

"Jesus is Lord"

Philippians 2.5-11

This is the SUNDAY we REMEMBER > a Sunday almost 2000 yrs Ago
 JESUS entered Jerusalem riding on DONKEY > Cheered by CROWDS
 They Waved PALM Branches and SHOUTED His Praises:

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" John 12:13

Began MOST Impt Week of Human HISTORY > World SAVED by Young Man
 HOSANA – Shouted by CROWDS – NEVER Imagined TRUE MEANING

HOSANA = SAVE US > Saw Jesus as RESCUER from ROMAN Control
 Never IMAGINE > 5 Days Later: be REDEEMER upon a ROMAN CROSS

Blessed is he who comes in the **name of the Lord!** > TODAY Focus: **LORD**

APOSTLE'S CREED > 'And in Jesus Christ His only Son, **OUR LORD**'
 1st CREED of ISRAEL: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
 Deuteronomy 6.4

1000+ yrs later GREAT SHOCK > Jesus DARED INCLUDE SELF in ONENESS
 "I and the Father are one."
 John 10.30

CLAIM > Nothing LESS than GOD in HUMAN FLESH > GOD the SON

1st CREED of CHURCH: "Jesus is Lord" Romans 10.9

BOLD, MISUNDERSTOOD, STRONGLY OPPOSED > Obvious CONCLUSION
 New ENCOUNTER with GOD > resulted in NEW EXPLANATION of who He IS

Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be
 cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
 1 Corinthians 12.3

The uniqueness of Christianity is Christ.

John Mbiti

1. Revolutionary Belief

2. Radical Behavior

1. Revolutionary Belief: Jesus is Lord

a. Title of God

Gk. 'KYRIOS' = LORD / VARIOUS Meanings – POLITE ADDRESS = 'SIR'

EASTER Morning > Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was GARDENER

"**Sir**, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."
John 20.15

Rd to Damascus: Fire-breathing Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, knocked off High Horse
He fell to the ground and heard a voice... "*Who are you, **Lord?***" Saul asked.

Acts 9:4-5

OK Buddy 'YOU GOT MY ATTENTION!' > Not yet SURE WHO Dealing With

Jesus DISCIPLES > MORE than Polite Address > TITLE – 'The Lord Jesus'

About 200 B.C. > HEBREW Scriptures translated into COMMON GREEK

Many Jews unable to READ Hebrew > Alexandria > SEPTUAGINT, Greek OT

Transl. CHALLENGE > SACRED NAME of God – 'Yahweh' – Not Pronounce It
Decided > 'ho kyrios' = 'the Lord' > Occurs over 6000 X's in Greek OT

'ho kyrios' = God of ISRAEL / CREATOR of Universe / COVENANT God

250 Yrs Later > Well ESTABLISHED > 'ho kyrios' Greek Title for GOD of Israel

Writers of NEW TESTAMENT > Sought to Define & Describe JESUS

'Jesus is KYRIOS' > JESUS is GOD > Used more than 600 X's in NT

b. Texts about God

HEBREW Scriptures > National Treasury of TRUTH of GOD of ISRAEL

PRIMARY Source of REVELATION > Living Word to His Covenant People

God Revealed HIMSELF – HIS Nature, Ways, Promises, and Expectations

Not only did NT writers use NAME of GOD for TITLE about JESUS

APOSTLES applied OT Scriptures ABOUT God to the LORD Jesus Christ

<p>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple...And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."...my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty. Isaiah 6:1,3,5</p>	<p>...as Isaiah says elsewhere: "He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts"...Isaiah said this because <i>he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.</i> John 12:39-41</p>
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ISAIAH 6 > Most Important, Most Exalted Portrait of God in Jewish Scriptures
One of MOST AMAZING Verses in John's Gospel > Refers to Vision of Isaiah 6

v. 41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

The GOD Isaiah SAW > High and Lifted Up > Holy, Holy, Holy > IS JESUS!!

Later in Isaiah > LONGING for COMING of God > Make things RIGHT:

<p>A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway <i>for our God.</i> Isaiah 40.3</p>	<p>"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way <i>for the Lord,</i> make straight paths for him." Matthew 3.3</p>
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Isaiah predicts COMING of God Himself / Announced by One who Prepared Way
Predicts ministry of BAPTIZER > Matthew understood GOD Coming in Christ

Joel > Prophet to Judah > WARNING and COMFORT > DAY of the Lord Coming
Day of the LORD > Came WHEN Lord Jesus CAME > Brings God's RULE to US

<p>You will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed...And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved Joel 2:27-32</p>	<p>And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'..."Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." Acts 2:21,38</p>
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Peter understood this DAY began on Pentecost > Lord Jesus is the God who Saves

Today's TEXT > Well known NT Declaration > JESUS IS LORD –
 BASED on OT Text > UNIQUENESS of God > There is NONE OTHER

<p>There is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other...Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.'" Isaiah 45:21-24</p>	<p>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 Philippians 2:9-11</p>
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c. Worship of God

Amazing! Shock! PAUL dares apply Text of God's Uniqueness to JESUS CHRIST
 WORSHIP rightfully Due to GOD ALONE > Given to JESUS the LORD

Christolatry (the worship of Christ) preceded Christology (the doctrine of Christ).
 But Christolatry is idolatry if Christ is not God. John Stott

WORSHIP and HONOR comes from Way BEYOND the Borders of ISRAEL
 EVERY Knee will BOW / EVERY Tongue will CONFESS > GLOBAL HOMAGE

When God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels
 worship him." Hebrews 1.6

God the Father AND Lord Jesus > Object of Prayer > Source of Grace & Glory

We pray this 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. 2 Thessalonians 1.12

The New Testament writers did not argue the rightness of making the daring
 identification that Jesus is God, for there was no need for them to do so...which
 must mean that it was not being disputed. So already within a few years of the death
 and resurrection of Jesus his deity was part of the universal faith of the church.

Revolutionary Belief: Jesus is Lord > Called God, God Scriptures > Worshipped

SO WHAT?: Jesus GOD / a god / Buddha / Brahmin / Prophet / Rabbi / Sensei
 ‘Isn’t the MAIN THING that a person BELIEVES in Jesus – whoever he is??’

Silly Syllogism > I had table in my house – You have a table in your house –
 YOU MUST HAVE MY TABLE IN YOUR HOUSE!

Hey! Wait a Minute! There COULD BE MORE than just ONE TABLE!

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we
 preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a
 different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2 Corinthians 11:4

ETERNAL IMPORTANCE > Better get it RIGHT > Matter of LIFE & DEATH
 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. Romans 10:9

IF Jesus NOT your LORD > He Cannot be your SAVIOR > Jesus is Savior & Lord

2. Radical Behavior: Jesus my Lord

Let us consider this Important TEXT declaring ‘Jesus as Lord’
 And see how Paul applies theme of HIS LORDSHIP in Letter to Philippians

a. Rule of the Lord

Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God
 something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a
 servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he
 humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

Quotes HYMN – based on Isaiah 45 – Incomparable CHANGE in STATUS
 Difficult to IMAGINE > Slave OWNER becoming SLAVE > Not Even CLOSE
 TOTAL Humiliation of Jesus >> Dignity of Sovereign > Despised as Slave
 Wonder of Clouds > Wounds of Cross // Praises of Heaven > Pains of Hell

Far be the very name of a cross, not only from the body, but even from the thought, the eyes, the ears of Roman citizens. Cicero

TOO EVIL for a ROMAN Citizen > But NECESSARY for RULER of Creation
THRU Cross > Redemption Won > Sin's Captives Freed > Earned Highest Name

1) Cosmic – Jesus is Lord of UNIVERSE > ABOVE all POWERS

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. Philippians 2.9-11

HINDUS > ‘Lord Krishna’ / BUDDHISTS > ‘Lord Buddha’

We who WORSHIP the Lord Jesus Christ canNOT ACCEPT those Rival Claims

There is not one inch in the entire area of human life about which Christ, who is Sovereign of all, does not cry out ‘Mine!’ Abraham Kuyper

2) No Comparison – All Else, Everything Else, FADES in SIGNIFICANCE

Paul considers ENTIRE LIFE > All his Merits, Attainments, and Commendations

I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3:8

Paul DISMISSES Status of His RACE, RELIGION, and TRADITIONS

Compared to SURPASSING Blessing of Knowing Lord Jesus > All Deep Doo-Doo

Meeting JESUS turned Paul's Entire View of Life ON ITS HEAD > HE is LORD

Ask those NOT HERE this Sunday AM ‘WHY Not’ > Many say I want to be FREE FREE to Live MY LIFE, My Schedule, Rules, Beliefs, Behavior

RIGHTLY UNDERSTOOD ONE Element of Christian FAITH > PARADOX

Follow Jesus > LOSE FREEDOMS > SURRENDER of RIGHTS > GAIN LIFE!

When we say these words of the creed, then, we declare that Jesus is our Lord, meaning we recognize him as Lord of all and that we acknowledge his authority over our own hearts...Indeed by calling him Lord we imply that the worship and obedience we pay to the risen Jesus is the worship and obedience we pay to God.

Luke Timothy Johnson

3) Citizenship

Jesus as LORD > Not Change your PASSPORT > but Gain Additional Citizenship CHANGES your PURPOSE and your FINAL DESTINATION > Kingdom Citizen

City of Philippi > Proud of Unique Status in Roman Empire > Military Colony
ALL CITIZENS of Philippi were also ROMAN CITIZENS

Pagan Roman EMPERORS demanded Citizens offer WORSHIP to them as LORD
Christians could NOT confess 'Caesar as LORD' when 'Jesus ALONE is LORD'

Totalitarian STATES did not END with Roman Empire > Many Rule Today
Christian can only give UNCONDITIONAL ALLEGIANCE to Lord Jesus Christ

Paul reminds Philippian Christians > Have a Far More PRESTIGIOUS STATUS

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ
Philippians 3:20

Not only do we BELONG to Heaven > Lord of Heaven bringing BUS to Get Us!

4) Confidence – Jesus can be TRUSTED to fulfill his Purposes and Promises

If JESUS is LORD – You are HIS > Already got PASSPORT of His Kingdom

I am confident in the Lord
Philippians 2:24

PAUL unfazed by ROMAN PRISON >> Confidence FIRM in Him who is Lord

...you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

Philippians 4:1

b. Relations in our Lord

Jesus is not just MY Lord > He is OUR LORD > Belong to FAMILY of FAITH

...the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God

Philippians 1:14

BROTHERS in SALVATION and SERVICE / In WITNESS and the WORD

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Philippians 4:23

In the LORD Jesus > Receive GRACE > Right w/ God, Others, even Ourselves

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.

Philippians 4:2

Jesus as LORD NOT some ABSTRACT Philosophy > Changes Lives & Churches
PRACTICAL Expression of LORDSHIP > Sisters were having CAT-FIGHT

BOTH were in the LORD > Therefore both need to FORGIVE and FORGET

For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother?

Romans 14:9-10

We are HIS, NOT our OWN > Lord Jesus became SERVANT for OTHERS

We need to ask God to give us the will and power to do what we believe.

Samuel Ngewa

c. Rejoicing in the Lord

Paul GREAT EXAMPLE of Transforming Power of the Lord Jesus

Writes from PRISON CELL > No WHINING or SARCASM or REVENGE

Word JOY – as Verb or Noun – 16 X’s in Philippians

I rejoice greatly in the Lord Philippians 4:10

Paul SENT Letter with their Pastor Epaphroditus > Visited Paul in Prison
Welcome him in the Lord with great joy Philippians 2:29

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Philippians 4:4
Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same
things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Philippians 3:1

Either we’re GRIPING & GRUMBLING or we GLORIFY the Lord with JOY!

HOW do we KEEP this EDGE > Continue in HIS JOY? Blessing His GLORY?

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:2

FAMILIAR WORDS > HEART of our RELATIONSHIP with God

Grace is God’s love for the unworthy, revealed in the coming of Jesus and his self-giving on the cross; *peace* echoes the familiar Hebrew greeting shalom, spiritual and physical well-being. That is why Paul says it comes *from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*. Sinclair Ferguson

GRACE and PEACE > Father and Jesus SIDE by SIDE > Together as True Source

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Philippians 4:5

The Lord is near. Ref. to 2nd Coming of Jesus or Presence with Us NOW? YES!
Intentionally Ambiguous > Christ has Come – Christ is Come – Christ will Come

Variation of EARLY CHRISTIAN WATCHWORD ‘Maranatha’ O Lord COME!
Only ONE Coming EVENT to COMPLETE Work of Jesus > His RETURN

All is READY > Died and Rose from Dead > Ascended > Exalted
BAPTIZED the Church with His SPIRIT on PENTECOST

NEAR to us NOW by His Spirit > NEARER to that Blessed Day of His Coming

KURIOS IESOUS > The LORD JESUS > Sounds HARMLESS at First
Becomes clear it is Revolutionary Belief / which demands Radical Behavior

PALM SUNDAY > Dress Rehearsal > Several Thousand in Jerusalem
Waved Branches > Shouted Praises > Acknowledged Jesus: Savior and Lord

ONE DAY > Not too FAR AWAY > Whole CREATION will Declare Him
Every Knee will BOW / Every Tongue will CONFESS
Jesus Christ is LORD > to the GLORY of God the Father!
