

“Lordship Salvation” vs. “Free Grace”

The Controversy Chronology:

1988 - John McArthur, The Gospel According to Jesus

Responds to:

Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology (1947)
Lewis Sperry Chafer, Grace: The Glorious Theme (1972)
Charles Ryrie, Balancing the Christian Life (1969)
Charles Ryrie, Survey of Bible Doctrine (1972)
Zane Hodges, The Hungry Inherit (1972)
Zane Hodges, The Gospel Under Siege (1981)
Zane Hodges, Grace in Eclipse (1985)

1989 - Zane Hodges, Absolutely Free!: A Biblical Reply to Lordship Salvation

1989 - Charles Ryrie, So Great Salvation: What it Means to Believe in Jesus Christ

The Controversy Issues:

[1] The requirement of salvation.
FG: Trust Christ as Savior

LS: Trust Christ as Savior & Lord of Your Life

[2] Confession of Jesus is Lord.
FG: Jesus is God, Lord of Lords

LS: Jesus is Master of My Life

[3] Meaning of Repentance
FG: Change of mind about my sin and who Jesus is.

LS: Change of lifestyle or willingness to forsake all known sin.

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[4] Relationship of Discipleship and the Gospel.

FG: The call to salvation is distinct from the call to discipleship.

LS: The call to salvation is the call to discipleship as well.

The Controversy Observations:

- [1] This is not a new issue.

- [2] Both sides tend to talk past each other and stereotype the opposing view – even condemning their opponents as false teachers proclaiming a false gospel.

- [3] There are indeed significant issues at stake (see above).

- [4] There are practical consequences of these issues:
 - ▶ Assurance of your salvation.
 - ▶ Assurance of another's salvation.
 - ▶ Presentation of the gospel to the unbeliever.

Note: Larry Moyer, Free & Clear: Understanding and Communicating God's Offer of the Gospel (1997)