

## Doctrine of the Lordship of Christ

1. A question which has divided a large part of Christendom is this: "Can a person accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior without first recognizing His Lordship?"
2. It is not surprising to discover that the origin of this religious theological controversy initially arose within the theological camp of Arminian Dispensationalist, for advocates of this System of Belief love to make dramatic distinctions in the Bible where none exist. A distinction between the "kingdom of God" and the "kingdom of heaven" comes to mind by way of an example.
3. The argument is as follows: "It is important to get a person saved by having them believe in Jesus as the resurrected Christ and Son of the Living God. Doctrine will follow a decision for Christ as personal Saviour. First let people get saved and then they can grow in grace and knowledge of Christ and will bow to His Lordship and make Him the Lord of one's life."
  - *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
4. But there are other passages which address this controversy and they teach the necessity of recognizing the Lordship of Christ before the soul is saved and not subsequent to the act.
  - *Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
  - *Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
5. On the night of the birth of Jesus the angel announced that the Saviour is "Christ the Lord" thereby emphasizing the greatness and the sovereignty of the One who was coming into the world.
  - *Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*
6. On the day of Pentecost, prior to answering their question of what to do in order to be saved, Peter made the doctrinal statement that the crucified Jesus was both "Lord and Christ."
  - *Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

7. Nowhere in the New Testament is the Lordship of Christ distinct from or separated by time from His Lordship.
  - *Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*
  - *1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;*
8. In each of the following passages the word order is that Christ is first Lord and then our Saviour.
  - *Titus 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.*
  - *2 Peter 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*
  - *2 Peter 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*
  - *2 Peter 3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:*
  - *2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*
9. The biblical conclusion is that in order to accept Christ as Savior the Holy Spirit must draw a soul to bow before Christ first as Lord and then the heart can receive Him as Savior.