

**Subject: *Christ the Lord***

**Scripture: *Acts 2:22-24, 32-36***

Names and titles were very important in Bible times. Even today, a title represents who a person is and what he does. For example, we have titles like CEO, president, prime minister, ambassador, chief, general, and head coach that are impressive and important titles. They are most important to those who are immediately involved. If you're working for a company and the CEO comes to visit, that's a big deal. If you're in the military and the general is going to be at a function, that's a big deal. If you're on a sports team and head coach calls a meeting, that's a big deal.

The world hears the church speak of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that means very little, but to Christ's followers it is a big deal to call Him Lord. In Bible times, for any Jew it would have been blasphemy to call any man "Lord," because this was the title that belonged only to God. Yet we see over and over in Scripture that Jesus Christ is called Lord. That is an impressive and important title. It's a big deal.

The Bible describes Jesus in these ways...

Christ the Lord (Lk. 2:11)

The Lord Christ (Col. 3:24)

Lord God Almighty (Rev. 4:8)

Lord Jesus (Acts 19:17)

Lord Jesus Christ (2 Th. 2:1)

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 2:20)

Lord of the dead and the living (Rom. 14:9)

Lord of hosts (Isa. 54:5)

Lord of the Sabbath (Lk. 6:5)

Lord of the harvest (Mt. 9:8)

Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8)

Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15)

Lord of all (Acts 10:36)

In all Jesus is called "Lord" over 700 times in the New Testament. This is no small thing, but is an important truth about Christ that is stressed in many ways and at many times.

## **1. CHRIST IS REVEALED AS LORD**

### **A. Welcomed as Lord at His birth**

**Luke 2:11** *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*

### **B. Introduced as Lord for His ministry**

**Matthew 3:3** *For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

### **C. Acknowledged as Lord in His life**

**John 13:13** *Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.*

D. Trusted as Lord at His death

**Luke 23:42** *And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*

E. Honored as Lord by His resurrection

**Romans 14:9** *For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.*

F. Preached as Lord after His ascension

**Acts 2:36** *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

G. Glorified as Lord at His return

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** <sup>16</sup> *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

There can be no question about Christ's exalted position as Lord, then...now, and forever.

## **2. CHRIST MUST BE RECEIVED AS LORD**

All who believe God's Word agree that Jesus Christ is Lord. He is and always will be. This is the foundation of our faith and the truth that all believers hold and confess.

A. Believers confess Jesus as Lord

**Romans 10:9-10** <sup>9</sup> *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**Romans 10:12** *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

This is the first confession of a believer's life and it is the lifelong confession of his life. It is the individual confession of every true believer.

**John 20:28** *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*

And it is the corporate confession of all true believers.

**Ephesians 4:4-6** <sup>4</sup> *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> One Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

When believers say that Jesus is Lord they are confessing Him as divine Lord. He has all the attributes of God. He does what God does (forgives sins, receives worship, judges all men). He has all authority. There is nothing He does not know and nothing He cannot do. He is God in the fullest possible sense. When believers say that Jesus is Lord they are confessing Him as supreme and sovereign Lord.

### B. Believers submit to Jesus as Lord

It is more than a confession or a statement about Christ. It is a way of life. The word “Lord” is a word of relationship. He is the Lord and we are His servants. “Lord” is a word of ownership. He has bought us with His precious blood and we belong to Him. “Lord” is a word of stewardship. He is the master and we are accountable to Him. Because He is Lord we surrender our will to Him and allow Him to control our lives.

For a person to confess Christ as Lord and submit to Him as Lord, a radical change must take place, and that is called conversion or regeneration (new birth).

**1 Corinthians 12:3** *Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*

The Holy Spirit must change the heart and make us willing to repent and believe.

### 3. CHRIST MAY BE REJECTED AS LORD

Sometimes people ask, “Are you willing to make Christ Lord?” Scripture never speaks of anyone making Christ Lord, except God Himself as we see in Acts 2:36. The Bible teaching is not to make Christ Lord, but to bow to His lordship. Those who reject His lordship are not saved. Those who give lip service to His lordship are not saved. Sometimes the message is defective (no lordship) and sometimes the person’s response is defective (no lordship). Jesus warned about this:

**Matthew 7:21-22** <sup>21</sup> *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* <sup>22</sup> *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

Jesus warned about empty profession without obedience.

**Luke 6:46** *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

If a person refuses to submit to Jesus as Lord, they can’t use Him as Savior. He won’t let that happen. The mark of true saving faith is surrender and obedience to Christ. A person living in rebellion against Christ’s authority over their life does not acknowledge Him as Lord in any real sense. In seminary there was a sign in the hall that said: “What we really believe we practice. All the rest is just religious talk.”

Chuck Swindoll described it like this: If you can really say this and mean it, then Jesus is truly your Lord...*Lord, I am willing to receive what you give; to lack what you withhold; to give up what you take; to suffer what you inflict; to be what you require. And Lord, if others are to be your messengers to me, I am willing to hear and heed what they have to say.*”

Pray this and mean it “Jesus, I need you and I want you to be my Lord and Savior.”