

MY LORD AND MY GOD!

There are some who hold that a saving faith must believe on Jesus as Savior, but it does not necessarily have to accept Him as Lord. This “**Lordless Gospel**” distorts the true gospel! The Bible is clear that in order to be saved we must, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” (cf. Acts 16:31). We must “Call on the name of the LORD” to be saved (cf. Rom. 10:13). For all true believers there is “one Lord, one faith” (Eph. 4:5).

2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (NKJV)

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake.
6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But what does it mean to believe on Jesus as LORD? The word “Lord” simply means “Master”. When used of the risen Lord it ALWAYS implies DEITY. Simply put, to believe on Jesus is to believe on Him as GOD! A saving faith believes in Jesus as God-Master!

The gospel of John has the Lordship/Deity of Jesus as its main theme. John begins in John 1:1 by emphasizing that the Word (Jesus) is God. In the center of the book Jesus emphatically says, “If you do not believe that **I am**, you will die in your sins.” (Jn. 8:24)

The Jews knew full well that God had identified His eternal Name as “**I AM**” in His revelation to Moses (cf. Ex. 3:13-15). “*I AM*” means “*to be*”. God just is. He is eternal!

So, when Jesus says we must believe that He is “I AM”, He is saying we must believe in Him as the eternal God (cf. Jn. 8:58-59). The climax of the book has “Doubting Thomas” coming to a New Testament saving faith when upon seeing the resurrected Christ he exclaimed “**My Lord and my God!**” (Jn. 20:28) Jesus in response told Thomas, “**Because you have seen Me, you have believed.**” (Jn. 20:29). This is what it means to BELIEVE in Jesus. Note it must be personal – “**My** Lord and **my** God” (emphasis mine).

In 2 Cor. 4:3 Paul shows that the lost don't see the truth of the gospel. It is veiled and hidden from them. Satan has blinded their minds to this gospel truth. But what is this gospel that is veiled?

In 2 Cor. 4:4b-6 Paul explains it. It is the truth that Jesus is the image of God meaning that He is the EXACT representation of God (cf. Heb. 1:3). Jesus is the visible manifestation of the invisible God (cf. Col. 1:15). Jesus is God of very God!

Paul continues in 2 Corinthians 4:5, saying that we preach "Christ Jesus the Lord". This is shorthand for the gospel. The thrust is WHO Jesus is as Lord. Verse 6 further explains what this means. God who commanded light to shine out of darkness in Genesis 1:3 has shone in our hearts the truth of WHO Jesus is as God!

This is a supernatural miracle of enlightenment comparable to "Let there be light" in Gen. 1:3. Only God can turn this light on!

The "glory of Christ" in 2 Cor. 4:4 is the "glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" in verse 6. The glory of God is the excellence of God in all His being. In salvation, God turns on the light and we come to the knowledge that in the PERSON of Jesus the glory of God is revealed. This gospel truth is veiled to the unbeliever, but all true believers see this!

It's only by God's grace, by His sovereign initiative, by a supernatural miracle that believers come to see the truth that Jesus is God in all His fullness! This is essential GOSPEL KNOWLEDGE! Christ must be believed on as Lord (God-Master) in order to be saved. Paul's gospel consistently emphasizes both the PERSON (Lordship) and the WORK (cross-work) of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 1:17-18, 23, 2:2, 15:1-4). The cross emphasizes Him as Savior. The resurrection emphasizes Him as Lord!

It's not enough to intellectually believe (cf. Ja. 2:19) or to simply profess Jesus as Lord (cf. Mt. 7:21-23). A true saving faith is a matter of the heart (cf. Rom. 10:9-10). "No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:3). In other words, no one REALLY holds to the truth of Jesus as Lord in his heart apart from the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. But all true believers know it to be true!

The oldest creed in Christianity is "**Jesus is Lord!**". It is the heart confession of salvation!

Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

The heart believes and the mouth confesses. There is inward conviction followed by outward expression. The assumption is that where one is the other will follow. What the heart believes the mouth will confess (cf. Mt. 12:34; 2 Cor. 4:13). This is not a legalistic formula but the normal and natural progression of true saving faith. The first evidence of saving faith is a willingness to confess. We are not saved by confession. Paul has belabored the point that it is by FAITH ALONE. However, if faith is real in the heart the expectation is that it will express itself through the mouth.

Heart and mouth go together. However, it is possible for one to give mere "mouth service" and not have it be real in the heart and thereby be self-deceived (cf. Mt. 7:21-23). The rule is this: If it is real in the heart it will be expressed through the mouth. But it must be real in the heart.

Note: Romans 10:9 following the order of Deut. 30:14 mentions the mouth and then the heart. Verse 10 following the order of actual experience mentions the heart first and then the mouth. The word "For" at the start of verse 10 shows that it is a further explanation of what has been stated in verse 9.

"To confess that Jesus is Lord means that a person agrees that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, John 1:41. According to the Tenach (Old Testament), the Messiah was portrayed as

1. The God-man – Isaiah 9:6
2. God – Psalm 45:6-7
3. The Savior – Isaiah 53:5, 6ff
4. The eternal King – Micah 5:2
5. THE LORD (JEHOVAH) [YHWH] OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS – Jeremiah 23:5,6"
- **Mark Robinson, Israel: Her Calling and Purpose**, p. 53

"Lord (kurios) means lord, master, owner or the one who has absolute ownership power. Kurios translates Jehovah (LORD in OT) in the Septuagint (LXX) almost 7000 times. In the New Testament there are 717 references to kurios and it is notable that Jesus is referred to as Savior about ten times and as Lord about 700 times! Kurios signifies sovereign power and absolute authority. Kurios is the one who has absolute

ownership and uncontested power. It is the one who is in charge by virtue of possession (owner)." - https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_108-11

"No Jew would do this [confess Jesus as Lord] who had not really trusted Christ, for Kurios in the Septuagint (LXX) is used of God. No Gentile would do it who had not ceased worshipping the emperor as Kurios. The word Kurios was and is the touchstone of faith." – ***A.T. Robertson***

Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”