

100 BIBLE LESSONS

Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 30 – LORDSHIP

The Lordship of Christ involves the daily submission and surrender of our entire lives to the authority and leadership of God through Jesus Christ. Through "Lordship" we recognize the sovereign right of God to rule over us through Jesus Christ our King.

In the early church, Jesus Christ was preached as Lord and King (Acts 2:36; 17:6-7). It is interesting to note that Jesus was referred to as "Savior" only two times in the book of Acts while His "Lordship" was referred to ninety-two times. The apostles frequent evangelistic preaching as well as the epistles refers to His "Lordship" hundreds of times. The evidence that the Greek word *kurios* [lord] historically denotes rulership is overwhelming. Whether speaking of God the Father or Jesus His Son, *kurios* [lord] properly understood means supreme rulership as well as deity (Luke 6:46).

John MacArthur, Jr., in his book "The Gospel according to Jesus" states, *"He [Jesus] is called Lord [kurios] no less than 747 times in the New Testament. The book of Acts alone refers to Him 92 times as Lord, while calling Him Savior only twice. Clearly in the early church's preaching, the lordship of Christ was the heart of the Christian message."*

*"The centrality of Jesus' lordship to the gospel message is clear from the way Scripture presents the terms of salvation. Those who dichotomize [to divide into] between believing on Christ as Savior and yielding to Him as Lord have a difficult time with many of the biblical invitations to faith, such as Acts 2:21: "Every one who calls on the name of the **Lord** shall be saved"; or Acts 2:36: "Let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him **both Lord and Christ** – this Jesus whom you crucified"; or Acts 16:31 "Believe in the **Lord** Jesus, and you shall be saved"; and particularly Romans 10:9-10: "That if you confess with your mouth **Jesus as Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."*

"All of these passages include indisputably the lordship of Christ as part of the gospel to be believed for salvation. We saw that Jesus' lordship includes the ideas of dominion, authority, sovereignty, and the right to govern. If those things are implicit in the phrase "confess...Jesus as Lord" (Romans 10:9), then it is clear that people who come to Christ for salvation must do so in obedience to Him, that is, with a willingness to surrender to Him as Lord" (pgs. 206-207).

We conclude this teaching with these thoughts. *"Salvation is not in a plan but in a Person, the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation becomes a vital experience when the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ is received. Christ must not be divided in our preaching of the gospel. To receive Him is to receive Him as Lord and Savior, King as*

well as Prophet and Priest, Sovereign [ruler] as well as God. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit places the born-again soul into the Kingdom of God (Jn.3:3,5). If the Kingdom of God is “the rule of God,” can one be in the Kingdom without being under the King’s rule?” (Lordship Salvation: some crucial questions & answers by Robert Lescelius, p.46).

Generally speaking, people who present Jesus as only Savior to be accepted by faith, preach a message that is absent of any real commitment unto Him or His authority. The gospel message of salvation is not an offer of a discourse about Christ, but is a offer of Christ, the whole person and not just an offer of one of his offices or titles.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 6:46. Through the “Lordship” of Jesus we recognize the sovereign right of God to: a. help us. b. speak to us. c. rule over us through Jesus the King.
2. Read Acts 17:6-7. In the early church, Jesus Christ was preached as Lord and: a. teacher. b. friend. c. King.
3. Read Acts 5:30-31& Acts 13:23-24. It is interesting to note that in the book of Acts, Jesus “Lordship” was referred to ninety-two times and Him being “Savior” was referred to: a. 90 times. b. 500 times. c. two times. d. none of the above.
4. Read Acts 2:36 & Luke 6:46. The Greek word *kurios* translated “Lord,” means: a. shepherd. b. Son of Man. c. supreme rulership and authority, as well as deity.
5. Read Acts 2:21,36; 16:31 & Romans 10:9-10. Those who divide between believing on Christ as Savior and confessing Him as Lord have a difficult time with many biblical: a. examples. b. parables. c. stories. d. invitations to the Christian faith.
6. Read Acts 16:31. Salvation is not in a plan but in: a. doing good works. b. loving one another. c. a Person (the Lord Jesus Christ).
7. Read John 1:12. Christ must not be _____ in our preaching of the gospel. To receive Him is to receive Him as Lord and Savior, King as well as Prophet and Priest, Sovereign [ruler] as well as God.
8. Read Matthew 2:6. If the Kingdom of God is “the rule of God,” can one be in the Kingdom without being under the King’s _____?