

Subject: *Christ the Lord*

Scripture: *Luke 2:1-11*

We know from our study of the Bible that names and titles are important to God. Take Isaac, for example. When God told Abraham that he would have a son in his old age, Abraham laughed, and then God told him to name his son, Isaac, which in Hebrew means, “laughter.” When Pharaoh’s daughter took a little baby out of the Nile River, she named him Moses, which in Hebrew means, “drawn out.” And there are many more stories about names. Names and titles often reveal a lot about a person. One of Christ’s titles is “Lord.” He is called: Lord; Lord God Almighty; Lord of the Sabbath; Lord of the dead and the living; Lord of all; Lord of hosts; Lord of glory; and Lord of lords

Jesus is called “Lord” over 700 times in the New Testament. John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord.” Paul uses the title “Lord” frequently in his letters. There is “one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.” In Revelation, Jesus returns with His name written on His thigh, “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

1. The claims of Christ the 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. Revealed as Lord in His life – ***John 6:67-68*** *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. **John 13:13** Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.*
- C. Received as Lord at His crucifixion – The dying thief in ***Luke 23:42*** *And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*
- D. Honored as Lord after His resurrection – When Peter preached, ***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. **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.*
Salvation is for people with submissive hearts. It is not for rebels. His lordship begins now and continues when our bodies die and our souls are in His presence.
- E. Glorified as Lord at His return – ***1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*** *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

2. The confession of Christ the Lord

- A. We should confess Him as Lord in the present – ***Romans 10:9-10*** *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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

The basic confession of all believers was “Jesus is Lord.” This is the confession of God’s people everywhere. It is the confession of a sincere, surrendered heart.

A closer study of the title “Lord” (Greek, *Kurios*) reveals that...

It is a domestic title of a father and his relationship to his family.

It is a title used of a master and his relationship to his servant.

It is a title for the undisputed owner of property.

It is a title for a person with authority to make decisions.

It is a title of courtesy and respect used in speaking to an elder or superior.

To confess Jesus as Lord means all these things. It is a word of relationship. If we confess Jesus as Lord it means He is the Master and we are His servants. It is a word of ownership. It means He has bought us with His blood and we belong to Him. It is a word of stewardship. It means we are accountable to Him. To confess Jesus as our Lord means that we surrender our will to His and He is in control of our lives.

For a person to confess Jesus as Lord, the Holy Spirit must convince him and change his heart so he is willing to repent and believe. **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 Spirit.*

B. We must confess Him as Lord in the future

Those who do not willingly confess Christ as Lord now will one day be compelled to do so. Those who do not recognize and receive Christ as Lord now in the day of grace will be forced to confess Him as Lord in the day of judgment.

Philippians 2:9-11 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

3. The caution of Christ the Lord

The Bible says that Jesus must truly be Lord of our life, not just of our lips. It’s not enough just to say Jesus is our Lord. Jesus warns us about just calling Him Lord when He really isn’t Lord of our lives at all. **Luke 6:46** *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Why do you call me “Lord” and don’t obey what I say or do my will?*

Matthew 7:21 *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.*

Chuck Swindoll put it this way. If you can really say this and mean it, then He 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.” Can you say that and mean it?

A mere confession of His lordship without submission and obedience is hypocrisy. We don't really love Him and believe in Him if we don't do what He says. Someone wrote this:

You call me the "Way" and walk me not,
You call me the "Life" and live me not,
You call me "Master" and obey me not,
If I condemn you, blame me not.

You call me "Bread" and eat me not,
You call me "Truth" and believe me not,
You call me "Lord" and serve me not,
If I condemn you, blame me not.