

Week of September 1, 2024

Theme: The LORD

Scripture: Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

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

Unpack:

The word “Lord” may have negative connotations for many people, including yourself, especially if you’re thinking of it in terms of someone who is over you as a boss, or that you are a servant or slave of someone else.

There is no doubt that this term has been abused through the years, as many people have been mistreated by “lords” who rule over them.

When someone is in a position of authority, they naturally have power that others may not have.

In, and of itself, this is not necessarily a bad thing.

For example, parents have authority over their children, a teacher has authority over her students, a construction foreman makes the decisions and tells the workers what they need to do.

None of this is wrong or sinful.

In fact, I am thankful that there are people in positions of leadership and authority in our world and in my life.

If the police didn’t have authority to track down and arrest those who are committing crimes, then I would feel way less safe.

If the treasurers in our church weren’t capable of handling the offerings that church people give, and distribute the funds towards our church programs and missionaries, then how would these workers be supported or ministries accomplished?

However, millions of people throughout history have misused their roles of being in charge, or in this case, of being *lords* over others.

Because of this, some people don’t like the idea of Jesus as Lord either, because they may have had a bad experience with someone else, or they are happy to

live for Jesus, as long as they see Him as simply a God who blesses and answers our prayers, and gives us a good life.

But, if Jesus says He wants to be the Lord of our lives, then we get nervous, wondering if He is going to be judge of all our actions, or call us to be missionaries in the jungles of Africa, or whatever other thing we might be afraid of.

Be honest, have you ever feared this misconstrued idea of The Lord?

This is not what the true definition of being Lord really means.

Reflection:

In John 20:28, after Jesus appears to “doubting” Thomas, He responds to Jesus,
“My Lord and my God.”

The resurrection of Jesus changed everything, and it was after this that the disciples and the early church began referring to Jesus as Lord, to acknowledge His Deity, that **He indeed was the Son of God.**

In fact, that is what the true intent of the word ‘Lord’ is, **that Jesus is God.**

When we get to Romans 10:9, we see that Jesus’ Lordship is linked to His resurrection;

*“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’
and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

This acknowledgement means that **Jesus has authority over all things, both in heaven and on earth, and even death.**

There is no one like Jesus, who is God in flesh, but He also came to show us God the Father, by becoming a human, so that we could discover the heart of God.

And of course, He needed to sacrifice His own life on the cross, shedding blood, the part of every creature that gives life, so that our sins would be paid for.

Once He accomplished this on the cross, what was needed was resurrection, to prove that He is Lord OVER ALL.

So, **when I refer to Jesus as Lord in my life, I’m acknowledging that Jesus is God, that He has power over death, and that we, His prized creation, can worship Him and live our lives for Him with joy and freedom, not with fear and intimidation.**

Application:

I would like you to consider three things this week as you reflect on Lordship:

1. Go online and type in "[scripture passages that refer to Jesus as Lord](#)" and spend time each day reading different verses that remind us of who Jesus is.
2. Pray for Christians around the world who are being oppressed by bad-intentioned lords. Consider these websites to find more information...
 - a. <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/>
 - b. <https://globalchristianrelief.org/>
 - c. <https://operationworld.org/>
 - d. <https://www.joshuaproject.net/>
3. Identify areas in your life that reflect Jesus' Lordship; are there areas that still need to be surrendered? Identify ways in which embracing Jesus' Lordship in your life helps you to point people to Jesus.

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for dying on the cross for our sins. Your resurrection proved that You are Lord over all, including over my own life. **Help me to embrace Your Lordship as a way to live for You and Your Purposes, not for my own selfish desires.** Guide me in my relationships to point people to You, and the fullness of life that comes from following You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.