

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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LESSON #27 — JESUS IS GOD, LORD & CHRIST

We want to begin a new thought, still along the lines of Jesus and His salvation. Since he is God's answer to our problem, our dilemma with sin, then, what does Jesus mean to the Christian? What is his relationship to us, and our relationship to him? As we study this thought, it is our hope and prayer that each one of us will recognize that we should be converted to and follow Jesus, not any man or group of men. Our loyalty, our devotion, always needs to be Jesus. We don't need to be converted to the plan of salvation which we've studied. We don't need to be converted to the church. The church is important. Salvation is important. But we need to be converted to and follow Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

He will never forsake us. He will never let us down. No matter what anyone else does. Our friends may betray us, our enemies may persecute us, even our loved ones families may cause us pain. But Jesus is always there. And please keep that in mind. And as we go through this study, we pray that that point will sink in deeply to our hearts.

So what is Jesus to the Christian? First of all, he is Is God and by that we mean that he is deity. He has divine characteristics and attributes. He is God. That means that He is all powerful, that he knows all things. He has all wisdom, He is eternal, all of those characteristics and attributes of deity Jesus has.

Let's look at several passages of Scripture, to see that. First in the book of John. In John, the first chapter, verses 1 through 3, and then verse 14. John 1, 1 through 3. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without him, nothing was made that has been made." And then verse 14: "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace, and truth." So God tells us, "In the beginning was the Word." Who is this word that he's talking about here? Well, verse 14 gives us God's answer to that question: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." He's talking about Jesus. So Jesus was in the beginning, and he was with God, and he was God. Now there are some in the religious world, who teach that that's not the case. But this passage, teaches without a shadow of a doubt, that Jesus was and is God. He is deity. And he says in verse two, "He was in the beginning with God." Literally, he existed before the beginning of time, of the creation, as we know it. Jesus is eternal. He goes back before the beginning. Only God, that is only true of God. Jesus is God. And then verse 3, it says, "All things were made through Him." So the Father made the creation through His beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ, and without him, nothing was made that was made or has been made.

So Jesus is not a created being as some teach. He created all things, and all things came into existence through him. So Jesus is God. And he came to this earth and dwelt in the flesh, and we saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, the one of a kind, the unique one, Jesus, the Christ. That glory is His. It belongs to him. He was full of grace, and of truth.

Jesus is God. Do we have other indications of that in the Scripture? Yes, we have many. We don't have time to go into all of those scriptures, we just want to look at one.

But let's look at John chapter 20, verse 28. John chapter 20, verse 28. Here the speaker is Thomas. "Thomas answered and said to him, 'My Lord, and my God.'" Remember the scene? Thomas had some question in his mind, that Jesus had been raised from the dead, had been raised from that tomb. And he said, "I want to see the holes in his hands, and in his side." And Jesus came to him and said, "Look, Thomas. See the holes in my hands, and in my side." And Thomas burst forth with this statement, "My Lord, and my God." Thomas believed that Jesus was who He claimed to be: the Son of God, deity.

So we need to keep in our minds that Jesus is God. Well, why is this important? Several reasons. First of all, because we, as we mentioned, some in the religious world teach that Jesus is not God. That's contradicted by this and other passages of Scripture, very clearly. He is God. But a second reason that this is important, is to show us that Jesus is due respect, honor, glory, and obedience, because he is deity. He is divine. He has those divine characteristics, and attributes. So Jesus is God.

Secondly, Jesus is Lord, and He is Christ. He is Lord and Christ. We'll explain those terms in a moment. But let's first see that fact, in the Scripture. Let's look at Acts chapter 2, verse 36. Acts chapter 2, verse 36. Remember, Peter preached the gospel to those people who were gathered together on that day. And then towards the end of His message, he said, "Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, Lord, and Christ." Peter here convicted those people of sin, of the sin of crucifying Jesus. He used the sharp, two edged sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and pierced them. And he said, "You crucified Him." But, the Father raised Him up. And the Father made him Lord, and He made him Christ. But what do those words mean?

Let's look first of all, at the word translated "Lord." It's the Greek word "kyrios," and it means "having power or authority. So we should think of that: one having power or authority. It means, "owner, master, one to whom service is owed on any ground." When we talk about the fact that Jesus is Lord, it should mean to us that he is one who has authority, one who has power. He is our owner, our Master, we then must be His servants, those who are servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's seen in passages, like James chapter 1, verse 1, and Philippians chapter 1, verse 1. So when we say that, that "Jesus is my Lord," that's meaning that I give him the authority, the power that he deserves. And I am going to serve Him in my life, while we're here on the earth.

But what does that mean to you and me in more detail? Well, we believe a good passage is in the book of Ephesians, chapter 6, verses 5 through 8, where we're going to learn that this means submitting our will completely to Him, to His will. Ephesians chapter 6, verses 5 through 8. Ephesians 6:5-8. "Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ, not with eyes service as men pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave, or free." Now God talks about Christians, as those who are servants of Christ, literally, slaves of Jesus, in the good sense of that word, not in a bad sense at all. We are slaves in that we yield our will to his will

completely. We exist to serve him, to do what he wants us to do. That's what he's talking about in verse 6, doing the will of God from the heart, sincerely, wanting to do God's will. Verse seven, "Doing good service to others as to the Lord, not on demand." So you and I need to serve others by doing good, and doing it as if we were doing it to the Lord.

That person who persecutes us: we need to say, "Alright, I need to treat that person as if he were the Lord." I need to love him, and show him that kind of compassion, and that kind of love, that will try to win him for the Lord. We need to yield ourselves completely to Jesus. And knowing that whatever good we do, we're going to receive of the Lord. You know how easy it is to get distracted sometime in this life. And we think, "I don't receive the recognition that I deserve. I don't receive the things of this world that I deserve." We need to keep this thought in mind. Whether we receive it here on this earth or not, God knows our works. And he's keeping a record. And if we're found faithful, unto the end, we're going to receive that good, which we have done, as reward. So we can be thankful to God that he knows that. But let's glean the point from this passage, that we need to yield ourselves completely to the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to give our life to Him, and a servant, to serve Him as slaves, as those who say, "Not my will, Jesus, but yours be done." That's what we're doing when we say that Jesus is my Lord.

I'm afraid that that phrase, that word, is used a little loosely, by us and by others in the religious world. There's a lot involved in saying that Jesus is our Lord. And I need to examine my life, and say, "Charlie, are you the kind of servant of Jesus that you ought to be?" And you might stand to profit also, from examining your life, and saying, "Am I the servant of the Lord, who has yielded my life completely to Him and His service?"

But, how did Jesus earn the right to be our master? To be our Lord? Well, let's look at several verses. First, in the book of Ephesians, also the fifth chapter, and verse 2. Ephesians 5, verse 2. "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God, for a sweet smelling aroma." Isn't that a beautiful passage of scripture? Doesn't that warm your heart to know that Jesus has done that for us? What has he done? He's given Himself for us. Didn't give a substitute, didn't give an animal or the blood of an animal. He gave himself and he didn't do that for him. He did it for us. And God says He made himself an offering and a sacrifice for us. That's how Jesus earned the right to be our master, our Lord, our ruler. He paid the price, his own body, his own blood, as an offering, a sacrifice, the once-for-all offering and sacrifice for sin.

Then in the book of Titus, in Titus chapter 2, verse 14. Titus 2, verse 14. "Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed, and purify for himself his own special people, zealous for good works." There we see the beautiful words again, "Who gave Himself for us." Why? To redeem us. What does that word mean? It means "to purchase back by paying the ransom price." Jesus paid the price of his blood to buy us back from our slavery to sin (1 Peter 1:19). Jesus paid the price to be our Lord, our Master, our owner. And he did that to purchase a special people, people who are set apart from the world, who are dedicated to the Lord and to his service, and who are zealous of good works, who have an enthusiasm to do that which the Lord commands them to do, that which the Lord defines as good. We ought to love the Lord so much because of the price that he paid for us, that we're zealous to do the good that He commands us to do in His Word.

Then in 1 Corinthians chapter 6, verse 19, and 20. 1 Corinthians 6, verses 19 and 20. At the end of this chapter, as we have it, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own, for you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s,” or which belong to God. Here, God through Paul tells us, that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Now, we know as we've mentioned earlier, that that does not enable us to work miracles in this age. That has not been done since the first century. But God does dwell in us. He lives in us. And that should make us think about the importance of us to God. He allows himself to dwell in us. And we can give thanks for that. But we also need to know that we are not our own. That is, our body does not belong to us. It is loaned temporarily to us by God, and it's his. And we're going to have to give an account for the way that we've used that body in our life upon this earth. But notice what he says: “That you are not your own, for you were bought with a price.”

The price was the blood of Jesus, the precious, spotless, Lamb of God. That's how much we're worth the Lord. He bought us with His own blood, and with his own body. And what is Paul's conclusion? “Therefore, since such a heavy, high price was paid for you, glorify God, in your body, and in your spirit, which belong to God.” So that's what we need to do. We need to glorify God, recognizing Jesus paid the price for me. He paid the price to be my master, my owner, my ruler, and therefore because of that love, I'm going to glorify Him by doing His will, by giving my life to Him, and using my life in His service, for His glory, all the days of my life. So Jesus is Lord, Owner, Master, ruler, and he earned the right to be our owner, Master, ruler, by giving himself, his own body, his own blood, to purchase us back from the slavery to sin.

So there's some thoughts from the scriptures and from the meaning of the word translated, “Lord.”

But what about the word translated “Christ”? What does that mean? Let's look at a definition of it. Christ is from the Greek word, “Christos,” and from the Hebrew word, “Messiah.” And it means “anointed.” It was often used to refer to kings. Then it came to be used for the coming King, whom the Jews expected to be the Savior of their nation. Here we see that when we say, “Christ,” we should keep in our minds that we're talking about Jesus as the Messiah, the coming King, who would be the Savior of mankind. So when I say, “I believe that Jesus is the Christ,” I'm saying, “I believe that he is the Messiah. He is my Savior, and the Savior of all the world.”

So Jesus is God. Jesus is our Lord. And Jesus is our Christ, the Messiah, the Savior. Keep in our minds that we owe him obedience, and that obedience should flow from a heart filled with love, because He paid the price to be our Lord, by giving himself as an offering as a sacrifice for my sins, and for yours. We pray that you will be found studying the scriptures, living the Scriptures, teaching the scriptures, and that we will always strive to glorify God and His beloved Son, until we meet again.