

Salvation: Lordship versus Free Grace

This chart presents a summary of two commonly held views of salvation regarding repentance, faith, perseverance, and assurance. Both views hold to the *preservation* (not to be confused with *perseverance*) of the saints. *Preservation* means once a person is saved, he can never be lost. Also included is a middle position that avoids these two extreme views.

Lordship Salvation	A middle position	Free Grace Salvation
<p>A sinner must not only assent to the truth of the gospel, he must repent of sin and yield to Jesus Christ as Lord in order to be saved. When saved, he is regenerated and made a new creature. This means a true believer will persevere in faith and good works, though not perfectly. The Christian can be assured of his salvation by his good works which are evidence of genuine salvation.</p>	<p>A sinner must not only assent to the truth of the gospel, he must repent (have a change of mind) about whatever is keeping him from coming to Christ. When saved, he is regenerated and made a new creature. This means a true believer will persevere in faith and good works, though not perfectly, or be chastened by the Lord. Perseverance is not guaranteed, but chastisement is guaranteed for the sinning Christian who fails to repent. The Christian can be assured of his salvation by having trusted in Christ <i>and</i> by his good works which are evidence of salvation.</p>	<p>A sinner must only believe in Jesus to be saved. To add repentance or yielding to Christ as Lord is adding works and often confusing salvation with discipleship. When saved, he is declared righteous and if properly nurtured will and should grow in grace and persevere until the end. But perseverance is not guaranteed. The Christian can be assured of his salvation by his having trusted in Jesus Christ, regardless of his good works or perseverance.</p>
To be Saved		
<p>Repentance of sin and submission to Jesus' lordship is necessary for salvation. Saving faith involves this repentance.</p>	<p>A sinner must repent of whatever is keeping him from coming to Christ--and that could be love of sin (Jn 3:18)</p>	<p>Repentance of sin and submission to Jesus' lordship is not necessary for salvation but is for discipleship. Saving faith does not involve these additions.</p>
After Salvation		
<p>Regeneration changes the person such that the believer will persevere in faith and good works. If he does not persevere, he was never saved, since works are the evidence of saving faith.</p>	<p>The believer <i>should</i> persevere in faith and works. This is the natural but not inevitable outworking of salvation. If he does not persevere, chastening is certain as well as loss of blessings and future reward, and potential early physical death.</p>	<p>The believer <i>should</i> persevere in faith but may not. It depends on several factors including the Christian's free will. A Christian can live a carnal life and yet will be saved at the end--but he can lose blessings and future reward.</p>
Assurance of Salvation		
<p>Assurance of salvation depends on and is enhanced by persevering in faith and good works. With no perseverance, there is no good reason to think you are saved.</p>	<p>Assurance of salvation can be enjoyed solely upon having trusted Christ but is enhanced by persevering in faith and good works. Lack of perseverance should cause serious self-examination.</p>	<p>Assurance of salvation depends solely upon having trusted Christ. Lack of perseverance in faith and works does not necessarily cast doubt on one's salvation.</p>