

# BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

## Lesson 14: Jesus is Lord

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This is the fourth of ten lessons about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and our Lord and Savior. We will explore what the Bible teaches about Jesus Christ as Lord.

### MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE

Jesus Christ is Lord. Everyone needs to bow before Jesus who is the Lord of heaven and earth. God will demand an answer from those who do not bow the knee to the Lordship of Christ. This is why it is necessary to “confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord (Rom. 10:9). As Lord, Jesus calls His people to serve Him and equips them to live a holy and obedient life, proclaiming His salvation.

#### 1. The Lord Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10)

##### A. He demands a confession

The Lord Jesus Christ holds the right of rulership over everything and everyone because He is Creator and Lord. By living a sinless life and bearing the wrath of God upon the cross, Jesus took upon Himself the sins of His people. In the early Roman Empire, everyone was commanded to confess Caesar as Lord. By doing so, they were admitting that Caesar was in control of all things including themselves. To confess that Caesar was Lord meant more than a nice little saying. It meant that Roman citizens lived in loyalty to Caesar and his laws, and to speak or act against him was considered treason. So for Paul to write, “confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord” (Rom. 10:9) meant more than to say a nice little prayer. It meant to declare complete allegiance to a different empire than Rome and to Caesar himself; it meant for Christians to confess that everything, including their very lives, belonged to Jesus, not Caesar or anyone else.

At the heart of confessing Jesus as Lord is the belief that He is who He claims to be, that is, God. To confess this truth is to acknowledge all of the truths we have studied about God and Christ: that He is the sovereign ruler of the universe, head of all (Col. 2:10), Judge of all (Acts 10:42), and King of all (Rev. 19:16). Each of these prerogatives demonstrates that Jesus Christ is Lord. The Bible teaches that a genuine confession of Jesus’ lordship is absolutely necessary for salvation (Acts 4:12; Rom. 10:9-10). The result of such a confession is complete and ongoing allegiance to Christ as Lord.

The Bible teaches that eventually every knee will bow before Christ (Phil. 2:10-11; Rev. 5:13). He is the one to whom every person will answer on the last day (Jn. 5:22; Acts 17:30-31). Therefore, everyone should make that confession now while God still grants grace to repent and be saved. Failure to make this confession is the highest treason. In light of these truths,

we see that mankind's sin is not merely disobedience to specific commands, but it is outright rejection of Christ's lordship and governance. The gospel calls every person to renounce all self-righteousness and defend the truth of Christ's lordship over all. If you confess Him as Lord, then you will be saved (Rom. 10:9). Those who genuinely do so will never be condemned. Rather they are set free from the bondage of sin and death so that they can live in joyful service to the good and perfect master, the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### B. He equips His slaves (servants)

The Bible teaches that everyone is enslaved to someone or something. Unbelievers are in bondage to sin (Jn. 8:34). By contrast, Christ has freed those who confess that He is Lord from their sins so that now they are able to serve Him in humble obedience (Rom. 6:16-18). Christ bought believers with His own blood, and His people undergo a change of ownership, from being slaves of sin to slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Christ transforms His people and then equips them with instruction from His Word about how to serve Him (Eph. 4:11-12). As a result, in every believer's life there is steadily growing pattern of obedience to Christ.

When Christ was about to ascend to heaven, He told His disciples that even though He would not physically be with them any longer, He would send the Holy Spirit to make them more like Him. The Holy Spirit would be their teacher and equipper for obedient living and ongoing proclamation that Jesus is Lord. Another way Christ enables His disciples to obey is to remind them of His love displayed at the cross. By living a sinless life and bearing the wrath of God, Jesus took upon Himself the sins of His people. He also freely credits (imputes) His perfectly obedient life to all who confess Him as Lord (2 Cor. 5:21). By reminding His disciples of this love, He motivates believers to obedience.

### 2. The Lord's Slaves (Rom. 10:9-10)

#### A. They will tell and train others

The Bible teaches that part of our obedience to God's Word is making Christ known. When a person is saved he has a role to play in the great commission. God saves sinners so they would "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). All Christians should continue to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord to those around them. Beyond evangelism, Christians also have the responsibility to disciple others.

#### B. They live in future hope

The believer's endurance in this life is based on the assurance that our great God and Savior will come back (Titus 2:13). The Lord has promised that He will return (Rev. 22:12). When He returns He will reward every believer for their service unto Him. Until then, the grace of God motivates believers to live in the light of that future hope (Titus 2:11-14).

## MEMORY VERSES

**Romans 10:9** *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.*

**1 Peter 2:9** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

**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.*

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

The following notes are from a sermon preached by Pastor Stan titled, *Christ the Lord*, on January 12, 2020. It is worth noting that this was just a few weeks before the terrible outbreak of Covid-19 and its devastating impact on our lives. In spite of this trial, Christ remained as our unchanging, sovereign Lord, and our loving allegiance to Him should always remain steadfast as well.

**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 on site, 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. This is an impressive and important title. The Bible describes Jesus as Lord 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 total, Jesus is called “Lord” over 700 times in the New Testament.

### 1. Christ is revealed as Lord

A. He was 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. He was 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. He was acknowledged as Lord in His life

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

D. He was trusted as Lord at His death

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

E. He was 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. He was 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. He will be 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 is 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. 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 continues to be his lifelong confession of. 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 (slaves). "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 mere 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. When I attended Mid-America Seminary in Memphis in the 1980s, there was a highly visible sign posted with the timely message: "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.*"