

Cornerstone 1: Repent and Return

C1-3 The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Introduction

A self-centered Christian will experience conflicts in his emotion and life's experiences. You were not created to be the center of your own world. When Jesus saves you, you are born-again by the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Lordship of Jesus Christ in contrast to my personal rights – it only makes sense in the context of the Kingdom of God.
- Christianity is not a religion. It is the Kingdom of God. We are either in the kingdom of darkness or we are in the Kingdom of God.
- In any kingdom, there is a king who has decrees and declarations which the subjects of the kingdom must obey. We choose to enter the Kingdom of God when we respond to God seeking us out and dying for us. He brought us into His Kingdom. As a Kingdom citizen we must submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ the King.

Lordship of Jesus: Total and absolute

[KJV] Phil 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- The Lordship of Jesus is total and absolute, in every realm – no realm excluded.
- Every tongue including that of animals shall confess He is Lord – He is Lord of ALL creation.
- He is Lord of ALL or Not Lord at all!
- You cannot add Christianity to or make it a part of your belief system.
- There must be an abandonment of the old kingdom and a determined entry into the Kingdom of God declaring Jesus, You are Lord!
- How can we know the will and purpose of God for our lives?

- We will discover that we were created for something amazing, so Lordship requires transformation.

THINKPOINT: “There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counterclaimed by Satan.” — C. S. Lewis

The question of the Lordship of Jesus Christ has to be answered by every Christian. If this is not settled, then you cannot advance in your Christian walk. When you surrender completely to Christ as a “living sacrifice”, you will discover that you can easily fulfill God’s perfect will and purposes.

Lordship requires transformation

[KJV] Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- The word “therefore” tells us that Paul had outlined much of his meta theology in the earlier chapters e.g. he dealt with sin, redemption, and Christ dying for us.
- No sacrifice for Him was too great. Our appropriate response is then to present ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him, not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.
- Charles Thomas Studd (English missionary to China, India and Africa) said, “If Jesus Christ is God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”
- Jesus Christ took your place and mine on the cross. He loved us enough to die for us.
- Why can’t we continue to be lukewarm Christians and half-hearted in our commitment to Him?

THINKPOINT: NO ONE can remain the same when Jesus is the Lord of their life – the most powerful evidence is a changed life that points to His Lordship. When we fully realise what He has done for us - REDEEM our PAST, RESTART our PRESENT, RESTORE our FUTURE, nothing is too much to give to Him.

Heart believes and mouth confesses

[KJV] Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- We cannot be saved without RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- Righteousness is the _____. Upon righteousness He will judge us.
- Our righteousness is as

Why must we be clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ?

1. The Need for Lordship

Psalm 139:13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

- Why is there a need for Lordship? We need Him to be Lord. The need is ours!

1.1 He knows how we are wired

Psalm 139:15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

1.2 He designed our purpose

Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

- What has God placed within us and why?

- We are to become all that He has ordained for us. Our lives are purposeful because He designed a purpose for each of us.
- How can we know our Kingdom assignments?

THINKPOINT: When we are fully aligned with Him, all the resources of heaven become available to us so that we might walk not just in the natural level but also in the supernatural realm.

2. Why Jesus Christ is the Lord of All

Phil 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

- God abandoned His glory in heaven and humbled Himself taking on the form of man. He was subject to the limitations of the human body.
- Why does Jesus deserve to be our Lord?

- God exalted Him and gave Him the Name that is above every name.
- Why is the Name of Jesus above EVERY name?

- We can live victoriously because we do not need to hold on to our problems as all our problems now belong to Him – He is Lord!

2.1 Jesus is God the Son – the second person of the Godhead

[KJV] Heb 1: 8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

- Jesus is the Son of God. He was from the beginning (see *John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.*)
 - Righteousness is a key emphasis here again. Why is it necessary?
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2.2 All things created through and for Him

Col 1: 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

- Why don't we need to fear demons or what have been called aliens?
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2.3 Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary.

Read Matt 1:18 – 23

[KJV] Matt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

- We are all born in sin but not Jesus. Why was Jesus not tainted by sin?
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- He alone was holy when He came in the form of man and He never sinned. Therefore He was the perfect (untainted) sacrifice for all of us. This is why He deserves to be the Lord of ALL.

2.4 Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life

John 8:46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?

- We have all fallen short of the glory of God but not Jesus.

- He is the high priest who became like us to die for us (see [KJV] Heb 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;). He is not just a mediator but the perfect lamb sacrificed for all of us.
- He is the perfect high priest interceding for us and deserves to be the Lord of ALL.

2.5 The death of Jesus Christ provided a full payment for all our sins

[KJV] 1 John 1: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

- Why must Jesus die?
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- Jesus came, He died, was crucified and buried but He rose from the dead, conquering sin which brought death and death itself.

THINKPOINT: The impact of His blood can be appropriated any time – when we repent and confess our sins, He cleanses us.

2.6 Jesus Christ rose from the dead

[KJV] Mark 16:6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

- Jesus conquered death which is the last enemy of humankind.
 - How did Jesus conquer death?
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2.7 Jesus Christ ascended to heaven

[KJV] Acts 1: 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

[KJV] Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

- We will also experience heaven and it will come down to rule with Him.

- He will come back in the same way and every eye shall see Him.

2.8 Jesus Christ is now interceding for you and other Christians

[KJV] Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

- He is interceding for all us and He deserves the Lordship over our lives

2.9 Jesus Christ is coming again. He will return to earth as Lord and Judge

[KJV] Rev 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

- He will be the judge as well.
- Jesus is the Lord of ALL. If He is not the Lord of ALL, He is not Lord at all.

3. The Lordship of Christ is sealed by His Resurrection

Rom 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

- What did Paul say about the resurrection of Jesus?

- No religious teacher or founder of a religion who died rose from the dead except Jesus. What did Jesus' resurrection demonstrate?

- Jesus Christ is Lord of ALL as Paul emphasised in *Rom 14: 9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*
- The Lordship of Jesus Christ has no limitations in space nor time. He is **Lord of every time – yesterday, today and forever**. He is **Lord of every dimension, every realm**.

Whoever calls on His Name...

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

- The Lord is able to save and is willing to save.
- He died for our sins. No religious leader had died for the sins of their followers except Jesus Christ our Lord.

His Lordship demands our repentance

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

- Who can demand repentance and why?

- Why is repentance necessary?

- The day is coming when ALL will acknowledge that Jesus is God and the Lord. However, He will not be the Saviour to all because only those who repent and accept Him as their Lord and Saviour will be saved. Where will you spend eternity? Without the salvation provided by Jesus Christ, the person will spend eternity in hell.

4. Jesus is Lord because He has Redeemed Us

The word, "redeem" means "to purchase". This is usually applied to the purchase or redemption of the freedom of a slave. The word, "ransom", is an important part of the concept of redemption.

- What was the ransom for our redemption and why did Jesus cry out, "it is finished!"?

- What are we set free to do?

He took our place as the cursed One

[KJV] Gal 3: 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

- Instead of us being cursed on a tree paying the penalty for our sins, Jesus took our place.

Our redemption leads to adoption

[KJV] Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- Jesus did not just redeem us by paying the full debt of our sin.
- What did He also do?

- What is the implication and how should we walk?

- We are no longer slaves (redeemed from the mentality of a slave). We are sons of the Kingdom – sons of inheritance.

The Redemption is through His Blood

Whenever the Bible talks about the blood of Jesus, it refers to the death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus has redeemed us from the power of the devil and death by His own death on the cross.

- What should we do when the enemy attacks us?
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- We cannot be defeated as the penalty of our sins have been fully paid. The enemy has no power over us.
 - When we use the blood this way, we are proclaiming
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The power of the blood can break every disease, every curse.

Every sheep is precious – bought

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- Pastors, stewards, shepherds – we are under-shepherds. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd.
 - He has paid for every life. They belong to Him. What is an under-shepherd's job?
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5. The Testimony of the Disciples

Why are their testimonies important? All of them died except John who they could not kill, because of their convictions about the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus is the absolute Lord. The disciples were convicted about the Lordship of Jesus. Because of their testimonies they were killed.
- By their confession and their fruit, we can understand the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- They were willing to sacrifice their lives for the Lord. Historical evidence shows that Peter was tortured many times for his faith and subsequently was killed by being crucified upside down. Thomas was killed by spears while ministering in India. Paul was beheaded in Rome for his faith. John was put in boiling oil but he did not die. Then he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos. He was the only one who died a natural death. James was thrown down from the Temple tower but he did not die. The mob then clubbed him to death.

5.1 Peter

[KJV] Matt 16:16 –And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

- Peter had a revelation and a conviction and a testimony.

5.2 Thomas

[KJV] John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

- This was Thomas' confession based on his conviction when he saw the pierced hands of Jesus

5.3 Paul

[KJV] Rom 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

- Paul was a persecutor but the Lord confronted him and he understood who the Lord was to him – the Son of God.

5.4 John

[KJV] John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- John had a revelation that everything was created by Him and through Him. It is important that Jesus was in the beginning.

5.5 James

[KJV] James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

- James was one of the first few martyrs for the Lord.

6. Why is it that Jesus had to come to earth?

Matt 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

- Jesus did not come just to die for our sins. He came to

 - Adam lost the kingdom in the Garden of Eden and was banished.
 - Jesus the last Adam came to

 - _____ and so He declared:
Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. So we can enter the Kingdom.
 - He also demonstrated the power of the Kingdom to heal all kinds of sicknesses.
 - How can we enter the Kingdom?
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6.1 Jesus came to save that which was lost

[KJV] Luke 19: 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

- God did not just come to save humankind but ALL that was lost – creation had lost its purpose, God said He would restore.
 - How did God restore everything?
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- His redemption is total, comprehensive, and it encompasses everything.

6.2 Jesus came to take away the sins of humankind

[KJV] 1 John 3: 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

- He took our sins away and nailed our sinful nature to the cross so that the sin problem would forever be dealt with – all our past sins totally cancelled, and the sinful nature He destroyed totally.

6.3 Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil

[KJV] 1 John 3: 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

- 2000 years ago Jesus came and destroyed the works of the devil and now He lives in us so that through every one of us we will destroy the works of the devil.

Prayer: Father we thank you that Jesus is the Lord of our lives and even as we pray today, Lord there is such an inner conviction in our hearts that You alone are Lord. You are my God. You are my Lord over every arena of my life. So we pray for everyone to give their lives fully to You. Even if you received Jesus Christ in the past, today surrender every part of your life, your heart to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Let Him be the Lord. Let Him dethrone every idol in your life. Let Him be the King over every realm.

We bless You Father. Bless everyone watching this video clip on this Kingdom foundation for reigning.

In Jesus mighty Name, amen.