

As far as direct statements are concerned, it doesn't take long to see that dispensationalism is at the heart of Lordship confusion. John MacArthur considers himself to be a dispensationalist in that he sees the difference between Israel and the church and is premillennial. However, he begins his subtle attack by saying, "There is a tendency...for dispensationalists to get carried away with compartmentalizing truth to the point that they can make unbiblical distinctions. An almost obsessive desire to categorize everything neatly has led various dispensationalist interpreters to draw hard lines not only between the church and Israel, but also between salvation and discipleship, the church and the kingdom, Christ preaching and the apostolic message, faith and repentance, and the age of law and the age of grace." ...it is wrong to conclude, as Chafer apparently did, that law and grace are mutually exclusive in the program of God for any age" (*Ibid.*, p. 25).

According to this view, it is unbiblical to think in terms of a dispensation of law versus a dispensation of grace. But when we carefully read the Scriptures, it is quite clear that it is very biblical to think in these terms:

- 1) John 1:16-17 - it is stated that a new system of grace was instituted.
- 2) Acts 10:9-16 - it is revealed to Peter that the dispensation of law is replaced by grace.
This took place by judicial declaration of God (v. 15-16).
- 3) Acts 15:1-11 - it was determined that the law dispensation was replaced by grace dispensation.
- 4) Romans 6:14 - it is stated that we are not under the dispensation of law.
- 5) Hebrews 1:1-3 - it is stated here that God's program is compartmentalized into different times and ways and there is a big difference between law and grace (10:1-10; 12:18-24)

Now as far as when the grace dispensation actually began, we have clear biblical statements:

- 1) Grace, as a dispensation, began at the death of Jesus Christ, which is the exact moment the Law, as a dispensation, ended. **Matthew 27:50-51; Colossians 2:13-14; Galatians 2:21; Ephesians 1:7, 10; 3:2, 9**
- 2) Grace, as a dispensation, will end at the Rapture of the Church. **Acts 15:6-17; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:9-10**

Two observations here:

- 1) **To rightly divide Scripture, we need to think in terms of dispensational compartments.**
- 2) **The grace Gospel, which is the saving message of the Grace Age, will not exist until after Christ does His sacrificial work on the cross; so Christ's invitation to follow Him is not the same as a grace invitation to believe on Him.**