

Jesus Christ as Lord Class 8

Introduction:

Tonight, we discuss the Lordship of Jesus Christ as a part of our study in the Doctrine of Christology. In a sense this study is the culmination of all the other classes in this course on Christology. The reason for this is that the Lordship of Christ states that Christ is victor and exalted in His life and saving work. This feels like the capstone study of Christ's entire life and work. Next week we will finish this course with class 9 on the major historical and theological heresies concerning this doctrine.

Our approach to the subject of Christ's Lordship will be twofold tonight. First, we will consider some major and helpful Scriptures and what they teach on Christ's Lordship. Second, we will summarize and categorize the major components of Christ's Lordship.

Romans 12:9 "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."

Trusting Jesus Christ as Lord is central to trusting Him as the Son of God and Savior in the gospel. The outward profession and confession of faith in Jesus Christ is that He is Lord, which comes from a heart conviction that truly Christ is risen from the dead. This confession of Lordship is convictional, in that it believes that Jesus IS Lord, and it is also transformational, in that it represents a paradigm shift in the heart, turning away from self to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:3 "No one can say that JESUS IS LORD, except by the Holy Spirit."

This passage clearly teaches us that people are not free to declare faith in Christ as Lord, if in their hearts they do not truly believe Him to be Lord and yield to Him to be Lord. Furthermore, to trust Him as Savior and Lord is a miraculous fruit borne by the fruit of the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:5 "For we do not preach ourselves but CHRIST JESUS AS LORD, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake."

Note how this passage clarifies and orients our role under the Lordship of Christ. We do not preach ourselves, and we do not put the spotlight of our message on ourselves. Rather, we elevate and preach Christ as Savior and risen Lord.

John 20:28 "MY LORD AND MY GOD."

This is the exclamation of Thomas when he realized that Jesus Christ truly was resurrected from the dead. But this is also the faith statement of those who trust in Christ as Savior and Lord. This passage shows that all who are brought into an engagement of the risen Savior find in amazement that He is truly Lord and confess Him, as such.

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"

People do not make Jesus Lord; God the Father made Jesus Lord. The Lordship of Christ is not based on our faith, but the Father's declaration. Our faith is in Christ based on our conviction of His Lordship.

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?"

Lordship requires our obedience. To know Jesus as Savior means to know Him as Lord. Our confession of Jesus Christ as Lord must be backed up by our life practice of His Lordship.

Philippians 2:9-11 "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and 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."

1 Peter 3:15 "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts"

The word, "sanctify", used here has the connotation of setting Jesus Christ apart as unique and special. The way that the text says that Christians are to set Christ apart is "in your hearts." This means that we consider Jesus Lord or our boss and teacher, and we seek to follow and obey Him. This applies to worship and the exaltation of Jesus, as well as our discipleship and obedience. But it also includes the concept of investing in Jesus our hope and expectation for joy and goodness in this life and the next.

Summary and Notable Points

1. The Lordship of Jesus Christ includes His power, His victory, and His authority over all creation and the human race. Some essential aspects of Christ's Lordship include the following:
 - 1) Christ's Lordship is an established fact because of who He is and what He has accomplished in His saving work.
 - 2) Christ's Lordship cannot be abridged, diminished, or destroyed by time, evil, or human will.
 - 3) Christ's Lordship is the inevitable connection and confrontation between human life and eternity, establishing the ultimate destiny of each human being in eternity.
2. The Lordship of Christ and Christ as Savior
 - 1) The Lordship of Jesus Christ is a fundamental part of the gospel.
 - 2) The Lordship of Jesus Christ is an extension of His saving work.
 - 3) The Lordship of Jesus Christ is central to the hope found in the gospel.

Christ as Savior necessitates His Lordship and will include His Lordship. To be saved means that a person trusts Jesus as Savior and Lord. Thus, all the gracious gifts God gives to the believer in the gospel in His promises in Christ, also calls the believer to discipleship, to learning the truth, to obedience to Christ, and to godly living in sanctification. These latter characteristics show that the believer is truly regenerate and is forgiven of his sins. This has profound impact on how we conceive of the gospel and how we present the gospel to the lost.

3. The Lordship of Christ and the Righteous Declaration of the Father
 - 1) The Lordship of Christ reflects the Father's assertion: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased" (Matthew 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 9:35; 2 Peter 1:17)

- 2) The Lordship of Christ is reflected in the Scriptural statements about Jesus being given a name above every name, a declaration of the Father's delegated authority, especially in judgment.
 - John 5:26-27 is a good passage on this delegation of authority.
 - Acts 10:42 Jesus is the ONE who now has authority to execute judgment.
 - Acts 17:31 shows that this power and authority to judge comes from Jesus' resurrection and exaltation.

The authority of Christ is reflected in the Father's affirming and glorifying declaration of Christ as Lord. This authority is best seen in Christ's authority to render judgment against sinners. But it also includes the consummation of the age in which the Father will be glorified in all. This does not abrogate the submission of Christ to the Father; indeed, in 1 Corinthians 15:24 the apostle Paul indicates that Christ will yield His authority to the heavenly Father in the end that God might be all in all.

4. The Lordship of Christ and the Forgiveness of Sins (Christ's authority also is seen in the forgiveness of sins)
 - 1) Matthew 9:6 The issue of this passage relates to whether or not Jesus has authority to forgive sins.
 - 2) The forgiveness of sins requires the authority of judgment and the authority to vindicate sins justly.

The forgiveness of sins is a BIG thing, a HARD thing to do. This is not simple and easy because of justice. One must have authority to forgive sins, which Jesus has because He is Lord. Jesus, and only Jesus, has the power to forgive the sinner of their sins. The Father's declaration of forgiveness is based on Christ's saving work on the cross.

5. The Lordship of Christ and Absolute Authority (the absolute nature of Christ's authority)

Authority is like sovereignty; it has an absolute quality to it. Of course, in a human application, one may have authority or sovereignty in a regional or segmented sense, when applied to Christ, it is a statement about ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY.

 - 1) Matthew 28:18 "All authority is given to Me in heaven and on earth."
 - 2) Matthew 11:27; John 3:35; 17:2
 - 3) Ephesians 1:20-21
 - 4) Colossians 2:10
 - 5) 1 Peter 3:22
6. The Lordship of Christ and Power over Evil (Lordship of Christ and authority over evil)
 - 1) Colossians 2:13-15
 - 2) Mark 1:27; Luke 4:36
 - 3) John 12:31

4) Hebrews 2:14-15

5) Gadarene demoniac

Conclusion: The Lordship of Jesus Christ is the NATURAL result and NECESSARY consequence of Christ's saving work, His victory over sin and evil, and the Father's declaration of Christ's exaltation over creation and history. Recognizing and properly responding to Christ as Lord shows that a person has been changed by grace.