

“The Highest Title of Jesus” Philippians 2:9-11

Wednesday 2/13/19 – Jeff Lyle

Scripture reveals no fewer than 150 different references and titles for Jesus. All of these were placed purposefully in the Bible to help convey the immeasurable identity of God the Son. Most of us were introduced to Him as being the Savior of Sinners. We were taught that we must personally accept Him into our hearts so that our sins will be forgiven and Heaven can become our eternal destination. While it is true that forgiven sinners will arrive in paradise after they die, many of us may be surprised that Jesus is only referred to as Savior 15 times, while He is called Lord over 600 times. The issue of the lordship of Jesus Christ is crucial for all of us. Scripture overwhelmingly presents Jesus as the LORD who saves, not a Savior who offers a bonus-level of discipleship to those who want to know Him as Lord of all. This message takes us through multiple passages which reinforce that Jesus Christ came as Lord of all, calls us to bow to Him as Lord of all, frames the Gospel message with Him being Lord of all and will be acknowledged for all eternity as Lord of all. The Church must get this vital doctrine right.

I. Where Our Focus Rests (9)

“Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name...”

As Jesus completed the work that the Father gave Him to do (John 17:4), and always did the things which brought pleasure to the Father (John 8:29), He was eternally placed at the pinnacle of glory. As the Supreme focal point in the cosmos, God the Father saw to it that there would never be any name higher than that of His Son. During His life, Jesus was diminished and despised (Matthew 13:55) by many. Names like Herod, Pilate, Caiaphas and even Caesar were circulating about within the story of Jesus’ rejection and crucifixion. When He died, it seemed like these names would forever tower over the name of Jesus. Not so! God exalted Jesus’ name above every other name. The practical outworking of this for the Christian is that we understand that the name of Jesus must be exalted above our own name. His glory must be facilitated through everything that comprises our lives. We live to magnify His name. Our life-message is that Jesus is the supreme Lord of all. Like John the Baptist, we must decrease so that the person of Jesus Christ increases through our own lives.

II. Where Our Will Bows in Honor (10)

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“So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth...”

We are here told why God the Father exalted Jesus above every other. The Father made His Son, Jesus, to become the visible Lord over all of creation. Jesus is supreme. Jesus is the greatest, the highest and the most glorious. Every created being – angelic (**in heaven**), demonic (**under the earth**), and human (**on earth**) – will bow before Him. Christians, we did this when we were saved. We honored Him as our Lord. We continue to do that for the rest of our lives and throughout all of eternity. Mark this down: every created being will unquestionably bow before the Son of God. All will acknowledge His supreme Lordship. It has never been a matter of *if* this will happen, only *when*. We are given a sneak peek of what a portion of this universal bowing will look like at the end of the age:

Revelation 5:11-14 - “Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” 14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

III. What Our Mouths & Lives Proclaim (11)

“...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Imagine: every rational creature created by God will, in the end, give verbal expression that Jesus is Lord of all. We will not merely bow our knees, we will declare with our mouths His lordship. The entire context for the Christian life is that we are visible and verbal testimonies of the supremacy of Jesus Christ. In this, God the Father is glorified and pleased. He loves the exaltation of His Son. This is

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the purpose of our rearranged souls: glory for Christ, both now and forever. Jesus is referred to as Lord more than 600 times, but only 15 times is He referred to as Savior. The clear emphasis in Scripture is that Jesus is to be known as Lord (who He is in Himself) over and above Savior (who He is to us). The penultimate confession of the cosmos is the uncontestable Lordship of Jesus, God’s Son. A simple survey of other parts of the New Testament undeniable reveals this emphasis:

Romans 10:9-10 - “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

2 Corinthians 4:5 - “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”

1 Peter 3:15 - “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy...”

Colossians 2:6-7 - “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

Romans 14:7-9 - “For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.”

Luke 6:46 - “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

2 Thessalonians 1:6-12 - “God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away

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from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might, 10 when He comes on that day to be glorified in His saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

So, what is the practical consequence of this emphasis of Jesus as Lord of all? Much of the modern Church teaching has so emphasized Jesus as the sinner’s “personal Savior” that we may have unwittingly sacrificed His lordship on the altar of evangelism. While it is undeniable that each sinner must personally accept Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross as the basis of the repenting sinner’s salvation, that is merely where our relationship with Him begins. The whole of scripture teaches that, for each one who meets Jesus as Savior, a transformed life will become the evidence. That life will be characterized by an awareness of Jesus supreme title of Lord. He rules. He commands. He leads. He instructs. Our lives are for His glory. He supplies. He assigns. He calls. He releases. We are no longer our own because we have been bought by Him at an immeasurable cost (1st Corinthians 6:19-20). Jesus taught in Matthew 7 that many people will verbally refer to Him as Lord, but they will not be permitted to enter into eternity with Him. He declares that the distinction is not in what we say, but how we obey. Do we do His will? The essence of Lordship is a transformed heart that is inclined to lovingly trust and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. May our true messaging of Jesus as Savior also include the necessary element that He did not come and die and rise merely to save us, but to rule over us in His glory as Lord of our lives.