

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Intro

If you were able to join us online last Sunday or watched Ewen's message on the love of God later in the week, I'm sure you were blessed and encouraged. The passage he preached on was the apostle Paul's magnificent declaration of the love of God in Romans 8:32-39. These words have been a blessing to the people of God for almost two thousand years, and I'd like to begin this morning by looking at verses 38 and 39 (especially v. 39) again.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

The love of our Creator, which is *constantly* being shown to us in *so many* ways, ... this love is made clear to us *most powerfully in Jesus Christ*, as Paul says here and in Romans 5, verse 8. God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Two weeks ago, I preached a message entitled "What is the Gospel?", and in that message we saw that the good news that our Creator has declared to the world can be summed up in this short sentence:

"Jesus Christ is Lord."

If you haven't seen that message, I encourage you to go to the Chapel website and watch it (or listen to the podcast) since it is the first message in our current series on the Gospel. This morning, I want to look in more detail at this summary statement of the Gospel before we move on to related topics in future messages. And I've begun with Romans 8:39 because Ewen's message last Sunday set the stage for today's message so well. Some of you may have noticed the similarity between the Gospel summary and Paul's words in verse 39. In verse 39, Paul emphasizes "the love of God in *Christ Jesus our Lord*", and the Gospel summary states that "Jesus Christ is Lord".

I believe the Holy Spirit led Paul to write these words because *the love of God* is the *prime motivator* behind His reaching out to mankind in our sinful rebellion, and His love for us "in Christ Jesus" is *the heart* of the Gospel. So, with this understanding of the centrality of God's love in the Gospel, I'd like to look this morning at the three names or titles found in the Gospel summary —namely, "Jesus", "Christ", and "Lord".

I. REVIEW

In the first message in this series, the main point I was making was this —the Gospel, or “Good News”, is more than just the information we need to know and believe in order to be forgiven and go to heaven after we die.

We saw that the Greek word translated “Gospel” is a word that was used in Jesus’ day to announce the birth of, or ascension to the throne of, a new king or emperor. So, the Good News that our Creator made known to us is much bigger and **grand**er than simply how we can go to heaven one day. Of course, our personal salvation is an important aspect of the Good News, and we’ll be looking at that fact in a few minutes. But the Gospel message that Jesus and the apostles preached **did not have sinful humans** like you and me as its **main focus**.

The Gospel is about Jesus as Savior and Messiah living among us, dying for the sins of the world, and rising from the dead, **and** about how He is Lord over all creation who will come again one day to establish His kingdom on Earth. As we saw two weeks ago in 1 Corinthians 15:28, the ultimate goal of the Gospel is for **ALL** things to be subject to the Lord Jesus Christ, so that God may be **ALL IN ALL**. And, because Jesus didn’t merely die as our Savior, but also **rose again** and has been **exalted** as Lord over all, it means that discipleship and obeying Jesus as our Lord are essential to what it means to be a Christian. In other words, the Gospel is about us bringing our entire life under the lordship of Jesus, and the fact that salvation makes it possible for those who are lost and dead in their sins to **join Him in His mission and work** in our world.

He is working now to restore our fallen world with His love and healing, and He has chosen to do it, for the most part, through us —through people like you and me who have been redeemed, forgiven, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share His love with all we meet. So, let’s consider now what these three words – Jesus, Christ, and Lord – signify.

II. JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

A. JESUS = “SAVIOR”

Jesus is the English way of saying the Hebrew name Yeshua, which means “Yahweh saves” or “Yahweh is salvation”.

Yahweh is the Hebrew name of the Creator God, the great I AM.

And this is what the angel Gabriel meant when he said this to Joseph in Matthew 1:20-21.

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

If we replace the name “Jesus” with His actual Hebrew name, what Gabriel said to Joseph was this:

“You shall call His name ‘Yahweh saves’, for He will save His people from their sins.”

And in the next 2 verses, Matthew made it very clear that this child named “Yahweh saves” was going to actually be *Yahweh in the flesh*.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). (ESV)

So, the first thing we see when considering the Gospel statement “Jesus Christ is Lord” is this —the good news of the Gospel involves this life-changing truth — our Creator has provided a way for us to be saved from the consequences and the power of sin! And He did it by laying aside His glory and majesty to become a human being.

Why?

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

“For God so loved.”

Because of His great love and mercy, God the Father sent Jesus (Yahweh saves) to die in our place.

He gave Him as a sinless sacrifice of atonement to bear *in our place* the penalty for *our sins* against God and others, and to make it possible for us to become children of God and have eternal life.

And what is “eternal life”?

It isn’t “going to heaven when we die”.

Rather, it’s having a personal relationship with our Creator — knowing God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, as Jesus said in John 17:3.

Friends, this is the significance of the name “Jesus” in the Gospel.

It’s why the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:16 that the Gospel is “THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES.”

And it’s why he wrote in 1 Timothy 1:15,

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If you have not yet trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin, please remember this —the Gospel is good news because Jesus is the Savior of all mankind.

Are you enslaved to your sin, unable to stop committing the sins that are robbing you of an abundant life? Are you overcome by guilt, regret, and shame because of the things you have said and done? Has your sin damaged your relationships, ruined your health, or cost you your job? If so, the **good news** of the Gospel is that there is a Savior from sin, and **you** can be forgiven!

And, you can gain victory over the power of sin in your life because Jesus ...
Yeshua ... Christ is Lord!

B. CHRIST = “MESSIAH”

In Luke 1:30-33, when Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of the Savior, this is what he told her.

“Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.”

Gabriel told Mary the same thing he told Joseph — give your son the name “Jesus”. But he told her more ... something that surely made her heart soar. This child, who would be conceived miraculously by the Holy Spirit was the Son of the Most High God, **AND** He would be given the throne of King David and His kingdom and His reign would never end! Mary knew immediately what this meant.

Her Son would be the long-awaited Messiah!

The second word in the Gospel summary is “Christ”. Messiah means “anointed one” or “chosen one”, and the word *Christos*, translated in English as “Christ”, is its Greek equivalent. Therefore, “Jesus Christ” means “Jesus the Messiah”. What does it mean that the Lord Jesus is also the Messiah? Honestly speaking, for many years I’d never given it much thought. As I shared in the first message, I had been taught that the Gospel was all about personal salvation, so I just assumed “Messiah” was another way of saying “Savior”. But there is much more to it than this.

In Bible times, men were consecrated for a particular position of power (such as high priest, prophet, or king) by anointing them with oil. Aaron was anointed as high priest of Israel. The prophet Elijah anointed Elisha to succeed him as the prophet of Israel. And both Saul and David were anointed as kings of Israel by the prophet Samuel. But even though these men were in “anointed” positions of authority, God had also promised that a Servant-Ruler who would one day come to bring salvation and justice to the nations of the world.

The Jews called this Deliverer “the Messiah”.

Jesus was priest, prophet, and king in one person, which showcases Him as the Messiah. He is our High Priest, the perfect mediator between us and the Father.

Jesus was also a prophet who, like the prophets of old, preached about the coming kingdom of God and who warned of the judgment to come. And He is King because God gave all authority to Him and one day He will return to rule the kingdom of God on Earth. The only way to understand what it means to say “Jesus is the Messiah” is to understand the “Grand Story” of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. And we will do that in another message, I think, but a simplified rendering of this “Grand Story” goes something like this. In the beginning, the one true God created the universe and everything in it, and declared that everything was “good”. His greatest creations were a man and woman, Adam and Eve. They were created to rule over and take care of the world He created, and to glorify Him while enjoying an intimate relationship with Him.

But they were tempted to rebel against God, and when they did rebel, sin entered into God’s perfect world and everything was corrupted. God prophesied that one day, He would send someone who would undo the results of their sin, and ultimately, He would restore this fallen world to its original sinless and uncorrupted perfection.

God made covenants with various people, such as Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and He did this with the goal of preparing a people – the nation of Israel – through whom He would bless the whole world, and through whom He would ultimately send a man to make all things right — the Messiah.

The Jews thought their Messiah would be a conquering King who would drive out the Romans and rule the world from Jerusalem. But they were wrong. Jesus was, indeed, the Messiah, but He came as a Suffering-servant Messiah, as we saw in Palm Sunday’s message. He came as the Lamb of God who bore the penalty for the sins of the world, and made salvation possible for all who repent of their sins and put their faith in Him. And, His coming was not simply to make salvation and the forgiveness of sins possible. When He rose from the dead as He had predicted, He rose as Victor over not only death, but over the one who tempted Adam and Eve. This being, who is referred to in the Bible as Satan, which means Accuser, and the devil, is the one behind all the death, destruction, evil, and corruption in our world ever since Adam and Eve committed the first sin.

And the Good News of the Gospel is that the Messiah *has come, and* He will come again. And when He returns, it will be to put an end once and for all to the corruption that has ruined God’s perfect world —the sickness and death, the suffering and injustice, the natural disasters and every result of Adam and Eve’s sin.

Until that time, Jesus invites everyone to become a citizen in His “already-but-not-yet kingdom.” Those who pledge their allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ and then die before this happens will go to be with Him in heaven, but only temporarily. When Jesus returns to Earth, they will receive new, resurrection bodies and live forever with Him. I wonder, do you long for a world without sin and evil? A world that is free of sickness and death? A world that is free of suffering and injustice? If so, the good news of the Gospel is that the Messiah came to make things right!

Right now, He is doing it one life at a time. But one day, He will return to establish His kingdom, and reign on Earth, and ultimately remake and return our planet to its original perfection. Are you a citizen of Messiah Yeshua’s kingdom by faith and repentance? If not, ***you can be*** if you will turn from your rebellion against Him, and in faith pledge your life and allegiance to Him as Messiah and Lord.

The ***good news*** of the Gospel is that the Messiah has come, and He will come again!

C. LORD

Which brings us to the third name or title in the Gospel summary — Lord. On the the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit gave birth to the Church, Peter concluded his sermon about Jesus with these words in Acts 2:36.

“Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (NIV)

Here, again, we see the three main words of the Gospel — Jesus, Lord, and Christ! What does it mean that Jesus Christ is Lord? The term “Lord” is the term ***most used*** in the Bible to identify Jesus.

It is used over 500 times in the New Testament in reference to Jesus, while the term “Savior” is only used about 25 times.

The Greek word translated “Lord” in the New Testament is a word that meant “master, supreme authority, king, or owner”.

In our society today, people don’t want anyone to lord it over them. We believe we are free and independent people. But what we don’t realize – and what Satan has kept billions of people from understanding – is that ***no one is free***. The Bible puts it this way in Romans 6, starting with verse 16.

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you

were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

We see here that we are all slaves, either of sin and Satan or slaves of righteousness and the Lord.

Paul continues in verse 21,

What benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

And then Paul highlights these amazing truths in verse 23,

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And please notice *again*, the three main words of the Gospel — Christ, Jesus, and Lord. Once we begin to think of the Gospel message as being “Jesus Christ is Lord,” it’s amazing to see how often these three words are found *together* in the Bible, isn’t it!

I wonder, ... to what or to whom are *you* a slave?

Is it to your sins and to Satan, who is a harsh, accusing, and hate-filled master? Or is to righteousness and Jesus Christ, who is a loving, patient, forgiving, faithful, and gentle Master? Or to look at it another way, are you living your life in a way that is helping to make our world a better place by being a source of Christ Jesus’ love and forgiveness to those around you? Or are you living for yourself and temporal things that will be of no value in eternity?

Satan is a very cruel master, and he is doing all he can to destroy not only our lives and happiness but all that is good in God’s world.

But the *good news* of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ is Lord — a *good Lord*, and we can be set free from Satan’s control and the power of sin. We can choose to place ourselves under the Lordship of the One who defeated Satan, sin and death on the cross, and we can join Him in what He is doing in our world right now.

CONCLUSION

What a wonderful God we have!

And what *good news* He has proclaimed to the world!

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Jesus ... Yeshua ... is our Savior from sin and Satan.

He is the *Christ* ... the Messiah who came to restore our relationship with our Creator and to one day restore our world to its original, sinless glory.

And He is *Lord* ... our rightful Master and the One we should serve in our daily lives.

If you don't yet know the Lord Jesus Christ as Yeshua, your Creator who can save you,

I urge you to do what Paul said in Acts 16:31 when asked, "What must I do to be saved?"

"Believe in the Lord Jesus."

And if you're a Christian, have you surrendered your life fully to the lordship of Jesus Christ? Are you actively joining in His work to redeem our fallen world by offering yourself, your talents, your time and your finances to Him? If not, why not start today? There's no more rewarding way to live than this. Before we close, let's quiet our hearts before the Lord and ask Him to show us how to apply the things we've heard this morning. After a while, I will close us in prayer.

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Let's pray.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the good news of the Gospel!

Thank You that You did not leave us to deal with our sin and its consequences alone.

Thank You for the good news of a Savior from sin, a Messiah who will return to set things right in our world, and a Lord who is good, gentle, faithful and patient.

You say in Your Word that one day, after Jesus returns, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Sadly, most people will not be ready for that day of judgment.

Please help each one who hears this message, though, to put their faith in and pledge their allegiance to Jesus Christ our Lord, and to then tell everyone they can about Him.

In His mighty and wonderful name we pray. Amen.

And now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.