

3. Christ, Our Lord and Savior

Lord and *savior* appear as descriptive titles of Jesus Christ. *Lord*, indicating authority and meaning *master*, was the common address used by the apostles, with no instances appearing during his personal ministry where they called him by his given name, Jesus. *Lord*, the more frequently used address, included the added meaning of *deity* when used of Jesus. Acts 2:36 records Peter saying, "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." In Acts 10:36, Peter said, "You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all."

The word translated *savior* also means *deliverer* and *preserver*. As a title, it extends to include the deity and power of Jesus when used with the title *Lord* as in 2 Peter 1:10-11: "And you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." In short, our master saves and delivers us.

Christ, the Lord

Using the title, *Lord*, in addressing Christ shows complete submission to him as master, with full understanding of his power and authority. The centurion in Matthew 8:5-11 illustrates the depth of commitment and obedience:

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."

7 Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."

8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

In Matthew 7:21-23, the recognition of Christ as Lord requires more than verbal acknowledgement and mere credence:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

The recognition of Christ as Lord includes full, unwavering obedience. The result is salvation. Acts 2:21 quotes the prophet Joel: "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." The conversion process itself begins with one's willingness to call on the name of the Lord. Paul also quotes Joel in Romans 10:12-15:

12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are

sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Luke 6:46-47 teaches that what we hear from Christ, our Lord, we must put into practice: "46 Why do you call me, 'Lord , Lord ,' and do not do what I say? 47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice."

Christ, the Savior

From the very beginning of his life on earth, Jesus was the savior. The angel of the Lord told the shepherds in Luke 2:11, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." The apostles preached Christ as the savior with the power to give repentance and forgiveness of sins in Acts 5:30-32:

30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead – whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

He is savior and saves us from our sins. Those that he thus saves constitute the church, his body. Paul explains in Ephesians 5:23, 25-27:

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior . . . 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

In another sense, Christ the savior saves us from these lowly bodies (earthly bodies) and makes us like his glorious body, according to Philippians 3:20-21:

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

Therefore, The Savior and his salvation bring life and immortality to us, saving us from this temporal and fleshly existence. 2 Timothy 1:9-11 teaches:

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior , Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Thus, eternal life comes to us from Jesus Christ our Savior. Paul writes in Titus 3:5-8:

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior , 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Christ, Lord and Savior

Peter beautifully summarizes our relationship to our Lord and Savior in 2 Peter 1:4-11:

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control,

perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Study Questions from the Scriptures

1. Acts 2:36: What was Israel, and if Israel, then we, to know assuredly?
2. Acts 10:36: Over what is Christ Lord?
3. 2 Peter 1:10-11: Into whose kingdom will we receive a rich welcome?
4. Matthew 8:5-11: What power does one in authority hold? What was the extent of the centurion's faith?
5. Matthew 7:21-23: Who will enter into the kingdom of heaven? How did the evil doers address the Lord? What kind of works did they do? What will the Lord say to them?
6. Acts 2:21: Who will be saved?
7. Romans 10:12-15: Over whom is the Lord? Whom does he bless? What must one do to "call on the name of the Lord"? What must one do to believe? How does one hear?
8. Luke 6:46-47: What must we put into practice?
9. Luke 2:11: Who was born in the town of David?
10. Acts 5:30-32: Who raised Jesus from the dead? To where and to what was Jesus exalted? What did Jesus give to Israel? To whom did God give the Holy Spirit?
11. Ephesians 5:23, 25-27: What is the Lord's body? What did Christ do for his church? What did Christ make his church?
12. Philippians 3:20-21: For whom are we waiting? What will happen to our bodies?
13. 2 Timothy 1:9-11: When did God give his grace? How and when did God reveal his grace? What did Christ destroy? What did he bring?"
14. Titus 3:5-8: How did Christ save us? In what do we have hope?
15. 2 Peter 1:4-11: In what may we participate? What are the Christian's virtuous qualities? With whom do we make our calling and election sure?