

“The Lordship of Christ”
Romans 1:3-4
(Preached at Trinity, October 22, 2006)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. We’ve been examining Paul’s opening salutation to the Book of Romans. In these opening verses Paul gives us a lengthy description of himself and his calling.
 - A. In **Verse 1** Paul identifies himself as a servant, an apostle called by Jesus Christ, a man set apart unto the Gospel of God.
 - B. The next three verses describe this Gospel. The Book of Romans is a book that defines and outlines the Gospel.
 1. It is a planned Gospel, God’s purpose of redemption for His people. It was foretold by the prophets in the Holy Scriptures.
 2. It is a Gospel that finds its fulfillment in Christ. Jesus Christ IS the Gospel.
Romans 1:3-4 – “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; ⁴ And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”
 3. It is a Gospel that describes the death of Christ, the perfect propitiating sacrifice
It is a Gospel that describes His resurrection
 4. It is a Gospel that describes the infinite power through which Christ has now been exalted to the right hand of the Father.
2. This morning I want to focus your attention to another essential element of the Gospel. At the beginning of **Verse 3** in the KJV we read “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord”
 - A. The original Greek places the words, “Jesus Christ our Lord” at the end of **Verse 4** so it literally reads:
Romans 1:3 – “Concerning his Son, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; ⁴ And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord”
 - B. The words, “Jesus Christ our Lord” are the crowing finish to the Paul’s description of the Gospel.
3. As we’ve seen, Jesus Christ is the Gospel. The Gospel finds its embodiment in Christ. If you take Christ out of the Gospel you have nothing.
Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

4. But these verses close with an important word, a title that cannot be separated from Jesus Christ and cannot be separated from the Gospel – “Jesus Christ our Lord”
 “Jesus is Lord” is regarded as one of the oldest and most basic statements of Christian faith. One of the earliest Christian creeds.
 After the ascension of Christ He returned to His throne of glory where He rules with authority and dominion. Every believer willingly and joyfully places himself under this authority or Lordship.
5. Listen to the testimony of Scripture on the lordship of 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.”
Philippians 2:9-11 – “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
6. Our confessions of faith declare Christ as Lord:
London Baptist Confession of 1644 (article 19) – “Touching his Kingdom, Christ being risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, sat on the right hand of God the Father, having all power in heaven and earth, given unto him, he doth spiritually govern his Church, exercising his power over all Angels and Men”
London Baptist Confession of 1689 (Chapter 8:1) – “It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, to be the mediator between God and man; the prophet, priest, and king; head and savior of his church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world. . .”
7. To say that Jesus is Lord means two things:
 - A. First, it means that Jesus is God.
 In the Septuagint which is the Greek translation of the OT of which the Jewish people of the first century would have been very familiar and from which most of the NT writers quoted the Greek word **κύριος** was used to translate the Hebrew word for Jehovah. This is why most English translations translates the Hebrew word for Jehovah LORD. The NT writers knew this use of the word **κύριος** but did not hesitate to apply it to Jesus. Not all of the uses of the word in the NT apply to divinity but we cannot deny its use as applied to Christ.
 - B. Second, it means that Jesus is Savior.
 The Lordship of Christ is testimony to His victory over the forces of evil. They are all under His feet.
Acts 2:34-36 – “For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, ³⁵ Until I make thy foes thy footstool. 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.”
 1. There have been some in our generation who suppose you can separate the Lordship of Christ from the work of Christ as Savior – that you can receive Him as Savior without receiving Him as Lord.
 2. The Lordship of Christ cannot be separated from His saviorhood.
 You cannot have genuine faith that is separated from submission to Christ.

8. Many people want to cling to the hope of salvation without Lordship. Parents hold to this hope for their children, spouses for their mates, and on and on – even when there is no submission to Christ. The truth is, no Lordship, no salvation.

Romans 10:9 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

ESV, NIV

Romans 10:9 – “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. . .”

NAS

Romans 10:9 – “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord”

9. Please listen: Salvation is a narrow way. It is a new life, a new creation.

Jeremiah 31:33 – “But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Matthew Henry – “God writes his law in the hearts of all believers, makes it ready and familiar to them. He makes them in care to observe it. He works in them a disposition to obedience, a conformity of thought and affection to the rules of the divine law, as that of the copy to the original.”

10. The question everyone of you should ponder this morning is, is Jesus Christ your Lord? It has been suggested that there are six implications to the Lordship of Christ.

I. An Intellectual Implication

A. If Jesus is your Lord He must be Lord of your thinking

1. Jesus must be Lord of your mind

2. To have Jesus as your Lord is to have Him as your teacher

Matthew 11:29 – “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

B. Jesus must be the center of your thought process

1. Concerning humility Paul wrote

Philippians 2:5 – “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

2. Every thought must be taken captive by Christ

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 – “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

3. Do you have an interest in conforming your mind to Christ?

Again, Paul wrote:

Philippians 4:8 – “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.”

4. Is Jesus the Lord of your mind?

a. What are the things you are putting into your mind?

b. What is the ratio of TV versus Bible? Jesus teaches us and conforms our mind through His Word.

c. Do you have an interest in Biblical truth – do you have an interest in being conformed to it?

- d. Left to ourselves we will be conformed to this world and its sinful ways. The Christian conforms his mind to the Lordship of Christ. As the Holy Spirit applies the Scriptures to our hearts we will find ourselves thinking more and more as Christ thinks.

II. An Ethical Implication

- A. Not only is Jesus the Lord of our minds, He must be the Lord of our wills
 - 1. It isn't only what you believe that matters, it's how you behave
 - 2. The true believer submits his will to Christ in obedience
- B. Are you self-willed or Christ-willed?
 - 1. Do you see Christ's commands as absolutes?
1 John 2:3-5 – “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”
 - 2. Do you strive to obey Him entirely?
 Jesus compared those who obey with those who did not
Luke 6:46-49 – “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? ⁴⁷ Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. ⁹ But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

III. A Vocational Implication

- A. Jesus is not only Lord of our minds, wills, and morals, He is Lord of our time
 - 1. Jesus must be Lord of your profession, your job, your career, your ambitions
 - 2. You must see your vocation as your calling under the headship of Christ – do you see it as a place of Christian service
- B. Do you consider the Lordship of Christ as you make your plans?
 - 1. Your chief priority in all that you do must be Christ. Is He Lord of your life?
 - 2. This is why Christians must remain separate in their relationships **2co 6:14**

IV. An Ecclesiastical Implication

- A. Jesus is the head of the church
 - 1. He must be the head of this church
Ephesians 5:23-24 – “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.”
 - 2. Our church must be subject to Christ in everything we do
- B. Problems in churches arise when members seek their own way

1. Some see the church as a volunteer organization
They show up when they want to, do what they want to do.
2. Others see the ordained clergy as being responsible for the work of the church
3. If Jesus is our Lord then we are His servants

V. A Political Implication

- A. There are many who believe that Christianity is to be maintained within the walls of the church
 1. They believe Christianity must not encroach into the public arena
 2. Jesus is Lord only of the church and His people
- B. The truth is Jesus is Lord over all things
 1. His law is to govern all men – homosexuality isn't just wrong for God's people or wrong within the church. It is to be denounced upon all who practice it.
 2. Jesus is not only our King. He is the King of kings.
 3. As God's people we reflect the radiance of Christ – we demonstrate to all His Lordship. This is one element of being the light of the world and the salt of the earth.
 4. It must be done correctly with humility and meekness and we must never confuse moral teaching and social reform with the demands of the Gospel to repent and trust Christ.

VI. A Global Implication

- A. If Jesus is our Lord we must never forget the authority of the Great Commission **Matthew 28:18-20** – “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 1. By His own authority Jesus sent His disciples into the world
 2. They were to make disciples and teach them the law of Christ
The means would be the proclamation of His Word
 3. They were to go because our Lord commanded them to go. He had the authority to send them. He is Lord. There is a charge upon us as well
- B. We err greatly when we go under our own authority, wisdom, and power
 1. Are all of the programs today under the Lordship of Christ?
 2. We also err when we do nothing. Our Master and Lord has charged His people as the vessels through which the Gospel would be carried.

Conclusion:

1. Is Jesus Christ is your Savior? Then He is also your Lord. If He is your Lord then it will have a profound effect upon every aspect of your life.
If your life hasn't been changed then you have great reason to question your salvation.
2. The truth is every human being will eventually call Jesus Lord. Either you will embrace Him now joyfully calling Him your Lord, your King, your Master, or you will call Him Lord in judgment just before He casts you into hell.

3. Jesus us a glorious King. You cannot make Him Lord, He IS Lord. If you haven't submitted every aspect of your life to Christ pray that God might help you to repent of your rebellions against His Lordship.
4. God calls upon all men to repent and believe. That must be your chief interest.