

***THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH  
(Death & Resurrection – Savior & Lord)***

A “Lordless gospel” proclaims you can accept Jesus Christ as Savior while at the same time rejecting Him as Lord. But is that really the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Emphatically NO! At BEST that is a half gospel, and an incomplete gospel is precariously close to being a false gospel.

The death and resurrection of Christ (the Gospel, cf. 1 Cor. 15:3-4) is inherently tied to Him being SAVIOR and LORD! Christ’s cross is inherently tied with Him being Savior (cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19, 2:24) and His resurrection is inherently tied with His Lordship (cf. Phil. 2:10-11). This is an interrelated and interwoven PACKAGE!!!

One cannot embrace the death of Christ for sin, while at the same time rejecting the resurrection of Christ as Lord. The full Gospel is the death of Christ for sin and His resurrection from the dead as Lord. Both these realities (Savior and Lord) must be personally embraced by FAITH ALONE in order to have true saving faith.

The PERSON of Christ cannot be divorced from the WORK of Christ. WHO Christ is cannot be separated from WHAT He did. Saving faith recognizes Jesus as personal Savior and Lord (cf. Phil. 3:3-9). This is the uniform testimony of the New Testament.

Lordless gospel proponents correctly point to 1 Cor. 15:3-4 as the most concise summary of the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ that we have in the NT. While recognizing that this presents Christ as the Savior who died for our sins, they fail to emphasize that the RESURRECTION inherently proclaims His Lordship. However, it is an INTEGRAL part of the message that must be PERSONALLY received and believed.

The death of Christ presents Him as Savior – the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. When He died He said, “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30). By one offering He has perfected forever (Heb. 10:14). But that is not the whole story! The resurrection presents Him as Lord over all. This is a package. One cannot divorce the cross from the resurrection, and one cannot divorce the Saviorhood of Christ from His Lordship. This is an indissoluble package! It is the FULL New Testament Gospel!

The consistent emphasis in the NT is that Christ's LORDSHIP is inherently tied to His resurrection. John's gospel (the gospel of belief) was written so that we might believe and have eternal life (cf. 20:30-31). The theme of the book is the DEITY of Christ and the climax of the book is the resurrection of Christ. When "Doubting Thomas" saw the risen Lord, his conclusion was obvious as he exclaimed "My Lord and my God!" Jesus then affirmed that he now believed (cf. Jn. 20:28-29).

In Acts, the dominant theme in the apostles' message is the resurrection of Christ that declares Him to be Lord (cf. Acts 2:36, 10:36, etc.) In Romans (the most systematic presentation of the gospel in the NT) Paul begins by stating the resurrection declared Christ to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4). In chapter 10, Paul inherently connects confessing Christ as Lord with believing in His resurrection (10:9). He goes on to say, "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (10:13). Calling on Christ as Lord is inherently tied with His resurrection.

And note that it must be with the HEART that one believes (cf. Rom. 10:9-10). That Christ might be Lord of all believers was the very end goal as to why He died and rose again (cf. Rom. 14:9). 1 Cor. 15:3-4 is not stated in a vacuum. Paul begins in 1 Cor. 1:2 by addressing the saints, "with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:". 1 Cor. 12:3 says that "no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit", showing that acknowledging Christ as Lord is not a matter of human merit or self-effort. It is simply a matter of saving faith. All glory to God!

In these days of biblical ignorance and/or compromise let us resolve to be faithful to the FULL GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us CLEARLY proclaim Him as Savior and Lord as clearly revealed in His death and resurrection. Our message is believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved (Acts 16:31).

**2 Corinthians 4:5** (NKJV) For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

The **FULL GOSPEL** truth is that the **WORK** of Christ cannot be divorced from the **PERSON** of Christ any more than His **CROSS** can be separated from His **RESURRECTION**.

