

Foundations – part 9: Lordship Salvation

What is Lordship Salvation?

Definition of Lordship Salvation

Lordship Salvation refers to the view that genuine faith in Christ necessitates both acknowledging Jesus as Savior and _____ to Him as Lord. This perspective underscores that when a person believes in Christ's saving work, that belief naturally produces a transformed life and a willingness to obey His commands. It hinges on the conviction that "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9). Confession of Christ as Lord is more than a verbal statement; it marks a life-_____ alignment under His authority.

Scriptural Foundation: _____ Jesus as Lord

The primary biblical rationale for Lordship Salvation emerges from numerous passages affirming Christ's ultimate authority. In **Matthew 7:21**, Jesus states, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will _____ the kingdom of heaven, **but only the one who does** the will of my Father who is in heaven." This highlights that genuine discipleship involves more than profession-it requires obedience. Likewise, Jesus Himself taught, "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15), showing that a believer's affections and actions converge when embracing Christ's Lordship.

Biblical Evidence from the _____ Testament

While the term "Lordship Salvation" is New Testament in emphasis, the Old Testament consistently reveals the importance of turning from sin and submitting to God's authority. From Yahweh's covenant with _____ (Genesis 17) to the _____ Law given at Sinai (Exodus 19-20), submission to God was always intended as the response of faith in the One who delivers from bondage. This concept forms a theological foundation for understanding Christ's Lordship in the New Testament era, where the believer is called to observe the moral essence of God's commands, fulfilled and exemplified by Jesus.

Biblical Evidence from the _____ Testament

1. **Romans 10:9-10** 9If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.
 - o Emphasizes the requirement to confess Jesus as Lord alongside heartfelt belief in His resurrection.
2. **Philippians 2:9-11** 9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus _____ knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - o Declares that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord.

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3. **James 2:17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is _____.
 - Teaches that “faith by itself, if it does not result in action, is dead.” Submission to Christ’s authority-His lordship-is a hallmark of living faith.

These passages collectively underscore that faith is not passive but is authenticated by obedience to the One believed in.

Core Theological Considerations

1. **Faith and _____**: Scripture portrays repentance (a turning from sin) as an indispensable element accompanying saving faith (**Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38**). Lordship Salvation underscores that authentic faith willingly leaves behind sin to pursue holiness in Christ.
 2. **Grace and Works: Ephesians 2:8-9** clarifies that salvation is a gift from God, not based on works. Yet verse 10 affirms believers are “**created in Christ Jesus to do good works**”. Good works do not earn salvation but naturally flow from genuine faith under Christ’s lordship. **Philippians 2:13** reveals that it is the presence of **God that is in the believer** that causes them to do the works that will fulfill his good purpose.
 - **Philippians 2:13 (NIV)** for it is **God who works** in you **to will and to act** in order to fulfill his good purpose.
 3. **Transformation and Sanctification**: Spiritual _____(**Romans 12:2**) is a **continuous process** of being conformed to the image of Christ. Lordship Salvation highlights that **the Holy Spirit empowers believers to grow in obedience**, reflecting the submission inherent in calling Jesus “Lord.”
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Common _____

1. **“Lordship Salvation Teaches Salvation by _____.”**
 - This misconception arises from conflating ongoing obedience with an attempt to earn salvation. Scripture clearly sets salvation as God’s grace-gift (**Titus 3:5**). Works of obedience become the fruit, not the root, of saving faith.
 2. **“Obedience _____ the Sufficiency of Faith.”**
 - Genuine faith in Christ’s atoning work is absolutely central for justification (**Romans 3:23-24**). Obedience is an expression that such faith has taken hold of the person’s entire being. Rather than detracting from Christ’s sufficiency, it showcases His lordship in all areas of life.
 3. **“Lordship Salvation Contradicts _____ Security.”**
 - Submitting to Christ’s authority does not war against the doctrine that true believers are eternally secure in Him (**John 10:28**). Instead, it affirms that those truly regenerated by the Holy Spirit will evidence perseverance and increasing submission over time.
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Historical Development

In early church history, writings of Church Fathers such as Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna reflect an emphasis on believers living under the _____ of Christ's teachings. Their exhortations echo the apostolic call that acknowledging Christ as Lord carries moral and spiritual implications. Later theological works emphasized that one cannot separate Jesus' role as Savior from His role as Lord. During the Reformation, theologians like John Calvin frequently referenced that faith alone justifies, yet saving faith is never _____ - it is accompanied by new affections and obedience to Christ.

Archaeological and Manuscript Support

Textual evidence, such as early Greek _____ (e.g., *P66 and P75, Greek manuscripts dating to the second/third century*), attests to the continuity of New Testament teaching on Christ's Lordship. Archaeological discoveries like the _____ Scrolls validate the reliability of the Old Testament texts, thereby underscoring the foundation upon which the New Testament authors drew. These findings support the unified biblical narrative: God calls believers into covenant relationship where submission to His revealed will has always been the defining characteristic of authentic faith.

Practical Implications for Believers

Those who embrace Lordship Salvation:

1. _____ **Obedience**: Motivated by love, not legalism, they desire daily to follow Christ's commandments.
 - **John 14:15 (NIV)** "If you love me, keep my commands."
 2. **Experience Growth in** _____: Reliance on the Holy Spirit yields progressive sanctification that reflects Christ's character.
 - **Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)** 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
 3. **Bear Fruit in** _____: The transformation under Christ's authority becomes a testimony to the power of the gospel before the watching world. Believers make believers.
 - **1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
 4. **Retain** _____: A life shaped by submission to Christ provides spiritual confidence rather than presumption.
 - **Hebrews 10:19-22 (NIV)** 19Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with **the full assurance that faith brings**, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
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Addressing Concerns about _____

Some worry that Lordship Salvation can veer into legalism-focusing on external rules. Biblically, submission to Christ stems from a redeemed heart. As Jesus reiterates, the greatest commandments are to love God and love one's _____ (Matthew 22:37-40). When believers yield to Christ as Lord, they uphold His standards out of gratitude for grace, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, rather than seeking self-righteous achievement.

Contrasted with _____ Grace Theology

This view teaches that salvation comes from faith alone, with no requirement for submission, repentance, or _____ as conditions for eternal life.

- **Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV)** “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Summary Chart

Topic	Lordship Salvation	Free Grace Theology
Jesus as Lord	Must _____ to Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9)	Can receive Jesus as Savior only
Role of Repentance	Essential for salvation (Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19)	Not _____ for salvation
Evidence of Salvation	Obedience and transformation (James 2:17; 1 John 2:3-4)	No necessary outward evidence
Following Christ	Daily submission and discipleship (Luke 9:23; John 10:27)	Following Christ is _____, not required for eternal life
Grace and Works	Grace alone saves, but real faith produces works (Ephesians 2:8–9 with James 2:17)	Grace alone saves, works are _____ to assurance

Conclusion

Lordship Salvation underscores that genuine belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ calls for wholehearted _____ to His authority. While salvation is by grace apart from works, the evidence of a redeemed heart is a life that openly confesses and submits to Jesus as Lord.

Such submission is not burdensome but a _____ outcome, aligning with God's design for abundant life (John 10:10). From Old Testament foundations to New Testament clarity, from church history to modern Christian experience, Scripture consistently teaches that confessing Jesus as Lord, and living accordingly, is integral to the believer's faith. It is an affirmation of the transforming reality of salvation, in which Jesus is not merely an option but the reigning _____ who graciously redeems and sustains His people.