JESUS IS LORD Study 07

I am busy reminding us of this vital message that I quoted a few years ago when I told you about this statement made famous by the great Missionary Hudson Taylor:

"Christ is either Lord of all, or is not Lord at all"

Over the last few weeks as we have looked at this statement, I have told you that in my final sermon in this series I am going to ask the question: SO WHAT?? If I have managed to convince you of the significance of the quote of Hudson Taylor, WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS.

IN THE FIRST WEEK I asked the question

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO REALISE THAT JESUS IS LORD OF ALL? - Acts 10

IN THE SECOND WEEK we looked at:

FIVE REASONS WHY I PREACH JESUS IS LORD

IN THE THIRD WEEK we looked at:

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEMONS

IN THE FOUTH WEEK we looked at:

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASE

IN THE FIFTH WEEK we looked at:

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEATH

LAST WEEK we looked at:

WHY JUST SAYING "JESUS IS LORD" DOESN'T NECESSARY MAKE JESUS LORD

THIS WEEK I want us to look:

THE BENEFITS OF HAVING "JESUS AS LORD"

A lot of Christian preaching is about MAKING JESUS LORD of your life.

Now if the Bible is calling people to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, then surely there must be some benefit to those that surrender.

Having Jesus as Lord of your life is not **POPULAR**, or many more people would be surrendering their lives to the Lord.

Having Jesus as Lord of your life is not <u>EASY</u>, or many more people would be surrendering their lives to the Lord. Jesus calls to give up our rights, in order to follow his ways.

Having Jesus as Lord of your life is not **PROFITABLE**, or many more people would be in it for the money. Jesus said, "it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

SO, What are THE BENEFITS OF HAVING "JESUS AS LORD"

The FIRST BENEFIT of having "JESUS AS LORD" is

1) IT RESOLVES THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF OUR LIVES.

Blaise Pascal, the famous French mathematician, physicist, inventor, philosopher, writer, and Catholic theologian, who lived from 1623–1662 is famous for saying the following, among many other things:

"There is a <u>God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man</u> which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made know through Jesus Christ."

How does MAKING JESUS LORD fill that "GOD-SHAPED" VACUUM?

1. IT BRINGS US PEACE WITH GOD

Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against the Word of God in the Garden of Eden, God's ultimate creation has been questioning the ultimate authority of God. Led by the leader of those that first rebelled, Satan and his demons, have misled people into thinking that they could be the masters of their own destiny.

However, Jesus, has defeated the power of Satan, once for all, and has made it possible for us to have peace with God. By simply putting our faith in the finished work of Jesus, we as no longer God's enemy, and have now been adopted to be God's Children!!!

2. <u>IT BRINGS US SALVATION FROM PUNISHMENT</u>

Romans 4:8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

For all created beings, there awaits a JUDGEMENT DAY.

Revelation 20:11-12 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. v12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR DEFENCE ON "THE DAY OF THE LORD"? Romans 4:23-25 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, v24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. v25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

3. IT PROMISES US ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD

Romans 5:21 "just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Our time on earth is so short. We better make sure we are preparing for eternity. What is the world offering as an alternative? I could have chosen any one of 50 websites from 360 quotes to the top 100.

Taken from https://www.notsalmon.com/2019/01/02/life-is-short-quotes/

- 1. Life is short. Stop worrying.
- 2. Life is short. Have fun.
- 3. Do things that make you happy.
- 4. Life is too short to be anything but happy
- 5. Life is too short for fakeness
- 6. You only have this one life.
- 7. Time spent unhappy is wasted
- 8. Life is short. Avoid drama.
- 9. Focus on what matters most
- 10. Focus on what you can control
- 11. Choose happiness
- 12. Live your truth
- 13. Live a life you love
- 14. Enjoy quiet time
- 15. Choose your battles because life is short

2 Peter 1:10-11 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, v11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

4. IT PROMISES A HEAVENLY REWARD

Ephesians 6:7-8 "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, v8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free."

Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, v24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

There is an encouraging sign often seen in offices of people who are Vocational Christian Workers. It read: "Work for the Lord, the Pay isn't much, but the RETIREMENT PLAN IS OUT OF THIS WORLD"

One of the great motivators for Christians has been the promise of Eternal Rewards. If you have ever listened to that Genre of music called "Negro Spirituals" you will discover the importance of future reward.

Beloved spirituals include such lasting favourites as "All God's Children Got Shoes," "Balm in Gilead," "Deep River," "Down by the Riverside," "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel," "Gimme That OI'-Time Religion," "He's Got the Whole World in His Hand,"

The SECOND BENEFIT of having "JESUS AS LORD" is

2) IT EMPOWERS US DURING THIS LIFE.

The Apostle Paul wrote these well know verses in:

Philippians 4:10-13 **I rejoice greatly in the Lord** that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. v11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. v12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. v13 **I can do everything through him who gives me strength.**

What things can we do when "JESUS IS LORD"?

1. <u>JESUS WILL GIVE YOU THE WORDS YOU NEED WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY</u>

Isaiah 50:4-5 (NLT) says, "The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I may know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will. The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me, and I have listened. I have not rebelled or turned away"

2 Timothy 2:7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

JESUS SAID IN: Matthew 10:17-20 "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. v18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. v19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, v20 for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

One of the main tasks Jesus left us to do when he left us on earth, is to tell others about Jesus. Many Christians are afraid of speaking to others about Jesus. My encouragement to you about speaking up for Jesus is,

"IN THE LAND OF THE BLIND, THE PERSON WITH ONE EYE IS KING!!"

You more than likely know a lot more than those that have never heard of Jesus. AND if you don't know the answer, admit you lack of knowledge as speak to someone who may have that knowledge.

2. <u>JESUS PROMISES TO FIGHT FOR YOU WHEN YOU CAN'T</u> DEFEND YOURSELF.

Psalm 27:1-3 (NLT) says, "The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? When evil people come to devour me...they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident"

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

Friends, THE WORST THE WORLD CAN DO is kill your BODY.

For the Christian, DEATH IS NOT DEFEAT, but ultimate victory, for "to be absent from the body, is to be present with the LORD".

Christians have been persecuted all through the centuries. Yet the TRUE CHURCH of JESUS has never been stronger.

3. GOD PROMISES HIS SUPPORT THROUGH THE DARKEST TIMES OF LIFE

When the burden feels too heavy, He will carry it for you.

Psalm 55:22 (NLT) says, "Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall"

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

The very NAME of the Holy Spirit, - THE PARACLETOS -, means "the one who comes alongside of you". Jesus left the Holy Spirit when he returned to the Father.

If it feels like Jesus is far away, IT'S NOT HIM THAT HAS MOVED!!!

4. WE ARE ALREADY ON THE VICTORIOUS SIDE

Revelation 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

I am so glad THE LORD JESUS CHRIST is not like our sports teams.

Most of you know I am a dedicated Lions Rugby Club supporter. The way they are playing this year, make me want to hang my head in shame.

On top of that, I am also a Manchester United supporter. Happily we won on Saturday, but there is nothing assured with the team they have at the moment.

NOT SO GOD'S TEAM. WITH HIM WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE VICTORIOUS SIDE.

CONCLUSION

Friends, with all the benefits there are in making "JESUS LORD", why would you choose anything/body else?

IF JESUS IS NOT LORD IN YOUR LIFE WHO IS?