

LORDSHIP SALVATION

A BRIEF MID-ACTS PERSPECTIVE

“And hereby we do know that we know him,
if we keep his commandments.”

~ 1 John 2:3

1. Introduction

- a. Lordship salvation is not a term in the Bible, but a controversy in the 20th c
- b. This is not a screed against John MacArthur or a devotion to Zane Hodges
- c. The controversy is muddled with: *the Bible issue, Calvinism/Arminianism, eternal security, evangelism, justification/sanctification, which gospel, faith/works, confession*
- d. The controversy shows the serious need for dispensational right division
- e. The problem hits close to home here: 1 John, joint-heirs, who are 'grace' believers?
- f. Bible believing mid-Acts Pauline right division is more apt to handle these issues

2. Defining the Issue

- a. Comes from people professing Christ, but not living it, lack commitment, fruit, carnal
- b. Definition is a problem in the discussion, similar to 'kingdom', 'gospel', 'salvation'
- c. MacArthur says saving faith involves personal commitment to Christ that affects behavior – John 10:27-28; Hodges says salvation is by belief at any time in John 6:47
- d. Pejoratives abound: easy believism, cheap grace, antinomian vs. legalist
- e. It is possible to be neither Lordship nor Free Grace: you can be Pauline.
- f. The essential issue involves how do you know you are saved (assurance).
 - i. Commitment, obedience, perseverance, or mere belief in certain facts?

3. Texts to Review

- a. Bible issue is found in Colossians 2:6 – “as Lord” or “as ye have received” (NIV v KJ)
- b. James 2:17 – Faith without works is dead is said that saving faith is shown by works
- c. Matthew 7:12-21 – We know them by their fruit, strait gate, Lord – Lk 6:46
- d. Primary texts for Lordship teaching come from John’s writings
- e. 1 John 1:6 – if we say... an walk not... we are liars; - what about Eph 3:9?
- f. 1 John 2:3-4 – we know him if we keep the commandments – John 14:15
 - i. My sheep follow me – John 10:27-28, Matt 12:50
 - ii. How do we know Christ? 2 Cor 5:16 – not after the flesh
- g. 1 John 2:9-11 – Are you in the light or not? Compare to Eph 5:8
- h. 1 John 3:4-10 – No one known of God commits sin (NASB says 'practices') – Rom 7:24
- i. 1 John 3:14-15 – No murderer hath eternal life abiding in him – 1 Tim 1:13?
- j. Paul does not excuse or justify sin – Rom 3:6-8; he kills it in Romans 6 in Christ.
- k. The difference between Israel and the church is significant, and needs to be addressed when talking about this issue.