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# THIS GREAT salvation

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**UNMERITED FAVOR, UNMATCHED JOY**

**C.J. MAHANEY AND ROBIN BOISVERT**

**Executive Editor: Greg Somerville**



**SOVEREIGN GRACE MINISTRIES**  
**The Pursuit of Godliness Series**

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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

*This Great Salvation*, like each book in the Pursuit of Godliness series, is designed for group and individual use. The series is the logical outgrowth of four deeply held convictions:

- The Bible is our infallible standard for faith, doctrine, and practice. Those who resist its authority will be blown off course by their own feelings and cultural trends.
- Knowledge without application is lifeless. In order to be transformed, we must apply and practice the truth of God's Word in daily life.
- Application of these principles is impossible apart from the Holy Spirit. While we must participate in change, he is the source of our power.
- The church is God's intended context for change. God never intended for us to live isolated from or independent of other Christians. Through committed participation in the local church, we find instruction, encouragement, correction, and opportunities to press on toward maturity in Christ.

As you work through these pages, we trust each of these foundational convictions will be reinforced in your heart.

With the possible exception of the "Group Discussion" questions, the format of this book is equally suited for individuals and small groups. A variety of different elements have been included to make each chapter as interesting and helpful as possible. For those of you who can't get enough of a particular topic, we've listed at the end of each chapter one or more additional books that will help you grow in the Lord.

While you are encouraged to experiment in your use of this book, group discussion will be better served when members work through the material in advance. And remember that you're not going through this book alone. The Holy Spirit is your tutor. With his help, this book has the potential to change your life.

## FOREWORD

It hardly needs to be stated that in order to promote passionate devotion to Jesus Christ, pastoral leaders ought to encourage the study of doctrine. If there has been one thought that has driven and guided the production of this book, it is that doctrine matters. How can we worship and serve a God we are ignorant of, or worse yet, one of our own making? Doctrine has not only inspired heartfelt love for God, but it has served as the moral compass of the Church throughout her history. Believing what is true about God leads to practicing what is acceptable before God.

We need to consider the question asked by the author of Hebrews: “How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?” (2:3). Our gracious God has supplied us with a great salvation—full, free, and finished. There really is no excuse for neglect of all God has done for us. “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2Pe 1:3).

Coming to an awareness of this is one thing. Entering into the experience of it is quite another. Our hope is that a user-friendly format will make studying doctrine more fulfilling and less daunting. We (the authors) are little more than beginners ourselves in this adventure. That’s why the recommended reading at the close of each chapter may be the most valuable part of the book. But if our experience be limited, it has been enough to forever change the way we think and live. We have also had the added advantage of preaching and teaching this material and seeing it radically affect those we are privileged to serve in pastoral ministry.

This great salvation has been changing lives profoundly, dramatically, and consistently since the gospel was first proclaimed. For more of the same to occur through the study of this book would, for us, be very gratifying.

Our thanks to Greg Somerville for his editorial expertise and tireless efforts in the production of this book. In addition, we express our thanks to production coordinator Beth Kelley and graphic designer Carl Mahler for the contribution of their special talents. Working with them as a team has been very satisfying.

Finally, we would like to dedicate this book to our wives and best friends, Carolyn Mahaney and Clara Boisvert, who have helped us translate doctrine into life. They have our deepest admiration.

— C.J. Mahaney and Robin Boisvert