (6) The secretary was to then give him a passport. The six prearranged signs worked. Why? With six identifying characteristics, it was impossible for the secretary not to identify Greenglass as the proper contact. How true, then, it must be that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah if he had 456 identifying characteristics well in advance and fulfilled them all. Citation: John Ankerberg, John Weldon, and Walter Kaiser Jr., "If Specific Prophecies Were Fulfilled by the Messiah, Does the Science of Probability Consider This Proof There Is a God?"

## **The Works of Jesus declare He is the Messiah**

**John 5:36** "But I have a greater testimony than John's because of the works that the Father has given me to accomplish. These very works I am doing testify about me that the Father has sent me." CSB

The "**works of Jesus**" declare He is the Messiah—

The word translated "**works**" comes from the Greek word "**ergon**"—which means work as a means of life. To work with action and active zeal.

Work is a useful activity as opposed to idleness. Work can be described as domestic chores at home, work for the benefit of others, work can also be heroic acts of war.

The “**Works**” of Jesus are described in **Matthew 4:23-25** “Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And **He healed them**. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.” CSB

The “**Works**” of Jesus that prove He is the Messiah are:

**The Teaching of Jesus— “Didasko”** which means to provide formal instruction.

**The Preaching of Jesus— “Kerysso”** which means public speaking, to make known publicly and loudly.

**The Miraculous Healings of Jesus— “Therapeuo”** which means to serve others, to care for others, to make others whole.

“**Therapeuo**” is synonymous with “**diakeneo**” where we get the term “**deacon**” that refers to the personal willingness to serve others.

**Mark 6:53-56** “When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> As they got out of the boat, people immediately recognized him. <sup>55</sup> They hurried throughout that region and began to carry the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> Wherever he went, into villages, towns, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch just the end of his robe. And everyone who touched it was healed.”

We know Jesus is the Messiah: The Works of Jesus declare He is the Messiah.

Five Factors that lead to the choice we make about Jesus:

## **The Departure of Jesus v.40**

**“So he departed** again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there.” CSB

Jesus departed the temple, He escaped their grasp, they wanted to kill the only who could give them what they were really looking for.

It is a tragic and sad day when Jesus departs because people reject Him!

**Hebrews 3:15** “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts . . .” CSB

**Hebrews 10:31** “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” CSB

Five Factors that lead to the choice we make about Jesus:

### **Believing the Truth about Jesus vv.41-42**

Many came to him and said, “John never did a sign, but everything John said about this man was true.” <sup>42</sup> And many believed in him there. CSB

**What we believe about Jesus changes everything!**

