

## **#6: THE PROBLEM OF ANNIHILATING THE ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

### **I. EXPLAINING THE CONTROVERSY**

### **II. EVALUATING THE CONTROVERSY**

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

- 1. Lordship Salvation GARBLES THE GOSPEL** by mixing your works with Christ's finished work, destroying salvation 'by grace' and taking the spotlight off Jesus Christ and putting it on you.
- 2. Lordship Salvation REDEFINES THE RIGHT RESPONSE OF THE GOSPEL FROM FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE** by requiring for salvation the turning from sin, total surrender to Christ's Lordship /Mastery, and a lifelong commitment to be obedient to Christ.
- 3. Lordship Salvation CONFUSES CHRISTIAN CARNALITY** by denying its ongoing possibility and reality, while then living with blatant contradictions in several examples and passages.
- 4. Lordship Salvation fails to properly distinguish the biblical truths of JUSTIFICATION BEFORE GOD vs. SANCTIFICATION & DISCIPLESHIP IN TIME.**
- 5. Lordship Salvation \_\_\_\_\_ of one's eternal salvation by causing the person to look at their walk & fruit instead of Christ's finished work to possess absolute assurance.**
  - Can a believer in Christ be certain and sure they are saved from the moment they believe in Christ and forever?
  - What does the basis of this assurance primarily rest on?
  - What are some of these promises?
  - What do the adherents of Lordship Salvation teach regarding assurance of salvation?
    - a. No 100% assurance is possible until death.
    - b. You should look at your fruit (behavior) instead of the root (belief in Christ) for assurance of salvation.

LS Statements:

"If you are really saved, you will hate the things you once loved and love the things you once hated."

"If you haven't forsaken all of your sin, you were never really saved to begin with.

You had a head belief and not a heart belief."

“If you haven’t repented of all of your sin, you are not saved yet. You have to really mean business with God and repent of all of your sins.”

“If you are still desiring the things of the world, you are probably not saved.”

“You can’t go to heaven if you are hanging on to the world.”

“If Christ is not Lord of all, He’s not Lord at all.”

“If you come to church with a sour disposition, don’t fool yourself into thinking you are going to Heaven.”

“If you are not tithing, you will not go to Heaven.”

“If you are practicing sin, you are not saved.”

“If you’ve grown cold towards the Lord, you were probably never truly saved.”

“If you do not endure and persevere as a Christian to the end of your life, you were never a real Christian to begin with. All true Christians endure to the end.”

- What is the problem with each of these statements?
  
- Who are some examples of biblical assurance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is the difference between the assurance of salvation vs eternal security?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why do people lack the absolute assurance of salvation?
  - 1) Because they are \_\_\_\_\_ truly saved.
  - 2) Because they go by their \_\_\_\_\_ instead of by faith in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) Because they seek assurance by their \_\_\_\_\_ instead of Christ’s completed work.
  - 4) Because they succumb to the \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 6:10-11, 17)
  - 5) Because they live in \_\_\_\_\_ and fail to grow spiritually. (2 Pet. 1:8-10)
  - 6) Because they think they need to know the exact \_\_\_\_\_ of their salvation. (2 Tim. 1:12)
  - 7) Because they have fallen prey to \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Tim. 4:2-4)
  - 8) Because they reject the \_\_\_\_\_ for some form of perseverance.
  
- What does 2 Corinthians 13:5 actually teach?

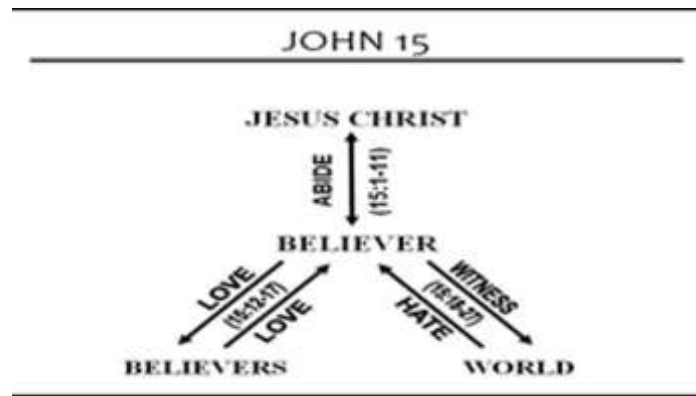
2 Corinthians 13:5 *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless indeed you are disqualified.*

  - 1) Is Paul doubting their salvation?
  - 2) Why are they being told to ‘examine yourselves ...’?

- What about 1 John? Is it about *Tests of Life* or *Fellowship with God*?
  - 1) What is the purpose of 1 John?
  - 2) Who are the recipients of 1 John?
  - 3) What are some things to keep in mind?
  - 4) What are some key truths to keep in mind when interpreting 1 John?
  
- How do secondary evidences of salvation fit into all this?
  
- Is it possible for a genuine believer to be unfruitful instead of fruitful for Christ? LS says \_\_\_\_\_!  
The Bible says \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- 1) 2 Peter 1:4-10 / 1:8-9 *For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*
  
- 2) 2 Peter 3:17-18: *You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*
  
- 3) Mark 4 – The Parable of the Sower & the Soils (Mark 4) – which of these 4 soils were believers with spiritual life? Fruit?
  - a) The setting (4:1-2)
  - b) The parable (4:3-9) – What is the normal interpretation of this Parable? Observations:
  
  - c) The interpretation of the parable (4:13-20)
    - Soil 1: Wayside
    - Soil 2: Stony
    - Soil 3: Thorny
    - Soil 4: Good
  - d) Conclusion:

- What is the key to fruit bearing? (John 15:1-8)

How do the LS teachers interpret this passage?



- Some key observations about this passage:

1) This entire passage is for \_\_\_\_\_ only.

... HISTORICALLY – these words were spoken to the eleven saved disciples only after the unsaved Judas had already departed to betray Jesus Christ. (John 13:21-30)

... CONTEXTUALLY – the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17) is directed toward believers in light of Christ’s death, resurrection, ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit highlighting humble service & love for one another (John 13), Christ preparing a place in Heaven and coming again (John 14), abiding in Christ and being a witness to the world (John 15), the ministries of the HS and praying in Jesus name (John 16), etc.

... EXEGETICALLY – this passage describes individuals that are “in Me” (vs.2), “already clean” (vs.3), “chosen” (vs.16), and who are commanded to “abide in Me” (vs. 4), which would only be appropriate for a genuine believer.

2) These verses center on the connection of abiding in Christ resulting in \_\_\_\_\_, not salvation. What word is mentioned 6 times in this passage?

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.