

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 next few weeks I want to look at this statement, and 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 FOURTH WEEK we looked at:

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASE

IN THE FIFTH WEEK we looked at:

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEATH

THIS WEEK I want us to look at one of the most difficult verses in all of Scripture to accept..

WHY JUST SAYING “JESUS IS LORD” DOESN’T NECESSARY MAKE JESUS LORD

For many years there has been an ongoing debate about what needs to happen for a person to be qualified to enter the Kingdom of God.

Some teach that entering the Kingdom of God is purely God’s business. He chooses and selects those that will enter His Kingdom and condemns the rest to an eternal existence away from His presence.

Others teach that you enter the Kingdom of God by belonging to a specific organization. The Roman Catholics, Jews, Moslems, Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and others all teach this idea. They all believe that only their members will enter the Kingdom of God. They all follow an idea condemned in the Bible called Gnosticism. The Gnostics taught that you needed to know some special code to “truly” understand the ways of God.

In more recent years there has been a greater emphasis on the personal nature of “salvation.” The great “Revival” or “Gospel Outreach” meetings made much of the personal “Confession of Faith” of the sign that you qualified for entrance into the Kingdom of God. Much of this emphasis flowed from Paul’s teaching in

Romans 10:6-13 *But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) v7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). v8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: v9 **That 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. v10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. v11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." v12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, v13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."***

SADLY, THOSE THAT PROMOTED THE THIRD WAY TO ENTER GOD’S KINGDOM, SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THE TEACHING OF JESUS IN

Matthew 7:15-29 *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. v16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? v17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. v18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. v19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. v20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. v21 **"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. v22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' v23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' v24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. v25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. v26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. v27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." v28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, v29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.***

The FIRST reason WHY JUST SAYING “JESUS IS LORD” DOESN’T NECESSARY MAKE JESUS LORD is

1) JESUS TAUGHT THIS TRUTH.

In the passage we read Jesus said very clearly:

v21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven,

On another occasion Jesus told the following parable:

Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. v25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. v26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. v27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' v28 " 'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' v29 " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. v30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

Matthew 13:36-43 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." v37 He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. v38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, v39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. v40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. v41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. v42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. v43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

On another occasion Jesus told this to Nicodemus

John 3:3-7 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." v4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" v5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. v6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. v7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

The SECOND reason WHY JUST SAYING "JESUS IS LORD" DOESN'T NECESSARY MAKE JESUS LORD is

2) JESUS IDENTIFIES A VITAL CONDITION

There is one central condition Jesus mentions that is vital to

v21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

The importance of this condition is found in Jesus's own life

John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

What is the WILL OF THE FATHER?

1. **TRUSTING ONLY IN THE COMPLETE WORK OF JESUS**
*Hebrews 10:7-10 Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll--I have come to do your will, O God.' " v8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). v9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. v10 **And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***
2. **LIVING A LIFE OF SINCERE DESIRE TO PLEASE GOD**
Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
3. **TO BE BAPTISED**
*Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and **having our bodies washed with pure water.***
4. **TO PERSEVERE**
Hebrews 10:35-36 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. v36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

The THIRD reason WHY JUST SAYING “JESUS IS LORD” DOESN’T NECESSARY MAKE JESUS LORD is

3) IN SERVING JESUS, WHO GOT THE GLORY.

v22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

THERE ARE TWO DANGERS HIGHLIGHTED IN THEIR COMPLAINT

Firstly, IN USING THE NAME OF THE LORD, HAD THEY FAILED TO GET TO KNOW THE LORD OF THE NAME?

There are many times we can be so busy doing the work of the Lord that we don't make time for the Lord of the Work. Jesus should always be our first priority.

Secondly, IN USING THE NAME OF THE LORD, was the focus on the “WE” in the process?

The great emphasis on titles in our day is highlighting the danger of seeking power and position.

The FOURTH reason WHY JUST SAYING “JESUS IS LORD” DOESN’T NECESSARY MAKE JESUS LORD is

4) OUR ACTIONS MAY BE HIDING OUR TRUE CHARACTER.

v23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Even Satan is called the “ANGEL OF LIGHT”

Hypocrites cannot hide their true identity for too long.

It is not that Jesus forgot who they were!! What Jesus is saying is:

THE WAY YOU WERE PORTRAYING YOURSELF IN PUBLIC IS NOT THE PERSON I KNEW IN PRIVATE!!!!

CONCLUSION

There are two messages you will hear at the end of time.

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

OR

DEPART FROM ME, I NEVER KNEW YOU!