

#10: THE PROBLEM OF SUFFOCATING SPIRITUALITY BY GRACE

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 & 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 **ANNIHILATES THE ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE** 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.
6. Lordship Salvation **GUARANTEES THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS** instead of merely **GUARANTEEING THE PRESERVATION OF THE SAVIOR - ETERNAL SECURITY**.
7. Lordship Salvation **MUDDLING MEANINGFUL MOTIVATIONS** to serve Jesus Christ out of His love for us & our thankfulness to Him for having saved us, and instead makes our lives a practical experiment to prove our salvation to ourselves.
8. Lordship Salvation **PARADOXES POTENTIAL PROBLEMS** instead of facing them for what they really are – blatant contradictions and glaring inconsistencies.
9. Lordship Salvation does _____ by misinterpreting many scriptural passages out of context to fit their theological system while neglecting the very clear explanations of salvation.
10. Lordship Salvation _____ by Grace by approaching salvation, assurance, and the Christian life with a legalistic approach instead of by God's grace.

Legalism is ...

A. The WARNING about Preaching a DIFFERENT GOSPEL (Gal. 1:6-12) 7 Observations ...

1. There is a serious warning given about a _____ gospel that was being preached. (1:6)
2. The preaching of “another gospel” has a _____ effect upon believers, especially newer Christians. (1:7).
3. Genuine Christians can _____ from God and the true Gospel of grace due to false teaching. (1:6)
4. The Gospel of grace was being _____ by some which included to faith alone in Christ alone and His finished work alone the _____, thus nullifying the truth of grace. (1:7)
5. The Gospel of grace allows for no _____ from the Pauline standard (1 Cor. 15:3-4) because he received his Gospel from _____ directly. (1:10-12)
6. The _____ of God (divine censure) is upon anyone who preaches “another gospel”. (1:8-9)
7. The Gospel is the _____ of salvific truth, even over an angel, an apostle, or anyone. Thus, the Gospel of grace _____ the messenger, not vice-versa. (1:8-9)
 - How does this apply to LS teaching?

B. The PERVERSION of LEGALISM Regarding ...

1. _____ before God. (2:16) What is the value of contrast in your Gospel presentation?
2. _____ in time. (2:20-3:1-5) What do we learn from this?
 - How does this apply to LS teaching?

C. The ENCOURAGEMENT to RESIST LEGALISM and STAND FAST in GRACE. (5:1-6)

1. POSITIVELY ... “_____ therefore in the liberty by which _____ has set us _____”. (5:1a)
2. NEGATIVELY ... “and _____ be _____ again with the _____.” (5:1b-4) If you embrace a legalistic theology or thinking ...
 - a. you will become involved in a non-grace-oriented approach to biblical or non-biblical works such as _____. (5:2a)
 - What are some examples of this?
 - Can someone be legalistic when doing legitimate, God-ordained works?

b. you will mentally undermine your dependence upon the person and work of _____. (5:2b)

c. you should (if consistent) become a _____ to do the _____ law. (5:3)

- Why is this? Since this does not occur, what results?

d. you will _____ from the principles of _____. (5:4) Who would be guilty of this? Why? What does this mean and undermine?

3. SPECIFICALLY. (5:5-8) When living under grace ...

a. believers live “*through the*” power of the _____. (5:5a) How does one receive the Holy Spirit & is the power of the Holy Spirit really even needed under legalism?

b. believers “*eagerly _____ for the _____ of _____.*” (5:5b) What does mean & where does it apply?

c. believers live “*by _____.*” (5:5c) What does this involve? How is this encouraged & expressed? How is this different than legalism?

d. believers live in light of their identity “*_____.*” (5:6a) What does this mean practically?

e. believers recognize the worthlessness of spirituality by _____.(5:6b)

f. believers realize what really matters is “*_____ through _____.*” (5:6c)

* What other spiritual imbalance does this avoid? (5:13-15)

* While legalism emphasizes works, what does grace emphasize?