

Breakout Session: The Lingering Effects of Lordship Salvation

Lordship Salvation Defined

Charles C. Bing rightly states in his book, *Lordship Salvation: A Biblical Examination and Response*, “The designation ‘Lordship Salvation’ is reluctantly accepted by both proponents and opponents...as defined by its own advocates, Lordship Salvation could more properly be called ‘Commitment Salvation,’ ‘Surrender Salvation,’ or ‘Submission Salvation.’”¹ In addition to simple faith in the person and work of Christ on the cross, the lordship camp teaches that one needs to submit or yield to Christ’s lordship. In fact, they would include submission as a vital part of “saving faith.”

- A. Two quick summary points of where lordship teachers are confused...
 - 1. **1st: Faith** - The biblical response to the gospel required to be saved is always and **ONLY faith** in the finished work of Christ.

 - 2. **2nd: The Gospel** – The gospel is defined clearly in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 as the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ with two verifiable proofs for each component of His work (Death – burial and prophecy, Resurrection – eyewitnesses and prophecy).

Lingering Effect #1: Temporal Insecurity

- A. **WRONG EMPHASIS #1**: Two-Pronged Approach to Eternal Security and Assurance
 - 1. **THE PROBLEM**: Anytime a person bases one’s assurance subjectively on his or her own obedience or lack of sinning, one of two results occur: (1) absolute and total despair (Romans 7:14-25) or (2) complete arrogance and self-righteousness (1 Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 5:13-15).

- B. **WRONG EMPHASIS #2**: Perseverance of the Saints (a tenet of Calvinism)
 - 1. **THE PROBLEM #1**: MacArthur and other lordship proponents seem to live in the world of extremes: a believer will be extremely fruitful, or he or she is an unbeliever.

 - 2. **THE PROBLEM #2**: What level of obedience is required to **PROVE** one’s salvation is genuine?

 - 3. **THE PROBLEM #3**: If obedience is assured in the Christian’s life, then New Testament commands to obey become irrelevant and illogical. Either the New Testament honestly exhorts believers to obedient Christian living, understanding the real possibility of failure, or the strong ethical sections of the Apostles’ writings are reduced to logical absurdities.²

¹ Charles C. Bing, *Lordship Salvation: A Biblical Evaluation and Response. Grace Life Edition* (Burlison, TX: Grace Life Ministries, 1991), 5.

² Kevin J. Butcher, “A Critique of *The Gospel According to Jesus*,” *The Journal of the Grace Evangelical Society* 2, (Spring 1989), 43.

4. **THE PROBLEM #4:** Lordship teachers use “undefinable” terminology, and expect everyone to be O.K. with it. Some examples of this:

Lingering Effect #2: Set Apart – But Not Really!?

- A. **WRONG EMPHASIS #1:** Lordship proponents do NOT believe that there is such a thing as a carnal Christian.
- B. **WRONG EMPHASIS #2:** Lordship teachers teach that believers cannot be dominated by sin at all.
- C. **WRONG EMPHASIS #3:** Lordship teachers confuse and combine justification truths with sanctification truths.
- D. **WRONG EMPHASIS #4:** Lordship teachers teach that experiential or progressive sanctification must occur for someone to be saved and they practically ignore positional or past sanctification.

Lingering Effect #3: Legalism – Working to Maintain Salvation

- A. **WRONG EMPHASIS #1:** Lordship teachers still emphasize the need for law-keeping in the believer’s life and they do not recognize the believer’s new relationship to the Law.
- B. **WRONG EMPHASIS #2:** Lordship teachers wrongly teach sanctification passages, including ignoring context and Greek grammar to make their points.
1. ***Romans 6:14***
 2. ***Romans 7:4***
 3. ***Jeremiah 31:31-34***