

# Contagious Joy

## Part 9 – Jesus is My Lord

Philippians 2:9-11

May 24, 2009

Last week we discovered that Jesus can't be our savior without being our Lord. The kenosis, or emptying, sets the stage for his exaltation. Some day everyone will come under his Lordship. The question isn't *if*, it is *when*. Are you ready?

### I. The Exaltation: He **reigns** supreme (v. 9-11)

Last week we saw His journey from heaven to earth, now we see his journey from earth back to heaven. In the second half of this hymn, Paul presents five aspects of the Father's exaltation of the Son:

- The reward (v. 9a)
- The recognition (v. 9b)
- The response (v. 10–11a)
- The realization (v. 11b)
- The result (v. 11c).

#### A. The **reward**: *God exalted Him* (v. 9a)

1. **Highly exalted**: Literally: super-exalted (*hyperypsosen*) Him. God the Father exalted His Son in compensation for the cruel agony of the crucifixion. His death was despicable, but His return to glory was indescribable.
2. **Bestowed** (*charizoma*): conveys the idea of giving freely and generously. God didn't do it grudgingly but with great delight.
  - He wants to bless us as His children in the same way!
3. **It involved four steps upward**: God lifted up His beloved Son in the most magnificent way possible.

- His **resurrection**: *“Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him” (Mark 16:6)*
- His **ascension**: *“Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God’” (John 20:17)*
- His **coronation**: *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matt. 28:18). Having ascended, Jesus “is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven” (1 Peter 3:22)*
- His **intercession**: *Christ, who died and was raised for us and “who is at the right hand of God...also intercedes for us.” (Rom. 8:34; 26)*

**B. The recognition: Name above all names** (v. 9b)

1. Today a lot of emphasis is put on brand names. You know when a company has achieved marketing success when the name for their product becomes synonymous with that product. Mention adhesive strips and you think of Band-Aids. Mention facial tissue and you think of Kleenex. Mention acetaminophen and you think of Tylenol.
2. He has been given a new name. "Jesus" means "salvation is of the Lord." Jesus: Jehovah is salvation; the Greek word is Joshua. The name "Jesus" in New Testament times was a very common name. It wasn't unusual – like John or Jim today. That is why they had to distinguish which Jesus it was they were talking about – Jesus of Nazareth, etc.
3. The Name of Jesus...Jesus is given many names and titles. He is called:

He is Adam, Anointed, Apostle, Author, Amen, Alpha and Ancient of Days. He is Beginning, Begotten, Beloved, Branch, Bread, Bridegroom, Bright and Morning Star. He is Captain, Consolation,

Chief Cornerstone, Counselor, Covenant, Chosen of God, Christ. He is Deliverer, Dayspring, Daystar, Door, Desire of all nations.

He is Elect, Everlasting Father, Emmanuel. He is Finisher of the faith, Forerunner, Friend, First Fruits, Faithful Witness, Fountain of life. He is God, the Gift of God, Guide, Glorious Lord.

He is Help, Hope, Horn of Salvation, Hearer, Head of the Church, Heir of all things, High Priest, the Holy One. He is I AM, Inheritance, Image of God's Person, Immortal, Invisible. He is Judah, Just, the Judge.

He is King – King of Israel, King of Kings, King of glory, King everlasting. He is the Life, the Light, Love, Lily, Love, Lion, Lamb, Lawgiver, the Living Stone, the Lord of glory. He is Messenger, Messiah, Mediator, Master, Mighty God. He is a Nazarene. He is the Offspring of David, Omega, Only Begotten of God, Offering.

He is Priest, Passover, Potentate, Prophet, Propitiation, Prince of life, Prince of peace, Physician. He is Righteous, Rabbi, Ransom, Rest, Root of Jesse, Root of David, Refiner, Refuge, Resurrection, the Rose of Sharon, Ruler, Redeemer, Rock of Ages.

He is Stone, Shepherd, Son of God, Son of man, Shield, Servant, Seed of the woman, Sufferer, Savior, Sinless Sacrifice, the Same yesterday, today and forever. He is Teacher, Truth, Tabernacle, Testator, Treasurer, Tree of Life. He is Witness, the Word, the Way, the Wisdom of God, the Wonderful.

In the words of the Bible, He is the Fairest among ten thousand. He is the Altogether Lovely One. Of all the names given to this man, none is as precious, as sweet or as majestic as the name Jesus.

C. **Bestowed** (*charizomai*) which conveys the idea of giving freely and generously

D. **The Response**: (v. 2:10-11a)... 2 things will happen!

1. **Every knee will bow** (v. 10)

- The purpose is that every person will bow in submission to His authority (cf. Isa. 45:23 *I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.* All will bow before Yahweh. He has

given Him the place of top honor in the universe. He's honored above all else – the highest place.

- Greek word introduces a purpose clause. When the Greek word *hina* (**so that**) is used with a subjunctive verb (such as *kampsē*, **will bow**; and *exomologēsētai*, **will confess**) it introduces a purpose clause. Paul is therefore saying: “Jesus is given the name which is above every name for the purpose that, or with the result that, **every knee will bow**,

(1). **Heaven:** The beings **in heaven** that Paul referred to evidently are believers who have died and whose spirits have gone into the Lord's presence.

(2). **Earth:** Those **on earth** are people still alive on the earth.

(3). **Hell:** Those **under the earth** are unbelievers awaiting resurrection. Hades (the same as Sheol, the Old Testament term) is the place where the spirits of the unbelieving dead go until God resurrects them and judges them. The ancients thought of Sheol or Hades as being under the surface of the earth, probably because that is where their bodies went in burial. *For You are the LORD Most High over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. (Psalm 97:9)*

- Satan offered Christ exaltation with ease: “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. *‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’*” (Matthew 4:8-9).

## 2. Every tongue should confess

- The affirmation, *“Jesus Christ is Lord,”* was the earliest confessional formula of the church. God will by this universal confession receive glory. Jesus Christ's purpose is, always has been, and always will be to glorify the Father. All angelic beings will acknowledge Jesus' lordship too (1 Cor. 15:27). <sup>27</sup>*For*

*HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET...*

- That the hope of God is that every intelligent being in his universe might proclaim openly and gladly that Jesus Christ alone has the right to reign."

E. The **Realization**: *Jesus is lord*

1. What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord?
  - Acknowledging Jesus as Lord must include submission and obedience, because, by definition, the title of Lord assumes it.
  - The centrality to the gospel of the lordship of Jesus Christ is abundantly clear. In the New Testament, He is called Lord some 747 times. In the book of Acts, He is referred to as Savior only twice, but as Lord 92 times. The first known creed of the early church was "Jesus is Lord!" (MacArthur)
2. He is not advocating "works" oriented righteousness. If there is not true obedience is it really genuine? Jesus was not, of course, teaching a works righteousness (salvation that comes through obedience). A profession of faith that produces no true obedience to His lordship is worthless.
  - A. W. Tozer: We are not saved by believing in an office nor in a work. He is Lord, and those who refuse him as Lord cannot use him as Savior. Everyone who receives him must surrender to his authority, for to say we receive Christ when in fact we reject his right to reign over us is utter absurdity. It is a futile attempt to hold onto sin with one hand and take Jesus with the other. What kind of salvation is it if we are left in bondage to sin?
3. *Lord*: "master, ruler, number one, the one in control, total sovereign, king". Lord in New Testament times was a word used for Caesar. It was used in the Roman Empire because the emperor was treated as god. They

worshipped the Caesar as god. The Romans would say "Caesar is Lord". It became a test of loyalty in the Roman Empire. When Christians refused to say that and would only say "Jesus is Lord" they were put to death – thrown to the lions, made to fight gladiators... Many of them lost their lives simply by one phrase – Jesus is Lord.

4. Constantine, in 313, some 250 years later, confessed that Jesus is Lord and bowed to Him.
5. Lord in Greek is the word that means "master, ruler, number one, Mr. Big, the one in control, total sovereign, king". We don't make him Lord...God does that. We just acknowledge His Lordship.
6. **Illustration: Mollie our dog knows who the lord of the house is...Cheryl!**
7. Everyone throughout history will one day acknowledge Him; everyone will acknowledge it is true.
  - Every nationality: French, Arab, Russian or Chinese
  - Every age group: Builders, Boomers, Busters or Millennial.
  - Every man, woman, child.
  - Every religion...including Islam, Buddhism, New Age, Atheist or self-made... will say "Jesus is Lord."
  - All of the politicians including President Obama and Governor Schwarzenegger, will be there and say "Jesus is Lord."
  - All of the rock stars will say "Jesus is Lord." Every American Idol, too, whether it is Danny, Chris or Adam!
  - All of the scientists, professors, businessmen, and homemakers will say "Jesus is Lord." **Everyone** will admit it.
8. **The issue is not, will you admit that Jesus is Lord? You will one day. The issue is simply, when? You will either**

admit it now or you will admit it later and find you have been wrong and made a big mistake. *Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.* (Warren)

F. **The result:** *to the Glory of God the Father* (v. 11b)

1. This is what brings God glory. When we live the way He intended, God gets the credit!
2. John is given a vision of Christ Jesus on his heavenly throne in Revelation 5:11-13:

*“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing, ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!’”*

3. **How is God being glorified in your life?**

## II. The Examination

### A. **What does it mean to call Jesus “Lord”?**

It means that I...

1. **Acknowledge:** I acknowledge that He really is God. He’s more than a man or a prophet. He really is God. He is the Lord. It is a test of my commitment to Him.
2. **Believe:** I believe that He has everything under control. Although everything looks bleak, Jesus is Lord and I know He’s got everything under control. Nothing escapes His care or concern...because He is Lord. I don’t know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future!
3. **Commit:** I commit all of my life to Him. He calls the shots because He is God, has come to earth, died for me and rose again. Because He has done those things He has

the right to determine what's right in my life and to direct me. I'm seeking to live according to His plans. Don't use the word Lord lightly. *"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."* Rom 10:9

## B. What keeps you from making Him Lord?

1. **Fear**: Can I really relinquish control?
2. **Addictive Sin**: Do I really want to give this up? What is the "this" in your life?
  - Alcohol
  - My right to happiness in an unhappy marriage
  - Pornography or lust?
3. **Pride**: Does He really know what is best?

## C. Conclusion: The greatest need in America is to rediscover the phrase used for centuries as the test of a believer: JESUS IS LORD.

1. It may look like the other side is winning right now, but Jesus is Lord.
2. You may think you cannot cope any more, there is too much pressure, but Jesus is Lord.
3. You may think your problems are too great and you can't handle them, but Jesus is Lord.
4. Circumstances may pile up against you and people may thwart you and fight you, but Jesus is Lord.
5. When you're discouraged – Jesus is Lord.
6. When you're tired, when you're worried, afraid – Jesus is Lord.
7. When you don't think you can go on another mile. Say it! **JESUS IS LORD**
8. When you're grieving and you don't know why somebody has died – Jesus is Lord.

9. When you're lonely. ...Jesus is Lord!
  10. Make it the theme of your life.
- D. **Do you want to make Him Lord today?**

**Table Talk:**

1. What are the steps to making Jesus Lord of your life? (The ABC's...)
2. What areas of your life need to come under His control?
3. What changes would have to occur in your life for Jesus to be truly exalted?
4. What keeps people from submitting to His Lordship?
5. What are the benefits to the Lordship of Jesus in your life?
6. Christ's new name is "Lord." This speaks to His sovereign authority and rule over all. In what ways does confessing (acknowledging and agreeing with) and bowing (surrendering and submitting) to Jesus as Lord affect:
  - Your relationship to Christ?
  - Your approach to His Word?
  - Your perspective on "life goals"?
  - Your relationship with other believers?