

GETTING THE GOSPEL RIGHT

“Jesus Christ Is Lord”

Scripture Reading: PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8.** This is week #7 in our sermon series “*GETTING THE GOSPEL RIGHT.*” And I have titled today’s message “*Jesus Christ Is Lord*” (2:11).
-) **SLIDE 9.** We spent 47 weeks studying the Book of GAL. The theme of that book was that you better get the gospel right. Do NOT attempt to contribute works to what Jesus has already accomplished to earn your salvation. Here’s the warning. GAL 1:8-9. Go back and listen to this series.
-) **SLIDE 10.** We can conclude from that warning that any gospel other than the true gospel will damn a person. But Mike, I think this warning is too severe. And it must be. Another warning is found in the words of Jesus. MATTHEW 7:22-23. Risk this?
-) Do not be deceived. Not everyone who thinks they are going to heaven is going to heaven. Only those who get the gospel right are going to heaven. The path is narrow and the number going is few. So, do we have the gospel right?
-) **SLIDE 11.** Let’s review our 6 non-negotiable gospel truths we have made so far. Read and then summarize.
-) Question. Are there any more truths revealed in the Word of God that we must know and believe for salvation? Great question. What about creation? Don’t we need to believe in a 6-day creation to be saved? What about the virgin birth? What about Jesus’ miracles? What about Jesus’ second coming? What about hell? Is Hell real or not?

-) What about? What about? This list could go on. I understand your concern because we must get the gospel right.
-) **SLIDE 12.** Here's why I limited this list to these six truths. 1 COR 15:1-5. If we look at the Book of ACTS or any of the 13 epistles written by the apostle Paul, the two events he ever mentions concerning salvation are the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the grave.
-) From what I have studied from trusted theologians concerning those other truths, I say this. Believe and trust who the Bible says Jesus is and what the Bible says about Him.
-) Believe in the Virgin birth. Believe in Jesus' second coming. Believe in the 6-day creation story. Have child-like faith. Trust the Scriptures. And no more and no less.
-) **SLIDE 13.** The Bible tells us in many different passages that a person must "*believe*" in Jesus and these gospel truths. Read. Obviously there is something important about believing. Today I want to define what it means for a Christian to believe by using the Scriptures.
-) **SLIDE 14.** We run into a problem if we simplify the definition of believing. JAMES 2:19. The demons know the truth about Jesus. The demons believe the truth about Jesus. So, if you know the truth about Jesus and you believe the truth about Jesus that makes you no different than the demons.
-) **SLIDE 15.** MARK 1:23-24. That demon, that evil spirit, knew and believed that Jesus was the Holy One of God. And he also knew that at some point in time he will be destroyed. He knew that. He believed that. So, what about believing?
-) **SLIDE 16.** EPH 2:8. If we are saved by grace through faith, then saving faith (the faith that saves us) must go beyond just knowing and believing the truth. I assure you the demons know more about Jesus and God's plan of salvation than most humans do. But they are not and will not ever be saved.

-) So, what's the difference between a demon who believes and a Christian who believes? Today and next week we will consider two Christian responses to this question.
-) Many people who profess to be Christians, say they believe the gospel because they want fire insurance. Their only concern is that when they die, they want to make sure they go to heaven and not hell. Jesus is their fire insurance and nothing more.
-) Likewise, there are many people who profess to be Christians, say they believe the gospel because they want a genie. Their only concern is that as they go through life, that they are healthy, wealthy, prosperous, and without any trials or challenges. Jesus is their genie and nothing more.
-) **SLIDE 17.** I am convinced that there are people today who superficially believe these six gospel truths I have shared with you. They know these gospel truths in their head, but they never bring these gospel truths into their heart.
-) And for these people there is still something missing for their salvation. And what might that be? What is missing is the Christian response to believing the gospel. They know it here (head) but do not have it here (heart).
-) Let's take a quick journey through the Scriptures to see what the Christian response to the gospel must be. And we will take today and next Sunday to do this.
-) **SLIDE 18.** 2 COR 5:17. Are you a true believer? A true believer is a new creation in Christ. So, what does a new creation in Christ look like? Let's Biblically define this.
-) **SLIDE 19.** ROMANS 10:9-10. This does not mean that we verbally say that Jesus is God. The demons do that! No. We confess Jesus is Lord. What does it mean to confess?
-) **SLIDE 20.** Define "*confess.*" I assure you, the demons will never declare faith in or adhere to the words of Jesus.

-) **SLIDE 21.** The Christian response to the gospel teaches that we confess Jesus as **LORD** and not just a Savior as fire insurance or a genie.
-) Again, there are many people who want Jesus as a Savior and they say Jesus is their Savior, but they do not want Him as their Lord. They want fire insurance and/or they want a genie and/or they want to continue to sin anyway they want, but they **DO NOT** want to be accountable to a higher authority. They want all the benefits of Jesus, but they don't want Jesus.
-) The lordship of Jesus Christ is clearly at the heart of true saving faith. The Bible is clear. You don't make a commitment to Christ one day and expect to live your life any way you want the next. You were bought at a price. There is a cost to following Christ.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Let's further define what it means to have Jesus as Lord. LUKE 9:23-25. Your life is no longer about you.
-) **SLIDE 23.** The Christian response to the gospel teaches that a believer will take up their cross **DAILY** and follow Jesus. This means we lose our **LIFE** for Jesus' sake.
-) What does it mean to take up my cross? What is a cross? The cross is an instrument of death. And in our lives some things must die. And what must die? Anything that becomes a priority above Jesus. Is He truly your Lord or not?
-) **SLIDE 24.** LUKE 14:25-27. Jesus says that if He is not #1 above mom and dad and wife and children and even your own life, you cannot be His disciple.
-) **SLIDE 25.** The Christian response to the gospel teaches a believer will forsake the **WORLD**. What do you want? What the world offers, or what Christ offers? Where is your heart? Does it belong to the world or does it belong to Christ?
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-) Let's ask that question again. What's the difference between a demon who believes and a Christian who believes? We know that a demon believes who Jesus is, what Jesus said, and what Jesus accomplished.
-) But a Christian trusts in their heart who Jesus is, what He said, and what He accomplished, and, by faith, by saving faith, confesses Jesus Christ as the Lord of their life.
-) There are many people who may "*believe*" the divine principles of the gospel, but few of these people demonstrate the Christian response to the gospel by confessing Jesus Christ as their Lord.
-) Let's conclude. What does it mean to confess Jesus is Lord?
-) 1) To confess "*Jesus Christ is Lord*" means you are no longer the ultimate authority in your life. Jesus is.
-) 2) To confess "*Jesus Christ is Lord*" means there are no other gods or saviors in your life. And that includes the Virgin Mary, the saints, the pope, Billy Graham, John MacArthur, or any other human being who has had some type of spiritual influence in your life.
-) 3) To confess "*Jesus Christ is Lord*" means we now have the mind of Christ and decisions we make we now base on a Biblical worldview and not by secular peer pressure and/or personal feelings.
-) 4) To confess "*Jesus Christ is Lord*" means that we die to self because we have been given a new birth. We are now new creations in Christ! The old has gone!
-) 5) To confess "*Jesus Christ is Lord*" means that Jesus does not want to give you a makeover. Jesus wants a takeover.
-) 6) To confess "*Jesus Christ is Lord*" with a contrite heart means we have the Christian response to the gospel.

) **SLIDE 26.** PHIL 2:11. Every person who ever walked the face of this earth will confess, at some time, that Jesus Christ is Lord. We can confess that now, affirming that Jesus Christ is our Lord now, or we can confess that throughout an eternity of damnation. Because everyone will confess. Make your choice.

) **SLIDE 27.** According to JAMES 2:19. even the demons believe the gospel. What sets the Christian apart is that we have a Christian response to the gospel. We confess here and we confess now, "*Jesus Christ is Lord!*"

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