

IS JESUS YOUR LORD?

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Romans 10:1-13

1. Getting the right answers involves asking the right questions.
2. Several examples are found in the book of Acts.
 - a. Having been pierced to the heart (wounded in conscience) by the powerful gospel message that Peter preached on the day of Pentecost his listeners cried out, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:37
 - b. God got the attention of the Philippian jailer, and he subsequently fell down before Paul and Silas and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30
3. Here Paul stated, “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation (or confessing to salvation).” 9-10
4. **Today we hear a lot about accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, but very little about embracing Him as Lord.**
5. I think the words written by Arthur Pink (a theologian with strong reformed and Puritan leanings) are applicable here.

“We do not ask, ‘Is Christ your Savior,’ but, ‘is He really and truly your Lord?’” **If He be not your Lord, then most certainly He is not your Savior.** Those who have not received Jesus Christ as the ‘Lord’, and yet suppose Him to be their ‘Savior’ are deluded and their hope rests on a foundation of sand. Multitudes are deceived on this vital point, and therefore, if the reader values his or her soul, we implore you to give a most careful reading to these words.

When we ask, ‘Is Christ your Lord?’ we do not inquire, ‘Do you believe in the Godhood of Jesus of Nazareth?’ The demons do that (Matthew 8:28-29) and yet perish notwithstanding! You may be firmly convinced of the deity of Christ, and yet be in your sins. You may speak of Him with utmost reverence, accord Him His divine titles in your prayers, and yet be unsaved. You may abominate those who traduce (say untrue or mean things about) His person and deny His divinity, and yet have no spiritual love for Him at all.

When we ask, ‘Is Christ your Lord,’ we mean does He in every deed occupy the throne of your heart; does He actually rule over your life?”

6. In this chapter Paul discusses his heart’s desire and prayer for the salvation of the Jewish people. 1 (Note also Romans 9:1-5)
7. So the subject being discussed here is salvation; or God’s work of grace that brings sinful mankind into a right relationship with God.

I. The predicament of the lost. 2-5

A. Not all lost people are what we normally think of as sinners because we equate sin with certain kinds of behavior.

1. Isaiah defined sin this way, “All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to **his own way**...” Isaiah 53:6
2. **Sin is rebellion**-doing our thing rather than God’s thing; believing our way rather than God’s way.

3. Doing our thing may involve living a virtuous, moral, god-fearing life, but it's still our way.

4. That's why we are called on to repent in Isa 55:6-9

6 "Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

7 Let the wicked **forsake** his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him **return** to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

B. The Jews that Paul wrote about:

1. Had a zeal for God.

2. Did not know about God's righteousness.

3. Sought to establish their own righteousness.

4. Did not **subject** themselves to the righteousness of God.

a. The key word here is "subject."

-A military term meaning to arrange under, to subordinate, to put one's self under orders, to obey.

b. Kenneth Wuest wrote, "Appropriation by faith of God's righteousness involves not only the discarding of all dependence upon self and self-effort for salvation, but also the heart's submission or capitulation to Jesus as Savior and Lord."

C. Jesus is the end (goal) of the law.

-When a person realizes that salvation is by repentance and faith they give up trying to establish their own righteousness through religion and other forms of good works.

D. Moses agrees: The Jews were saved not by keeping the law, but by looking to God's ultimate sacrifice prefigured in the sacrificial system. Once saved the law provided a practical guideline for one's life.

II. The simplicity of the Gospel. 6-8

A. The righteousness based on faith does not embody or require some impossible task.

B. God has accomplished all that needs to be accomplished.

C. Righteousness is found in and through the word of faith that we preach.

Rom 1:16-17

16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

III. The message of the Gospel. 9-13

A. "That" refers back to "the word of faith we are preaching."

B. Confess (agree with) all that the Scriptures say about Jesus as Lord.

1. Jesus means Jehovah saves.

2. Lord is the Greek word for Jehovah and means speaking as one who is supreme in authority.

NOTE: If Jesus is your Lord He is your Controller.

3. A constant theme throughout the New Testament.
 - a. Acts 2:36

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified."
 - b. Phil 2:5-11

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 **For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
- C. Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (accomplished salvation) and you shall be saved.
- D. Faith and confession cannot be separated nor can righteousness and salvation.
- E. Those who truly believe will not be disappointed.
- F. "For whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

APPLICATION

1. Many people will be able to sing at the end of their lives, "I did it my way."
2. The problem is that our way is not God's way.
3. Note God's compelling words recorded in Jer 6:16.

6 Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not walk in it."

 - a. Many ways present themselves.
 - b. There is one good way and if we walk in it we will find rest for our souls.
 - c. Most prefer their own way and stubbornly refuse to embrace God's way.
4. The good way can only be walked by those who have repented towards God and embraced Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
5. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus labeled what Jeremiah called the good way the Narrow Way.