

#1: EXPLAINING THE CONTROVERSY & GARBLING THE GOSPEL

- Some verses to keep in mind:

I. EXPLAINING THE CONTROVERSY

A. The POSITION... *"What is Lordship Salvation?"*

1. The adherents of this view teach that in order to be "saved by grace" you must ...
 - a. be willing to or actually _____ (their view of repentance) and...
 - b. totally _____ to Christ's lordship/mastery over your daily life. (This is subsumed under "saving faith".
2. The adherents of this view teach that if you are truly saved you will...
 - a. live a _____, righteous godly transformed lifestyle of obedience and ...
 - b. have a faith that endures and _____ to the end of your life or...
 - a. you will _____ your salvation (Arminian view) or...
 - b. you were _____ really saved / elect. (Calvinistic view),
3. The adherents arrived at these conclusions due to...
 - a. a dismay at the professing church and its sad spiritual condition.
 - b. a genuine desire for fruitfulness and faithfulness among believers.
 - c. _____ exegesis and _____ eisegesis that imports or introduces a theological viewpoint upon various passages of Scripture. But is the answer "Lordship Salvation" or a clear Gospel and then teaching believers how to _____ in their sanctification? (John 15:5)

B. The POPULARIZERS... *"Who teaches Lordship Salvation?"*

1. The best known proponents are...
2. Other less known proponents are...
 - Point of clarification: This study is not a negative attack on their personal lives, motives, sincerity, or salvation. But it is an examination of their teaching of Lordship Salvation under the searchlight of the Scriptures.

C. The PRESENT CONTROVERSY. “How Did It Develop?” Historically:

1) It's *NOT* new!

- a. Happening in Biblical times {Galatians}
- b. Protestant Reformation {Accusation of Anti-nomianism}
- c. Calvinism vs. Arminianism
- d. In USA earlier than the 1980s

2) Present Controversy – *Books* (1988 to present)

- a. 1988 – *The Gospel According to Jesus* – MacArthur
- b. 1989 – *So Great Salvation* – Ryrie
- c. 1989 – *Absolutely Free* – Zane Hodges
- d. 1990 – *The Grace Awakening* – Swindoll
- e. 1991 – *Sin, the Savior, and Salvation* - Lightner
- f. 1992 – *The Gospel Under Siege* – Hodges
- g. 1992 - *Saved Without A Doubt* (1 John) - MacArthur
- h. 1993 – *Faith Works: The Gospel According to the Apostles* - J. Mac.
- i. 2003 – *Hard to Believe* – MacArthur
- j. Many others ...

3) New Organizations:

- a. 1986 - Grace Evangelical Society – Hodges & Bob Wilkin
- b. 2004 - Free Grace Alliance founded

4) Results – LS teaching has permeated Bible colleges, seminaries, churches, para-church, missions, radio, books, etc.



My reservations with the phrase, “Free Grace”:

- 1) Its biblical (Romans 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ...)
- 2) Its associated today with doctrines I disagree with.
 - The crossless gospel
 - Punitive damages for believers at the JS of X
 - Repentance – turning from sin; no place in justification
 - The “overcomers” are only victorious Christian

My preferred term would be “true grace” (without sounding arrogant) – 1 Peter 5:10-12

- Is this issue secondary or semantics? ____ (Galatians 1:6-9)

II. EVALUATING THE CONTROVERSY?

A. The PROBLEMS... *"How Does the Teaching of 'Lordship Salvation' Line Up With Scripture?"*

1. Lordship Salvation _____ by mixing your works with Christ's finished work, destroying salvation 'by grace'. What is the Gospel? (1 Cor. 15)

I. THE ENTRANCE OF THE GOSPEL (1 Cor. 15:1-2)

II. THE ELEMENTS OF THE GOSPEL (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

A. The AUTHORITY and IMPORTANCE of the Gospel. (15:3a)

1. The message of the Gospel was _____ by Paul without apology. (1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:11-12)
2. The message of the Gospel was of _____ ..."first of all".

B. The ANALYSIS and CONTENT of the Gospel. (15:3b)

1. The Gospel of salvation centers in a *specific person* who is _____.
Why is this significant?
 - 1) Because of WHO Jesus Christ is!
 - 2) Because of WHY Jesus Christ came!
2. The Gospel of salvation centers in a *specific work*, namely that Christ _____ and _____. Why is this significant?
 - 1) Because through His death, the penalty for sin was paid.
 - 2) Because through His resurrection He conquered sin & death, and can now offer eternal life to you and me.
3. The Gospel of salvation centers in a *specific accomplishment*, namely that Christ died _____. Why is this significant?
 - 1) Because Christ's death was a SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE!
 - 2) Because Christ's death was a COMPLETE SACRIFICE for our sins.
4. The Gospel of salvation requires a *specific response* to receive its blessings, namely _____ alone in _____ alone as presented in the Gospel. (15:2, 11)

III. THE EVIDENCES OF THE GOSPEL (1 Corinthians 15:3-11)

A. Proof #1: The Gospel FULFILLED THE SCRIPTURES. (15:3-4)

1. The _____ of Jesus Christ was ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES. (15:3)
 - Where in the Old Testament would this be found?
2. The _____ of Jesus Christ was ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES. (15:4)
 - Where in the Old Testament would this be found?

- What do the LS teachers teach about the Gospel and salvation by grace?
 - 1) They would say it is 'by grace'.
 - 2) They would say Christ died for sins, though perhaps only of the elect.
 - 3) They would say Christ rose from the dead.
 - 4) But they _____ with Christ's finished work.
- LS Quotes:
- Is the Gospel about Christ's surrender on the cross OR about our surrender of our life?
- Is the Gospel about our sacrifice for Christ OR about Christ's sacrifice for us?
- Is the Gospel about our sorrowfully acknowledging sin, of submission, and sacrifice OR about Christ's?
- Can something be both free and costly to the recipient? Is salvation both free and costly to the sinner? Does salvation cost you everything or was it paid in full by Christ on the cross?
- Where does Romans 12:1-2 fit regarding the 3 tenses / phases of salvation?

2. Lordship Salvation _____ alone
in Christ alone by requiring for salvation the turning from sin, submission to Christ's Lordship, and a commitment to be obedient to Christ in your life.

- * What is the right response to the Gospel of grace?
- * What do the adherents of Lordship Salvation teach regarding the condition of salvation?
 - “repentance” / “repent from your sins”
 - “obedience”
 - “commitment”
- * Is “saving faith” a gift from God or a special kind of faith?
- * Do the Scriptures teach “easy believism” and “cheap grace”?

3. Lordship Salvation _____ (following Jesus Christ) from salvation (trusting in Jesus Christ).

- * Is there a difference? What does Lordship Salvation teach regarding this?
- * Is it possible for a genuine believer to fall away from Christ instead of following Him?
- * Is it possible for a genuine believer to be unfruitful instead of being fruitful?
- * Is it even possible for a genuine believer to be apostate?

4. Lordship Salvation _____ by denying its possibility and reality, while then living with blatant contradictions in several examples and passages.

- * Is there such a thing as a carnal Christian? Can a genuine believer be consistently carnal?
- * Does God discipline believers who persist in sin?
- * What do the adherents of Lordship Salvation teach regarding carnality?
- * What are some of the many biblical problems with this inaccurate doctrinal position?

| JUSTIFICATION BEFORE GOD | vs. | PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION |
|--|-----|--|
| 1. At justification God DECLARES RIGHTEOUS the believing sinner. (Romans 4:1-3) | | 1. In sanctification, God RAISES RIGHTEOUS the yielded / dependant believer who responds to God's Word. (John 17:17) |
| 2. At justification, God IMPUTES righteousness to the believer's standing before God. (Rom. 4:4-9) | | 2. In sanctification, God IMPARTS righteousness to the believer's state practically. (Titus 2:11-12) |
| 3. Justification happens OUTSIDE the believing sinner. | | 3. Sanctification occurs INSIDE the responsive believer. |
| 4. Justification is a one-time event at a POINT IN TIME when a sinner believes in Christ. (Galatians 2:16) | | 4. Sanctification is to be an ONGOING as the believer walks by faith under the Spirit's control. (1 Peter 3:18) |
| 5. Justification involves salvation from sin's PENALTY. | | 5. Sanctification involves salvation from sin's POWER practically. |
| 6. Justification changes a believer's DESTINY. | | 6. Sanctification change's a believer's LIFE. |
| 7. Justification is solely by God's GRACE. | | 7. Sanctification is solely by God's GRACE. |

- * Is it possible for a genuine believer in Christ to fall away from Christ instead of following Him?

These verses indicate that a believer can fall...

- ... into unbelief (Luke 8:13)
- ... in his walk (Psalm 37:23-24)
- ... into calamity (Prov. 28:14)
- ... into sin (1 Cor. 10:12)
- ... into legalism and away from the principles of grace (Gal. 5:4)
- ... into reproach and the snare of the devil (1 Tim. 3:7)
- ... into temptation, a snare, and many harmful lusts (1 Tim. 6:9)
- ... into unbelief or disobedience (Heb.4:11)
- ... into unfruitfulness or disuse (2 Peter 1:10)
- ... from his own steadfastness (2 Peter 3:17)
- ... from His first love (Rev. 2:5).

- Is it possible for a genuine believer to be unfruitful instead of fruitful for Christ?
- 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 11:28-32

5. Lordship Salvation _____ of one's salvation by causing the person to look at their walk instead of Christ's finished work to possess it.

- * Can a believer in Christ be certain and sure they are saved from the moment they believe and forever?
- * What does the basis of assurance primarily rest on?
- * What do the adherents of Lordship Salvation teach regarding assurance?
- * What about 1 John & James 2?
- “should” passages:
 - * How do secondary evidences of salvation fit into this?
 - * What do LS teachers do with “discipleship” passages?

6. Lordship Salvation _____ to serve Christ out of His love for us and our thankfulness to Him for saving us, and it makes a godly life a must to be lived in order to prove to ourselves that we are saved.

- * How does this happen?
- * What should motivate a sinner saved by grace to serve the Lord?

7. Lordship Salvation _____ instead of facing them for what they are – blatant contradiction and glaring inconsistencies.

- * How do Lordship Salvation adherents excuse their contradictions?
- * What is the problem with this?

8. Lordship Salvation _____ by misinterpreting most difficult passages in a way to fit their theological system while neglecting the very clear explanations of salvation.

* What are some examples of this?

9. Lordship Salvation _____.

* What are some examples of this?

10. Lordship Salvation is the by-product of _____ instead of striking a true biblical balance.

* Why is this?

B. The POINT... "What Must I Do To Be Saved?"

* How should you deal with teachers of Lordship Salvation?

* How should you deal with individuals confused by Lordship Salvation?

* How should you respond to all this?