

LORDSHIP SALVATION

Galatians 1:6-7 The fact that Paul opened his letter to this church with such a proclamation of condemnation to those who would corrupt the gospel tells us of the importance of getting it right.

II Corinthians 11:3-4 When Paul addressed the backslidden believers in the church at Corinth he spoke of some who would preach “another Jesus and another gospel” and many are still doing it.

I Corinthians 15:1-4 Paul gives the world the clearest presentation of what the gospel is to the most carnal church in his day. He clearly stated that he preached the same gospel that he received and that it is by this gospel that we are saved. How so many people get confused is truly a great mystery, (Satan).

JOHN MACARTHUR

The most well known advocate of Lordship salvation is John MacArthur of Grace Community Church in California. He says “the gospel call to faith presupposes (assumes, implies), that sinners must repent of their sins and yield to Christ's authority”. This sounds wonderful at the surface but we need to inspect it close to find out if what he preaches is biblically sound in what it promotes.

First MacArthur says “the gospel that Jesus proclaimed was a call to discipleship, a call to follow Him in submissive obedience.” Theologically the word obedience is equal to the word “works.”

Second MacArthur says Christ's *death* purchased eternal salvation.

Third He proclaims that the nature of the Christian is new and different and all will produce fruit.

Forth He teaches that saving faith demands total surrender and “is at the very heart of the gospel.”

The main controversy regarding lordship salvation deals with whether a person is saved by grace through faith alone or is salvation obtained by faith accompanied by a commitment of submission to the Lordship of Christ and repentance of sin. Is salvation a one step or two step process.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Ephesians 2:8-9; Rm. 3:24 The bible clearly states that we are saved by grace (undeserved favor), through faith in Jesus Christ finished work of salvation. Eternal life is free. In approximately 150 verses in the N. T. the bible tells of salvation simply by believing or having faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts 17:30-34; Acts 20:21 It is clear that in the context of salvation repentance is changing ones mind about God regarding the person of Christ, who He is, what He has done, what He will do.

First Response – Galatians 1:8-9; I Cor. 15:1-4 Anything added to the simple gospel is considered 'another gospel’ and considered “works.” Those who teach it are accursed. Salvation is free, unmerited, undeserved, no condition except believing, trusting and receiving Christ's finished work of redemption.

Second response – Rom. 3:25; 5:9; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14 Totally contrary to what John MacArthur teaches, it is the blood of Christ not His death that has purchased eternal life for all believers.

Third response - Rom. 7:21-23; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; II Cor. 5:17 MacArthur insists that believers have their nature changed into a spiritual nature and do not have the 'old man' nature anymore. He insists that sin in believers come from the flesh but not the old man nature.

Regarding spiritual fruit - Matthew 13:22-23; Jn. 15:1-8; I Cor. 3:15 MacArthur insists that all true believers will have fruit in their lives and be evident by others. The bible tells a different story.

Forth response – John 3:16; Rom. 12:1-2; Mt. 16:24 MacArthur loses sight of “the heart of the gospel.” God's unconditional love is “the heart of the gospel.” Our submission and dedication to Christ is voluntary. Being a Christian for us is free, being a disciple of Christ comes at a cost but is rewarding.

Problems with Lordship Salvation – Phil. 2:9-11 We do not make Jesus Lord. **Luke 18:18-21** How much obedience is enough, how much repentance is enough, how much commitment is enough, how much service is enough, how many good works is enough to have assurance I am saved?