

## **THE LORDLESS GOSPEL**

A “Lordless gospel” is a FALSE gospel! At best it is an incomplete gospel. And a half-truth presented as the whole truth is an untruth. To claim that Jesus can be received as Savior while rejecting Him as Lord has no scriptural basis. Lord and Savior is a package. The Person of Christ and the Work of Christ are a package. The Death of Christ and the Resurrection of Christ are a package. As Savior, Christ died for all our sins, as Lord over all He arose again. This is the FULL gospel which must be believed (cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

The Messiah would be LORD-GOD Almighty. He would be the God-Man Who is “Mighty God, Everlasting Father” Who will reign forever (Isa. 9:6). The Messiah would be a Davidic King whose very name would be “THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” (Jer. 23:5-6).

The word “Lord” means master! When used of the risen Lord it invariably denotes His sovereign authority as Lord-God Almighty! Christ’s Lordship is His divine authority. To believe on Jesus as Lord is to personally recognize His sovereign authority over you as your God! This is what it means to call on the name of the LORD and so be saved (Rom. 10:13). Saving faith cries out to Jesus, **“My Lord and my God!”** (Jn. 20:28-29). One must believe on His PERSON! (Jn. 1:12).

Matthew wrote to the Jews to show to them that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophesied Messiah. In essence Christ’s presentation to the nation of Israel was a LORDSHIP presentation. And it was His Messianic LORDSHIP that Israel rejected! In Matthew 1-10 there are various lines of evidence presenting Christ as the true Messiah. In chapters 11-12 we have the nation rejecting the truth of Christ followed by Christ in judicial judgment speaking to the nation in parables in Matthew 13. A KEY issue throughout is WHO Jesus is (cf. Mt. 16:13-18).

In Matt. 1:21-23 we have the announcement that Mary would bring forth a Son who was to be named JESUS (Savior – more literally God-Savior) and further He would be called Immanuel which being translated is **“God with us”**. After He was born the wise men of the East came to WORSHIP the newborn King of the Jews (Mt. 2:1-12). John the Baptist, the prophesied forerunner of the Christ, came on the scene calling the people to repentance as, **“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD...’”** (Mt. 3:3). This repentance was tied with the LORDSHIP of the Messiah. Jesus came on the scene also calling for the people to repent (Mt. 4:17).

Jesus in “The Greatest Sermon” ever given in the *Sermon on the Mount* made the issue His LORDSHIP saying, “**Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**” (Mt. 7:21) The centurion recognized Christ’s LORDSHIP authority which Jesus called “**great faith**” (Mt. 8:5-13).

Jesus demonstrated His Messianic LORDSHIP authority over nature, over demons, and over disease – all in fulfillment of Messianic prophecy (cf. Mt. 11:4-6). He claimed to be “**Lord even of the Sabbath**” (Mt. 12:8). And yet in spite of all His Messianic LORDSHIP credentials, the nation led by its religious leaders, REJECTED the LORDSHIP truth of Jesus! (cf. Jn. 19:7)

The first and great emphasis put before Israel was the truth of Christ’s MESSIANIC LORDSHIP. No one clearly understood the truth of the cross at that point!

Christ dying for the sins of the world on the cross was still future. The initial GREAT issue in Christ’s ministry was the presentation of His SIGN miracles that pointed to Him as Messiah-LORD. As Jesus said, “believe the works [His sign-miracles], that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.” (Jn. 10:38). On the birth of Christ, the angel of the Lord announced a Savior is born “**who is Christ the Lord**” (Lk. 2:11). “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**” (Acts 16:31).

In order to be Savior, Christ must be recognized as LORD (cf. Isa. 43:11); in order to be YOUR Savior, Christ must be recognized (believed on) as YOUR personal Lord!

“So they come and believe in the Savior. Later on, in a meeting or conference, they will hear another appeal: ‘Now that you have received Him as Savior, how would you like to take Him as Lord?’ The fact that we hear this everywhere does not make it right.” –**A.W. Tozer** in I CALL IT HERESY!

“Here faith takes its leap into God through the Person and work of Christ, but it never divides the work from the Person. It believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, the whole Christ without modification or reservation...Great emphasis is laid upon faith in orthodox circles, and that is good; but still I am troubled. Specifically my fear is that the modern conception of faith is not the Biblical one; that when the teachers of our day use the word they do not mean what Bible writers meant when they used it. Plain horse sense ought to tell us that anything that makes no change in the person who professes it makes no difference to God either, and it is an easily

observable fact that for countless numbers of persons the change from no-faith to faith makes no actual difference in the life.”

**-THE BEST OF A.W. TOZER - p. 102, 167-168**