

Jesus is Lord

by Tim Homan

Probably the most recognized reference of this statement in the Bible is found in Philippians 2 where Paul declares Christ's redeeming work in His humiliation by becoming a man and dying for the sins of others, then being highly exalted by God and "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (vs. 10 - 11). The context of this passage is Paul's encouragement to the Philippians to have the same humble attitude towards one another that Christ had toward us in leaving heaven and coming to earth to save us.

Too often when one claims Jesus is Lord, they mean the law is lord. The phrase is a thinly veiled cover to pull out the law and start beating people with it. The law is not lord, Jesus is Lord. Christ came to fulfill the law and to break its curse upon guilty sinners. God's law is good because it declares His character and standard, but it cannot create what it demands -- obedience and righteousness. This is true for everyone. Therefore, we need a salvation that comes from outside ourselves which God provided in the life, death and resurrection of His son Jesus. It is because of the redemption Christ accomplished that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

Jesus is Lord means that sin and its curse have been dealt with completely by Him. It means hope for sinners; the good news of forgiveness and new life found in Christ. Jesus is Lord over sin, death and sin's hold on my life. Jesus is Lord means freedom from guilt and fear of judgment, It means that God is for me; He loved me so much that He came from heaven to rescue me, and he will keep me - Romans 8: 31-32.

So how does this work out on an everyday level? Our desire as believers should be to live a life that honors the One who gave Himself for us, which means living in a way that is in accordance with His will. It begins with honestly recognizing and admitting who we really are, sinners in need of God's mercy and grace, even as Christians! Having the right perspective about ourselves directs us to a right evaluation of our desires, goals, weaknesses, strengths as well as a more Godly perspective towards others, especially those we struggle with or simply dislike. We are able to love because we recognize that in spite of who we are God still loves us and died for us - Romans 5:8.

As the secularism of our culture continues to encroach further upon so many churches and denominations the erosion of biblical standards is really a manifestation of a much greater loss, that of the doctrines of the incarnation, atonement and resurrection. When the church becomes consumed with the temporal things of this world, which are ultimately suffocating since they look no further than oneself as a reference, rather than the eternal and transcendent works of God, in particular His work of salvation on our behalf, then the church will simply support what is popular in the present, momentary culture. To say Jesus is Lord means an infinitely greater and expansive view of life, purpose, meaning and joy as God calls us and works in us to look outside ourselves to Him and His eternal purposes which are good and ultimately fulfilling.

No one has a perfect set of genes; it's called original sin. We are all broken, fragmented people beset with our sins. Secularism presents its stifled, claustrophobic view of humanity and says my actions and behavior are fine if it makes me happy and no one gets "hurt." But the Biblical perspective of a person, one made in the image of God, states that behavior is not neutral. Actions opposed to God's will lead us

away from Him and have eternal consequences even if there are no immediately apparent detriments. But the Gospel declares that there is hope for sinners in Christ's finished work, even those who call themselves Christians. Jesus is Lord means our hope and eternal destiny does not depend on my efforts at making myself better by trying harder. Rather, it means resting in His love, mercy and grace which have the power to change my heart and produce a more Christ-like life.

Jesus is Lord means believing the Gospel - John 6:28-29. They said to Him "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."