

Who is Your Lord?

Phil. 2:5-11

The most important question you will ever answer is this, “Who is your Lord?”

Mt. 16:13-17 says, “*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”*”

What you decide about Jesus is crucial to your spiritual well-being. Ultimately, you

will 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. Every person will one day face judgment. If in this life you do not confess Jesus and say what Peter did, “*you are the Christ, the Son of the living God*”; if you do not confess Jesus as the Christ – the promised Messiah of the O.T.; on Judgement Day you will have to admit it, but it will by then be too late for salvation. 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 and that His kingdom will last forever. To say Jesus is the Son of God is to recognize His divine nature. What you need to decide is: Do you believe? Are you willing to make Him Lord of your life?

The apostle Peter told the household of Cornelius in Acts 10:38-43, you know *“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him*

receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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 in **Jn. 12:48** said, *“The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”* We will not be judged what people think, by what councils vote, or by opinion polls. We will be judged by the words Jesus spoke while on earth, 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: 30-31**, *“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he*

has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” You can be sure that one day you will stand before the Lord Jesus in judgement. *God will hold you and me accountable for our lives here on earth.*

First, we will be held accountable for *our attitude* toward other people. The Lord Jesus in *Mt. 5:21-22* said, *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to*

the hell of fire.” God knows all that happens in our hearts.

Second, we are accountable even for **our thoughts**. The Lord Jesus in **Mt. 5:27-29** said, *““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 lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.”* When people think immoral thoughts, they sin against their spouses and God.

Third, we are also accountable for **our words**. The Lord Jesus said in **Mt. 12:34-37**, *“You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of*

the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

*Fourth, we are to held accountable for our actions. 2 Cor. 5:10 says, “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*” In Romans 2:6-11 God’s word further says, 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 are accountable to the Lord Jesus whether we know it or not, whether we acknowledge it or not, or whether we agree or not. Jesus, our Creator, who died to save us from sin, is also our Lord. Not only do we confess Jesus as 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’s sermon, that God has made

Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified (Acts 2:36). God has made Jesus to be your Lord and mine.

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 O.T. and it meant “the Lord Jehovah.” The English word “Lord” is the word used to translate the Hebrew word “**Yahweh**,” or as we know it in English, **Jehovah**. This is the word the Lord God used to identify Himself to Moses at the burning bush.

In Ex. 3, 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 should not be the one to lead them. At one

point Moses said to God, if “*they ask me, well ‘what is his name?’ what shall I say to them?*” Now here is God’s answer, “*Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you’*” (Ex. 3:13-14). The Hebrew word that is translated “I am who I am” translates into the Greek as “*kurios*” and into English as “**LORD**” (With all capitals).

When the Holy Spirit through Peter proclaimed Jesus as Lord on Pentecost, he was speaking clearly of the Divinity of Jesus Christ. Phil. 2:6, which we read earlier, says that Jesus also existed in the form of God. Let’s hear Phil. 2:5-11 again. “*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,*

being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

According to Paul, being moved by the Holy Spirit of God, 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. In humility He obeyed His father by dying on a cross. Because Jesus willingly 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. The word “***Lord***” in the Bible often refers to the one who owns slaves. When we became Christians, we became slaves of Jesus Christ. The master owns the slave and has the right to make decisions governing the lives of slaves, decisions the slaves cannot stop or change. The difference between earthly masters and the Lord Jesus is that, even though you may not always understand His decisions, you can always trust that He will act s for your best interest.

We are all servants to someone or something. **Romans 6:16** says, *“Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?”* Many people 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 make them a slave. Sin fills them with guilt, and it ruins their hearts and their lives. **Hebrews 3:12-13** warns Christians, *“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any 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.”*

Now that's why repentance is so vital and 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 servants of the devil, who uses them with cruel, false promises. The devil is never your friend; no matter what he offers 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, because 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.

Hebr. 5:8-9 tells us, “*Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him...*” Now if we are to please the Lord, we must learn to be obedient to His will. *Obedience is how we show to Him our faith and our love.* Jesus is King of kings and the Lord of lords, but you must decide in this life whether you will bow before Him now and be saved, or to wait until the Day of Judgement and bow to Him, and when it will be too late for salvation. Be sure of this, a day will come when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord!

Jesus does not want half-hearted followers, for fair-weather friends. 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, and 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 Jn. 2:3-6** 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 N.T. We must believe Jesus Christ is Lord, the Son of the living God. We must 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 are ready to do because we love Him – you see that is repentance. Then upon the confession of our faith, we are baptized. That is when He will wash away every sin. That is when He adds us to His church. That is when He will save us and

make us into Children of God. Won't you obey today?