

"Who Is Your Lord"

The most important question you'll ever answer is this, "Who is your Lord?" Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." And today, we're going to explore what it means to call Jesus "Lord." Stay tuned.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. We know the Scriptures teach us what God truly expects of us. The New Testament is the true measure of Christianity. The true disciples of Jesus Christ abide in His words. They seek to please the Lord not the world. They take their faith seriously. Thanks for taking time with us today. We want to be a part of your life each week.

Matthew 16 verses 13 to 17 says: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Well, Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

My friend, what you decide about Jesus is crucial to your spiritual well-being. Ultimately, you have to decide for yourself what you believe. You cannot ignore the Lord Jesus, because one day you will come face to face with Him. Each one will face judgment. And can you confess Jesus and say what Peter said, that "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"? To say Jesus is the Christ is to recognize Him as the promised Messiah, the One who fulfilled prophecy and set up His kingdom in the first century that would last forever. To say Jesus is the Son of God is to recognize His Divine nature. Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Are you willing to make Him Lord of your life?

Now, if you want to study more, we offer this lesson free. If you'd like a printed copy or a CD of our study and you live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, call you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have materials free on our website at www.searchtv.org.

The Edmond church will now worship in song, and we'll read from Philippians 2 verses 5 to 11, and then we'll explore what it means to call Jesus Lord!

Our reading today comes from Paul's letter to the church at Philippi in Philippians chapter 2 verses 5 to 11. "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of Father." That's a wonder reading from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Oh Father, help us to bow our knees and confess that Your son Jesus is our Lord. Help us to always humble ourselves and to give ourselves fully and freely to you. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen.

The apostle Peter told the household of Cornelius in Acts 10:38-43, "*You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. We are witnesses of all the things*

He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He ordered us to preach the gospel to the people, and to solemnly testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

God anointed Jesus as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He will judge us all on the last day. The Lord Jesus said, "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day" (John 12 and verse 48). We will not be judged by what people think, by what councils vote, or by opinion polls. We will be judged by the words Jesus spoke, words that are found in the New Testament.

Since he is our King and our Judge, we must recognize our accountability before Him. The apostle Paul told the Athenians in Acts 17 verses 30 to 31, "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." You can be sure that one day you will stand before the Lord Jesus in judgment. God will hold you and me accountable for our lives.

Now we're accountable for our attitude toward other people. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5 verses 21 to 22, "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'that' 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you' Jesus is talking' 'that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' [that is Raca, "empty-headed"] shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' [that is you moron] shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell." God knows all that happens in our hearts.

And we're accountable even for our thoughts. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:27 to 29 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." When people think immoral thoughts, they sin against their spouses and they sin against God.

We're also accountable for our words. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 12 verses 34 to 37, "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

We are accountable for our actions. 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." Now, God's Word further says in Romans 2 verses 6 to 11, that "He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the

Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.”

More than that we're accountable to Jesus whether we know it or not, whether we acknowledge it or not, or whether we agree with it or not. Jesus, our Creator, who died to save us from sin, is also our Lord. Not only do we confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, we also confess Him as our Lord. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit proclaimed through Peter and the apostles to all the Jews that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified (Acts 2 and verse 36). God has made Jesus to be your Lord and mine.

Now the word “Lord” indicates two crucial concepts. First, to call Jesus “Lord” means; He is divine, that is He is deity, He is God. The word “Lord” is often spelled with all capital letters in the Old Testament. “Lord” is the English word that's used to translate the Hebrew word “Yahweh.” This is the word the Lord God used to identify Himself to Moses at the burning bush.

In Exodus chapter three, God called Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Moses was reluctant and he offered several excuses to God as to why he shouldn't lead them. At one point Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, well ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you’” (Exodus 3 verses 13 to 14). Now the word in Hebrew “I am who I am” translates into Greek as “kurios” and into English as “LORD.”

When the Holy Spirit through Peter proclaimed Jesus as Lord on Pentecost, he was speaking clearly of the Divinity of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2 verse 6, which we read earlier, says that Jesus also existed in the form of God. Let's hear Philippians 2:5-11 again. “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Jesus has always existed in the form of God, but He emptied himself and took the form of a servant, being fashioned as a man. Now in humility He obeyed His father by dying on a cruel cross. Because Jesus suffered and died for us, God exalted Him, gave Him a name above all names, and demands that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord! This type of worship is not for men but for deity, for God.

Second, to call Jesus “Lord” means you have decided that you will obey Him. He is your master, and you are his servant. The word “Lord” in the Bible often reflex and refers to the one who owns slaves. When we became Christians, we became the slaves of Jesus Christ. Now a master owns his slaves and has the right to make decisions governing the lives of his slaves, decisions the slaves cannot stop or change. You may not always understand His decisions, but you can always trust that He will act for your best interests.

We are all servants to someone or something. Romans 6 and verse 16 says, “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, *that* you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?” Now some folks

serve sin. They think sin will bring them happiness; and instead, it brings them a lot of misery it fills their lives with all kinds of ruin and problems, and it makes them a slave. Sin fills them with guilt and it ruins their hearts and their lives. Hebrews 3 verses 12 to 13 warns Christians, "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

What we choose in this life will affect our eternal destiny. Romans 8 verses 12 to 13 says, "So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Following sin and the flesh will lead only to many problems in this life and separation from God in the life to come. Galatians 6 verses 7 to 8 says, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

Now that's why repentance is so vital so important! If we put to death the deeds of the body, we can live spiritually with God; but if we continue in sin, we can lose our souls. Isn't it better to be the servant of One who loves and cares for us? Some enslave themselves to their lusts and pleasures, which only last for a time and later destroys them. Some become the servants of the devil, who uses them with cruel, false promises. The devil is never your friend; no matter what he may offer you. If you choose to follow him, he will lead you where you never want to go. When you take Jesus as Lord, you give yourself to the only One who will always love and take care of you. The only one who can save you.

The question is not whether the Lord Jesus will be a good and kind master, oh He will; the question is whether you will be a good and obedient servant. Obedience is not always natural to us; we have to learn it. The Bible says of Jesus in Hebrews 5:8-9, "Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation." Now if we are to please our Lord, we must learn to be obedient to His will. Obedience is how we show to Him our faith and our love. Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, but you must decide whether you will bow before Him now in this life or whether you will bow before Him when He comes again. But be sure of this, one day every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God our Father. Let's pray together. Oh Father helps us to be obedient to Your will in everything. Help us to love You and to trust You and to know what a great God You are and how You care for us and Father may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen

Someone has well said, that, "If Jesus isn't Lord in every aspect of our lives, He isn't our Lord at all. If Jesus isn't Lord every day, He isn't Lord any day." Jesus doesn't want half-hearted followers, fair-weather friends, or convenient Christians. He expects us to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses daily, and to follow Him. He wants us to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God. He wants us to live by faith in the One who loves us and gave Himself for us. God wants you to love Him with all your heart, and all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.

Sadly, many have become Christians in name only. They say they believe but you couldn't tell it from the words they use or the lives they lead. 1 John 2 verses 3 to 6 says, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him

ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.” Are you walking like Christ or like someone who simply claims to know Him?

We must hear His words, revealed in the New Testament. We must believe Jesus Christ is the Lord, the Son of the living God. We trust what the Lord says, because we trust Him. In trust and love, we turn from rebellion and sin and turn to the Lord. So, whatever he asks, we’re ready to do because we love Him—you see that’s repentance. Then upon the confession of our faith, we’re baptized. That’s when He will wash away every sin. That’s when He’ll add us to His family, the church. That’s when He will save us and we’ll become a child of God. Oh, won’t you obey the Lord today?

We hope that today’s lesson will lead you to make Jesus your Lord. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy or a CD of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now, there’s a schedule of our programs and a map with the location of churches in your area on our website. You can watch SEARCH anytime on YouTube as well! Subscribe to our channel, “SearchTVMinistry.” We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now if you get a hold of us we’re not going to try to exploit you. We’re here to help you get to heaven.

Please get involved with a church of Christ. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll be happy to help you find one. We’ll be back next week, Lord willing. So keep searching God’s Word with us and tell a friend about the program. God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord’s Way.