

WHEN TRUTH LOSES ITS POWER

2 Corinthians 4:5

Introduction: Let me ask you two questions: "Do you believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ?" The second question: "Is Jesus Christ the Lord of all you are and have?" We sing hymns about the Lordship of Jesus but sadly, now everyone who sings the words to the hymns allows Jesus to really be Lord of his/her life. "Lord" has come to be a lifeless word in the Church and Christian's vocabulary, yet the Lordship of Jesus Christ is a BASIC TRUTH in Christianity.

I. THE LORDSHIP OF JEUS CHRIST WAS IN THE EARLY CHURCH'S FIRST CONFESSION

1. **Romans 10:9.** To Jews, "Lord" meant God; to Gentiles, "Lord" meant "Caesar."
 - The Jews claimed that Jesus was taking Caesar's place.
2. Constantine changed Christianity. Before, Christianity meant a complete break with the world, but after Constantine became involved, Christianity was commanded and became fashionable, standards were lowered and have been ever since.
3. God's Church is trying to serve two (2) Lords it seems: Jesus Christ and Caesar.
 - Church members are living double lives, talking Christian language but living worldly lives.
4. In the early Church days, being a Christian was dangerous. Today it is fashionable and taken lightly.

II. THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST EXISTS ONLY IN CHRISTIANS

1. **1 Corinthians 12:3.** The Old Sin Nature will not allow Jesus Christ to be Lord.
 - Only Spirit filled and spirit led Christians can truthfully say that Jesus Christ is Lord of one's life.
2. A great tragedy has occurred. There has become a distinction between Jesus who saves from hell and Jesus as Lord.
 - Jesus is allowed to save a person from hell, but not to be Lord of that person's life.'
 - Salvation is not like a cafeteria line to pick and choose from. It is "***...believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved...***"
3. It seems that there are two options: believe or not believe, but if one believes, there are no more options.
 - Jesus makes it very clear, count the cost. He is to be Savior and He is to be Lord.
 - Faith in Jesus Christ and acceptance of His Lordship are basic for membership in His Church.
4. Jesus lost some good "prospects" when He was here, such as the rich young ruler.
 - God wants disciples, not "joiners." God means business.
5. Nowhere does God say to believe in Jesus Christ now for Salvation and later let Him be Lord.

CONCLUSION:

1. *Philippians 2:9-11*. The truth is that Jesus Christ is Lord.
 - Is Jesus Lord of YOUR body, your thoughts, your tongue, your temper, your spare time, your plans, your pocketbook/purse, your all?
2. If Jesus Christ is Lord at all in your life, He must be Lord of ALL.