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How Is Jesus Lord?

by Ian Hufton

Some feel that we should not use the term "Lord" when referring to Jesus Christ or God, the Father. Throughout history, there have been many men and mythological "gods" who were referred to as "lord". Should we be afraid of using this term because others (who knew not the God of all creation) misused it?

WHO WILL YOU BELIEVE?

People are free to believe and practice anything they choose, but if they want to know what God thinks on each subject, they should always investigate His inspired written word – the Bible.

"Lord" is used many, many times in the New Testament (see listing on pages 3 and 4). In Matthew 25:21, Jesus speaks a parable portraying His return to Earth and He says: "... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

This word for "lord" is the Greek word "kurios" (#2962). It means "supremacy" or "supreme in authority". The old King James Bible renders this word as "God, Lord, master, sir." So, if Christ uses this term (Lord) to refer to Himself; plus Peter, James, John, Jude, Luke and Paul use it often in the scriptures, it would appear to be a profitable term to use. In fact, a short study of some of the scriptures listed at the end of this article will show that the Apostles are urging people to begin referring to Jesus Christ as "Lord".

Note Acts 2:36 where it says "... made that same Jesus ... both Lord and Christ." So Jesus has been made to be "Lord". This obviously is an important teaching in the New Testament. Notice in Acts 10:36 it tells us that Jesus "is Lord of all". Also, note in Philippians 2:11 "...that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord,..." Take a few moments to read all the brief excerpts on pages 3 and 4 and it should become very clear that a dominate message of the New Testament is that we are to come to know (and refer to) Christ as "Lord". To fully connect to the gospel of Christ, we have to acknowledge and treat Christ as "supreme in authority" or "Lord" of our lives.

A MAJOR PROBLEM

In Luke 6:46, Christ asks a profound question. He says, "... Why call ye me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?" In essence, Christ is saying "Don't bother to call

me Lord unless you are prepared to obey my teachings". Many call Him Lord and neglect to obey Him. Others want to obey Him, but listen to teachings of men, who preach against treating Him as "Lord" (supreme in authority).

Christ understands the major problem people have with the use of the term "Lord." They want the benefits offered by the Saviour of the world, but do not want much "obeying" or "suffering for Christ's sake." Also, many have allowed themselves to be deceived by "religious experts" who explain that their "traditions" are from the Bible. He clearly expresses the problem in the following verse: "This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me." (Matthew 15:8)

Many people that call Jesus Christ "Lord" do not feel that strict obedience to His words is necessary to be pleasing in God's sight, hence "their heart is far from Me." "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16) This verse shows that obedience is a critical factor in determining our destiny.

In most societies of centuries gone by, people understood that "the Lord" was someone to be obeyed. Disobedience to your lord was cause for the death penalty in many cases.

For our lips and our hearts to be close to the Lord Jesus Christ, we need a mindset that says "if you say it Lord, I receive it as a command and I will obey that word." "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him." (John 14:23)

YOU MUST CHOOSE!

When you and I stand before the judgement seat of Christ, we will be judged on our belief of the inspired written word of God and our obedience to it. If we have believed other's views of the Bible contrary to Christ's view, He will probably remind us that He wrote "...Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matthew 24:4) for our benefit, and we failed to obey it.

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So, the only protection we have against deception is to study God's word for ourselves, praying for God's Holy Spirit to lead us to all truth. For the "simplicity of Christ", just believe and practice what the Bible writers wrote, under inspiration from our "Lord."

A SHORT LIST

The remainder of this article is a short list of quotes from the New Testament writers. We, in the Church of God, urge you to study this list, plus other scriptures from your Bible, so you can decide for yourself whether God's word teaches the use of the word "Lord".

(All Scripture references are KJV unless otherwise noted)

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“LORD JESUS CHRIST” IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Acts 2:36 ...that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both LORD and Christ.
Acts 10:36 ...preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is LORD of all:)
Acts 11:17 ...who believed on the LORD Jesus Christ;...
Acts 15:11 ...through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved...
Acts 15:26 ...hazarded their lives for the name of our LORD Jesus Christ.
Acts 16:31 ...they said, Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ...
Acts 20:21 ...repentance toward God, and faith toward our LORD Jesus Christ.
Acts 28:31 ...things which concern the LORD Jesus Christ...
Rom 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our LORD...
Rom 1:7 ...and peace from God our Father, and the LORD Jesus Christ.
Rom 5:1 ...we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ:
Rom 5:11 ...joy in God through our LORD Jesus Christ...
Rom 5:21 ...unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our LORD.
Rom 6:11 ...but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our LORD.
Rom 6:23 ...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD.
Rom 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our LORD...
Rom 8:39 ...from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our LORD.
Rom 13:14 But put ye on the LORD Jesus Christ,...
Rom 15:6 ...glorify God, even the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ.
Rom 16:18 For they that are such serve not our LORD Jesus Christ...
Rom 16:20 ...The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
Rom 16:24 The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen...
1 Cor 1:2 ...to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus...call upon the name of Jesus Christ our LORD...
1 Cor 1:3 ...from God our Father, and from the LORD Jesus Christ.
1 Cor 1:7 ...waiting for the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ:
1 Cor 1:8 ...in the day of our LORD Jesus Christ.
1 Cor 1:9 ...unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our LORD.
1 Cor 1:10 ...brethren, by the name of our LORD Jesus Christ...
1 Cor 5:4 In the name of our LORD Jesus Christ.. .our LORD Jesus Christ
1 Cor 8:6 ...one God, the Father ... and one LORD Jesus Christ...
1 Cor 9:1 ...have I not seen Jesus Christ our LORD? ...my work in the LORD?
1 Cor 15:31 ...rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our LORD...
1 Cor 15:57 ...the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ.
1 Cor 16:22 If any man love not the LORD Jesus Christ,...
1 Cor 16:23 The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you.
2 Cor 1:2 ...peace from God our Father, and from the LORD Jesus Christ
2 Cor 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ...
2 Cor 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the LORD;...
2 Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
2 Cor 11:31 The God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the LORD Jesus Christ,...
Gal 1:3 ...peace from God the Father, and from our LORD Jesus Christ,
Gal 6:14 ...save in the cross of our LORD Jesus Christ...
Gal 6:18 Brethren, the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with...
Eph 1:2 ...from God our Father, and from the LORD Jesus Christ.
Eph 1:17 That the God of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
Eph 3:11 ...purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our LORD:
Eph 3:14 ...bow my knees unto the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ,
Eph 5:20 ...unto God and the Father in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ;
Eph 6:23 ...faith, from God the Father and the LORD Jesus Christ.
Eph 6:24 Grace be with all them that love our LORD Jesus Christ...
Phil 1:2 ...peace, from God our Father, and from the LORD Jesus Christ
Phil 2:11 ...every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD...

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- Phil 3:8 ...of Christ Jesus my LORD: for whom I have suffered...
- Phil 3:20 ...from whence also we look for the Saviour, the LORD Jesus Christ:
- Phil 4:23 The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.
- Col 1:2 ...peace, from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ.
- Col 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- Col 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the LORD,...
- 1 Thess 1:1 ...which is in God the Father and in the LORD Jesus Christ:...
- 1 Thess 1:3 ...and patience of hope in our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 1 Thess 2:19 ...in the presence of our LORD Jesus Christ at his coming?
- 1 Thess 3:11 Now God himself and our Father, and our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 1 Thess 3:13 ...our Father, at the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ...
- 1 Thess 5:23 ...unto the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ.
- 1 Thess 5:28 The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
- 2 Thess 1:1 ...in God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ:...
- 2 Thess 1:2 ...peace, from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ.
- 2 Thess 1:8 ...that obey not the gospel of our LORD Jesus Christ:
- 2 Thess 1:12 That the name of our LORD Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, ...grace of our God and the LORD Jesus Christ.
- 2 Thess 2:1 ...by the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 2 Thess 2:14 ...to the obtaining of the glory of our LORD Jesus Christ.
- 2 Thess 2:16 Now our LORD Jesus Christ himself, and God,...
- 2 Thess 3:6 ...in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 2 Thess 3:12 ...we command and exhort by our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 2 Thess 3:18 The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.
- 1 Tim 1:1 ...commandment of God our Saviour, and LORD Jesus Christ...
- 1 Tim 1:2 ...peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our LORD.
- 1 Tim 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our LORD, who hath enabled me,...
- 1 Tim 1:14 And the grace of our LORD ...which is in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Tim 5:21 I charge thee before God, and the LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 1 Tim 6:3 ...even the words of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 1 Tim 6:14 ...until the appearing of our LORD Jesus Christ:
- 2 Tim 1:2 ...peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our LORD.
- 2 Tim 4:1 ...therefore before God, and the LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 2 Tim 4:22 The LORD Jesus Christ be with thy spirit...
- Titus 1:4 ...God the Father and the LORD Jesus Christ our Saviour.
- Philem 1:3 ...from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ.
- Philem 1:25 The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
- James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the LORD Jesus Christ,...
- James 2:1 ...have not the faith of our LORD Jesus Christ, the LORD...
- 1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 2 Pet 1:8 ...in the knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ.
- 2 Pet 1:11 ...kingdom of our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- 2 Pet 1:14 ...even as our LORD Jesus Christ hath shewed me.
- 2 Pet 1:16 ...the power and coming of our LORD Jesus Christ,...
- 2 Pet 2:20 ...knowledge of the LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ,...
- 2 Pet 3:18 ...knowledge of our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ...
- 2 John 1:3 ...from the LORD Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father,...
- Jude 1:4 ...denying the only Lord God, and our LORD Jesus Christ.
- Jude 1:17 ...spoken before of the apostles of our LORD Jesus Christ;
- Jude 1:21 ...the mercy of our LORD Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
- Rev 22:21 The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you all.