



UPCOMING DATES ...

Open House – 21st May

New Service Times – 21st May, 8.45am, 10.45am & 5.30pm

Young Families - What to Expect? – Friday 26th May

Water Baptisms – Sunday 28th May

Kids “Blast” (Kindy to Yr 6) – Sunday nights

Christian Character Course – register online

Imagine Recovery – Every Thursday Night

2017 – CG Notes #9

STRONGER by Submitting Your Life

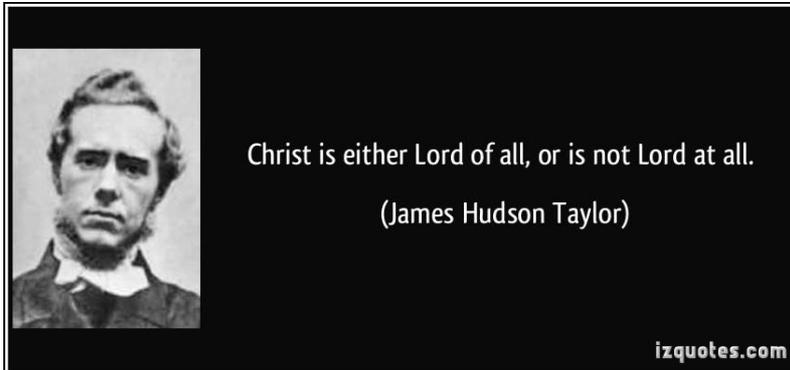
Title: Jesus Christ Lord of All

Key Scripture:

Philippians 2:9-11 NIV

*9 Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.*

Perhaps you have heard the quote “*Christ is either Lord of all, or is not Lord at all.*” Many others have repeated this quote but its source is attributed to James Hudson Taylor (1832 -1905), missionary to China whose life and ministry certainly demonstrated this truth.



Discuss:

- What do you think J. Hudson Taylor meant by this statement?

The Confession of Faith in Christ

Philippians 2 contains a confession of faith, a creed used by the early church. Its form in the original language hints that it may have also been used as a hymn. Its basis is found in the Old Testament Scriptures quoted below. It is the declaration of Christ’s humility in taking on the form of humanity and ultimately His triumphant exaltation as Lord of all.

The church was boldly declaring the revelation that Jesus Christ was both Saviour and Lord, meaning that He was and truly is God and was to be worshipped, revered and obeyed as God. This was an astounding revelation then and perhaps we, in this age do not fully grasp the significance of this.

In the Old Testament the LORD said of Himself:

Isaiah 43:11- 13 NIV

I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from Me there is no saviour. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed – I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses, declares the LORD, that I am God. Yes, and from ancient days I am He.

Isaiah 45:23 NKJV

I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.

Philippians chapter 2 mirrors these verses. To ascribe these truths to Jesus Christ was to plainly declare Him as One and the same with God.

The meaning of His Lordship

As believers we declare that “Jesus Christ is Lord” and we call upon the Lord when we pray but perhaps we need to take a closer look at the meaning of His title: Lord.

In the New Testament, Christ’s title, Lord (Strong’s G2962 *kyrios*) means: “He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding; one who has supremacy, the master, the possessor or disposer of a thing, the owner, the sovereign.”

In the usage of the day it was also the title of honour to express respect and reverence as servants would to their master and most importantly it was used of God Himself. (Jn 1:23, Rev. 1:8)

Paul and the early church were stating that Jesus Christ is all of these things. He was much more than a rabbi, a great teacher or even a miracle worker. He was God revealed to mankind. He is Lord of all.

Cultural mindsets

In today’s Western culture we are centuries removed from the idea of a sovereign ruler with absolute power. The social strata have changed as well and although economic differences exist we live in a society where we view ourselves more or less as equals.

Along with these changes there is also a tendency to view ourselves as “*not* bowing down to anything or anyone.” What we must be cautious of is that we do not carry this mindset into our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with His church. It follows then, that before we can fulfil the command: “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Eph. 5:21) we must first and foremost be certain that we have placed our lives in *genuine submission* to Jesus Christ. This we are to do willingly and with a heart of loving surrender.

Discuss:

- What are some cultural mindsets that are in opposition to Kingdom of God values?
- Have you found any of these mindsets slowly creeping into your life and practice of faith? If so, what have you done to combat them?

Submission to Jesus Christ

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Consider the imagery in these verses. At the name of Jesus – meaning the full measure of His authority and all that His name represents – every knee should bow. To bow down and to bend the knee is clearly an act of great reverence, to honour and to worship. In some church traditions, this is the posture that is taken during a worship service. Whether we physically bow or not, as followers of Christ we should certainly take this posture in our hearts. In doing so we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is truly the Lord of our lives. He is the Master, we belong to Him. Our lives are not our own. We have been bought with such a great price. (1 Cor 6:19-20)

A continual surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ

Nearly a decade ago, Jack and I were returning home with a one day stop-over in London. We learned that we could visit one of the early Methodist Chapels built by the Wesley brothers and the rectory where John Wesley lived and trained others for ministry. We were shown through the buildings by a beautiful old saint who loved the Lord with all her heart. She led us up the narrow, winding staircase to John Wesley's private rooms and his personal prayer room. It was sparsely furnished with a small kneeling desk where he knelt for prayer. On the desk were copies of a prayer, which I learned was prayed annually by the Methodist congregations at the start of each year as a prayer of commitment and submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We were deeply moved by this prayer and still these days, we often repeat it as our own.

The Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
Put me to doing, put me to suffering;
Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
Exalted for you, or brought low for you;
Let me be full,
Let me be empty,
Let me have all things,
Let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
To your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.