

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF BIBLE  
Department of Biblical Education  
Do 313, Doctrine III  
Professor Charles C. Ryrie  
Assignment Handout

From Faith Works *The Gospel According to the Apostles*  
MacArthur, pp.26-27.

*What Does the No-lordship Gospel Teach?*

I have listed sixteen beliefs of lordship salvation. The first seven are tenets every major no-lordship advocate would also affirm:

- Christ's death purchased eternal salvation.
- The Saved are justified through faith in Christ alone.
- Sinners cannot earn divine favor.
- God requires no preparatory works or pre-salvation reformation.
- Eternal life is a gift.
- Believers are saved before their faith produces any righteous works.
- Christians sin, sometimes horribly.

On that much we all agree. Those who espouse the no-lordship position, however, differ dramatically from lordship salvation on the remaining nine points. Instead they teach:

- Repentance is a change of mind about Christ (SGS 96, 99).<sup>2</sup> In the context of the gospel invitation, *repentance* is just a synonym for *faith* (SGS 97-99). No turning from sin is required for salvation (SGS 99).
- The whole of salvation, including faith, is a gift of God (SGS 96). But faith might not last. A true Christian can completely cease believing (SGS 141).
- Saving faith is simply being convinced or giving credence to the truth of the gospel (SGS 156). It is confidence that Christ can remove guilt and give eternal life, not a personal commitment to *Him* (SGS 119).

- *Some* spiritual fruit is inevitable in every Christian's experience. The fruit, however, might not be visible to others (SGS 45). Christians can even lapse into a state of permanent spiritual barrenness (SGS 53-54).
- Only the *judicial* aspects of salvation -- such as justification, adoption, imputed righteousness, and positional sanctification -- are guaranteed for believers in this life (SGS 150-52). *Practical* sanctification and growth in grace require a postconversion act of dedication.<sup>3</sup>
- Submission to Christ's supreme authority as Lord is not germane to the saving transaction (SGS 71-76). Neither dedication nor *willingness* to be dedicated to Christ are issues in salvation (SGS 74). The news that Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead is the complete gospel. Nothing else must be believed for salvation (SGS 40-41).
- Christians may fall into a state of lifelong carnality. A whole category of "carnal Christians" -- born-again people who continuously live like the unsaved -- exists in the church (SGS 31, 59-66).
- Disobedience and prolonged sin are no reason to doubt the reality of one's faith (SGS 48).
- A believer may utterly forsake Christ and come to the point of not believing. God has guaranteed that He will not disown those who thus abandon the faith (SGS 141). Those who have once believed are secure forever, even if they turn away (SGS 143).

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