



Senior Adult Community
Grace Fellowship Church

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Differing Beliefs in the Local Church

SESSION 4 How Can I Be Sure of My Salvation?

REVIEW & REMINDERS



CLASS SESSIONS

1. How do we interpret the Bible?
2. What is God's role in salvation?
3. How do we find salvation?
4. **How can I be sure of my salvation?**
5. What are Covenant theology distinctives?



IMPORTANT TERMS

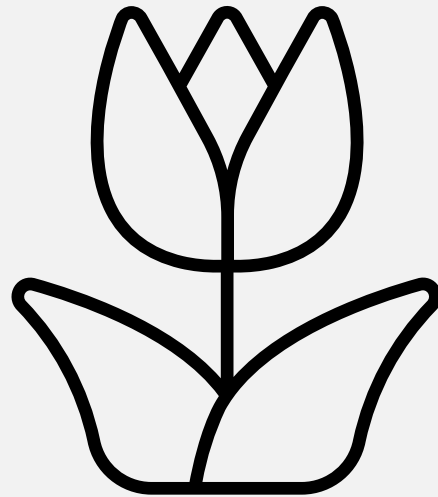
Eisegesis interpreting a text through one's own agendas, biases, or presuppositions. Literally “to read into.”

Exegesis explaining the meaning of a text based on a careful, objective analysis. Literally “to lead out of.”

Hermeneutics The study and methodology of interpretation.
Literal – Grammatical – Historical – Consistent - Context



WHAT IS CALVINISM?



5 Points

Total ~~Depravity~~ **Inability**

Unconditional Election

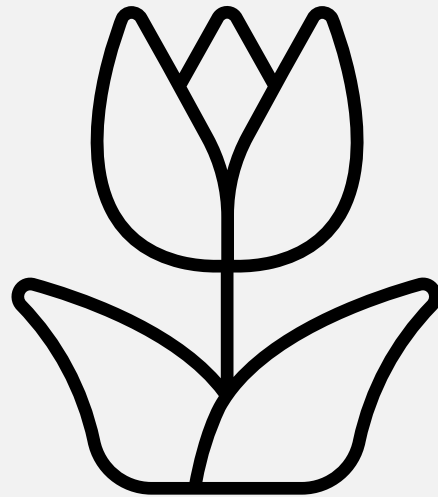
Limited Atonement

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of the Saints



WHAT IS CALVINISM?



5 Points

Sovereignty

Total Depravity ~~Inability~~

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SESSION 4
HOW CAN I BE SURE OF MY
SALVATION?

Soteriology



INTRODUCTION

Answering the question “How can I be sure of my salvation?” flows from our view of how we obtained our salvation in the first place.

We might also ask the related question “Can I lose my salvation?”

From these questions comes differing theological positions known as “Lordship Salvation” in contrast to “Free Grace Theology.”



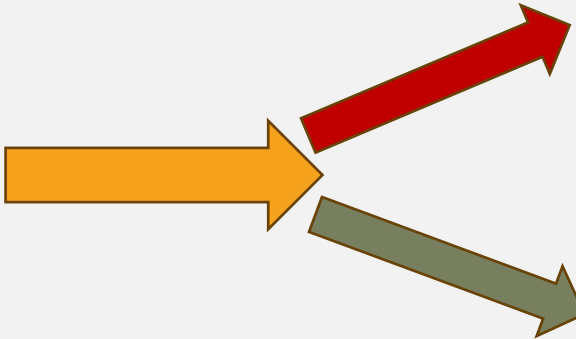
INTRODUCTION

How can I be sure of my salvation?

Lordship Salvation

Arminianism

- Free Will Choice – Faith plus works
- How? Look to Fruit



Free Grace

Provisionism

- Free Will Choice – Faith alone
- How? Look to Jesus

Calvinism

Lordship Salvation

- Sovereign Election – Faith that works
- How? Look to Fruit



INTRODUCTION

How can I be sure of my salvation?

Lordship Salvation
Methodist – Wesleyan -
Pentecostal

Presbyterian
–Reformed - Covenant

Lordship Salvation

Arminianism

- Free Will Choice – Faith plus works
- How? Look to Fruit

Baptist –
non-Denom

Provisionism

- Free Will Choice – Faith alone
- How? Look to Jesus

Calvinism

- Sovereign Election – Faith that works
- How? Look to Fruit

Free Grace



IMPORTANT TERMS

Lordship Salvation – teaches that submitting to Christ as Lord goes hand-in-hand with trusting in Christ as Savior. The gospel presupposes that sinners must repent of their sin and yield to Christ’s authority.

Free Grace Salvation – teaches that responding to the “call to believe” in Jesus Christ through faith alone is all that is necessary to receive eternal life. Simple belief brings salvation. Following Christ brings sanctification.



DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

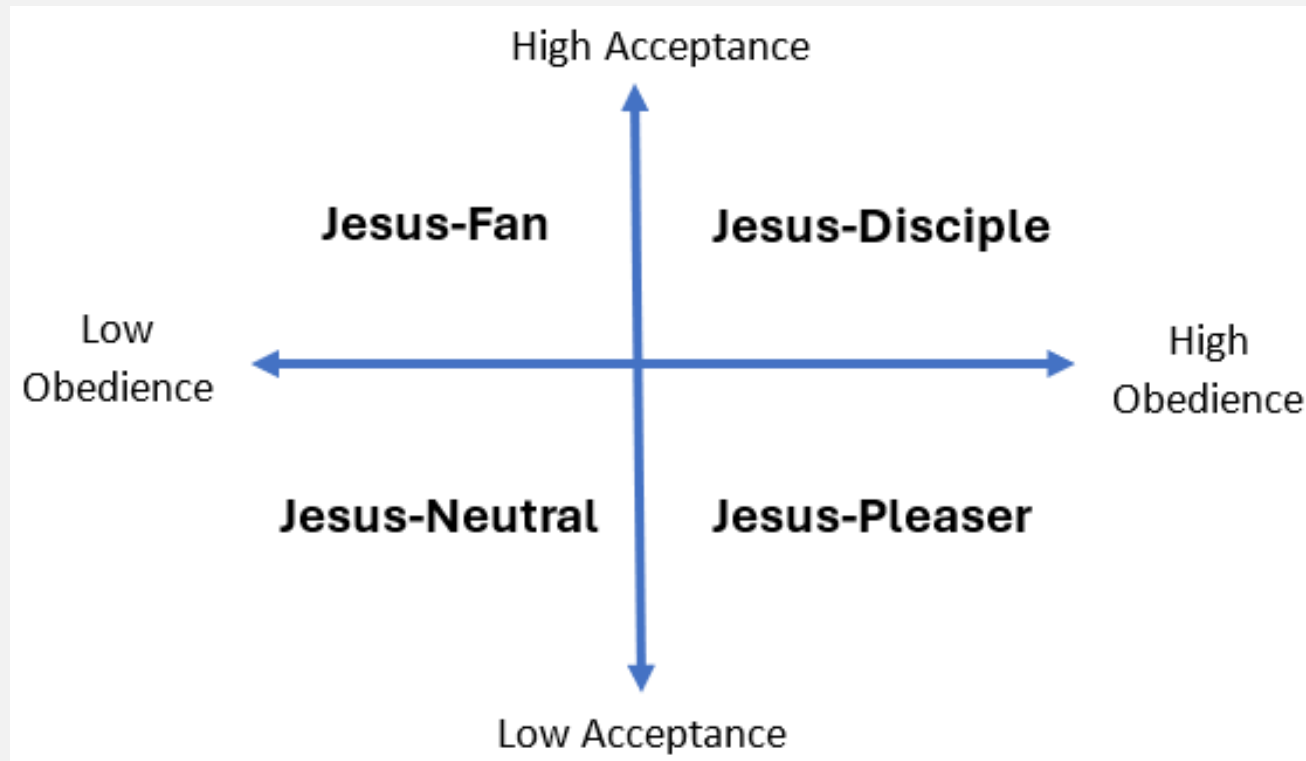
We believe in Eternal life which is a free gift given immediately and permanently to all who, wholly apart from any works, put their faith in Jesus Christ alone.

NORTH SHORE BAPTIST

We believe that all who are regenerated, called and justified shall persevere in holiness and never finally fall away.



MATT'S PODCAST



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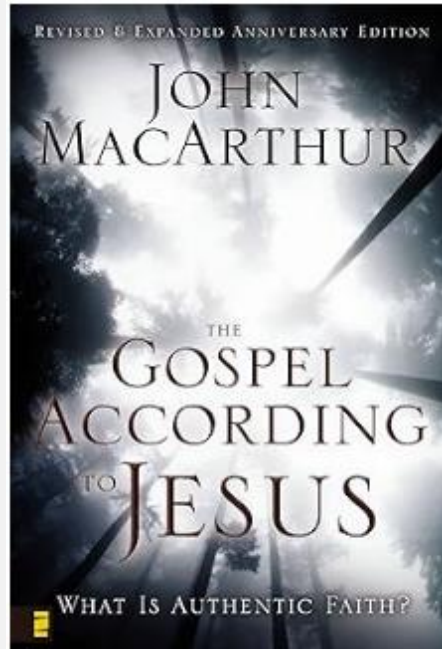


THE CASE FOR LORDSHIP SALVATION

- Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Mtt 7:19-20
- Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Mtt 7:21
- Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. Jms 2:17
- If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1Jn 2:15
- How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Romans 6:2
- They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us 1 Jn 2:19



THE CASE FOR LORDSHIP SALVATION



The gospel requires more than making an intellectual decision or mouthing a prayer; the gospel message is a call to discipleship.

A true believer has a desire to surrender. This is what distinguishes true faith from a bogus profession. ... The genuine believer displays an eagerness to please Christ by abandoning everything to His lordship. -John MacArthur



REFLECTIONS

Lordship Implications

- Emphasis on REPENTANCE – turning from sin
- “Flush out” those who think they are saved but aren’t
- Insecurity about security
- Tendency toward legalism and elitism
- Stark call to full commitment – appeal to younger gen

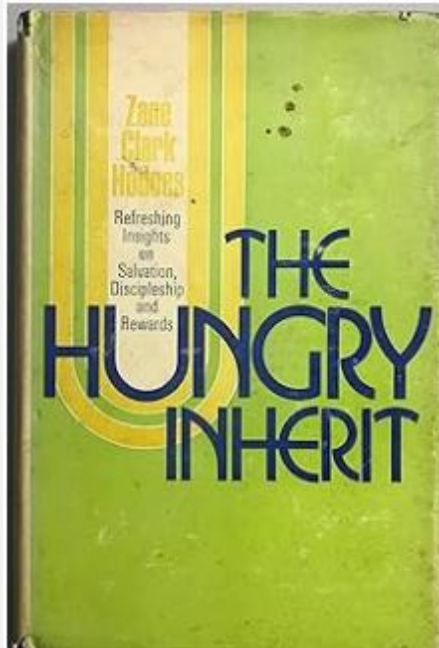


THE CASE FOR FREE GRACE

- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. Jn 3:16
- Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Jn 5:24
- Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. Jn 6:47
- I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. Rev 21:6



THE CASE FOR FREE GRACE



Eternal life is *free*. Discipleship is immeasurably hard.

The former is attained by faith alone;
the latter by a faith that *works*.

The former cost man nothing;
the latter could cost him everything, including life itself.

The former assured one of entrance into God's kingdom;
the latter assured him of heirship there.

– Zane Hodges



REFLECTIONS

Free Grace Implications

- Emphasis on no-works, absolutely free salvation
- Clear and firm sense of security
- Understanding of biblical “rewards” (Mtt 5:12; 1 Cor 3:14)
- Accused of “easy-believism”
- Risk false security
- Tendency to downplay full commitment and call to lordship

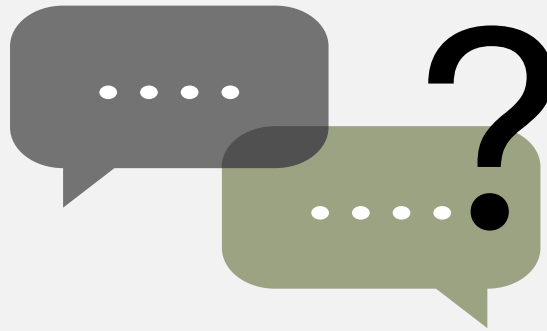


NEXT WEEK – SESSION 5

**What are Covenant theology
distinctives?**



QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION



THE END OF SESSION 4

