

## **LORD AND SAVIOUR?**

In a previous newsletter I wrote about materialism, and asked myself and you the reader to take an honest look at your life. I showed how we are becoming a materialistic church and here I want to show you how to know your life is right before God. One thing we need to ask ourselves daily is what will Jesus say when I stand before him? Will he say “*well done good and faithful servant*”? Or will he say “*Depart from me I never knew you*”? I will place in scripture references only, and it is up to you to check them out! **2 Tim 2:15**.

Is Jesus your Lord and Saviour or **just** your saviour? **Matt 7:1-29**. We can calculate this question by looking at how much time we spend with the Lord throughout the day and our attitude towards others. How much are we led by the Spirit of God **John 10:27, Rev 3:20-23**. The church has become a “*fast food outlet*” for us, we need to spend time with Jesus like Mary did and not be racing around like Martha **Luke 10:38-42**. If we were honest with ourselves and looked at the percentage rates in our life of what we do and how much time we spend with God in whatever way we would surprise ourselves, I reckon in my life the percentage rate of my time in worship, thought, reading, study, prayer, helping others and such things of God would only be about 25%. If I were honest, would I be able to say Jesus is my Lord as well as my saviour?

So how do I change this? My daily walk should be one where I am forever spiritually conscious of what is happening around me and be alert and ready to hear from the Holy Spirit to do God’s bidding, for our lives are really his and not our own, **1 Corinthians 6** all, **1 Corinthians 7:20-24**. Jesus paid the ultimate price for our salvation, he gave his life, what do we give back? Are we willing to lay our life down as in **Mark 8:34-38**. Is Jesus the centre of your life, do you hear his words daily to look out for others, to help others or are you self centred **Luke 10:25-37**. I have met people that all they do is go to church, then to work, then go hang out with Christians, they have no “non Christian” friends and they use this scripture to justify this **2 Corinthians 6:15-18 & James 4:4**. Some people take the word of God to the extreme in their lives and we have to be careful of this. Whereas Jesus, who did he spend most of his time with in **Luke 7:34**.

Is Jesus really our Lord? What is the definition of the word Lord? According to the Webster Bible dictionary “Lord” is A Master, a person possessing supreme power, a Ruler and an authority or government. According to the Princeton Uni, “Lord” is a person who has general authority over others. Synonyms (similar words) for “Lord” are Almighty, Creator, Divine, God Almighty, Godhead, Jehovah, maker, master, noble, nobleman and overlord. Sounds a lot huh? Is Jesus all these things to you and me though? Jesus even gave us some warnings about days like today and we need to take heed to them, like **2 Tim 3:1, James 5:3, 2 Peter 3:3, Matt 24:8-13**.

The best way to know if you or I are walking in the ways that Jesus would have us go is to use these verses as our bases for every day **Luke 10:27-42, Matt 7:16-29**. In actual fact if you read all of **Matt 5,6,7** you will get the general idea of how Jesus is to be our Lord **and** Saviour. If you have read all of this without checking with any of the verses written here, I seriously question your Christian walk! How do you know I have not written a whole lot of Garbage? Who are you following me or Jesus? See even this is an area of our life we need to check, follow Jesus not man! Don’t just believe me, I may be wrong, believe Jesus, go check with him, don’t follow me I have faults just as much as the next person, I may be leading you up a garden path with poison ivy at the end, check the Bible for yourself.

I know of a few churches where Pastors have left for whatever reason, at different times these same Pastors start up another church and all of a sudden you see an “*exodus*” of people that the Pastor was previously with heading over to the new church that was started by the Pastor who left. Now I don’t judge them for this, “maybe” God told them to leave the first church and go to the next one where the Pastor went to? But I myself have been part of a church where the Pastor has left and started another church, at first I thought “*well yeah right what do I do now God? You told me to come and sit under this Pastor and learn! So do I follow him or stay where I am*”? You know something I look back now and realise for the first time in my life I allowed God to make the decision for me, I actually did something right for a change. I did not know what my new Pastor was going to be like, if he could feed me the way the previous one did, but I allowed God to make the decision and **He** (God) said stay! I didn’t like it at first (*the decision to stay*) but I found I enjoyed the new Pastors teaching, and now I look back, I have been fed even more spiritually in that church than I had in the whole 10 years since I re-dedicated my life.

For the last twelve months of my life, God has dealt with me like he never has before, I come around to many mountains in my life that I had not previously conquered and found myself conquering them with quite a lot of ease. **Why?** Because I allowed God to be God in my life and follow only him! I have not spent a lot of “Bulk” time reading the word, or praying. But, every day I spend most of my time thinking about what God would have me do, asking God what he would want me to do or what decision should I make, I would honestly have to say that my Christian walk has advanced beyond my wildest dreams, I have returned to that point where I have again found Peace, Joy and Power in the things of God for my life.

Recently God dealt with me in my finances, he gave me some casual work that has really good pay. Then he said to me “what are you going to do with it”? He showed me different areas where I could advance “His Kingdom” and Glorify Him with my finances, he challenged me to be a blessing to others as he had blessed me. I was looking at buying a new bike but I consulted with the Holy Spirit on it and now I don’t particularly care for that new bike no more. I care more for putting my finances into the gospel. Do I tithe? Yes, I always have! But I no longer “just tithe”! **All** that I have is his! Every cent, every mile on my bike, in my car, every minute of my day, all I think of is how can I get this Salvation message out?

Salvation Message? It has become a ‘cliche’ and we use the word “Gospel” very loosely, we have forgotten about the message of God’s Son Jesus dying on the cross and raising again on the third day. We have forgotten about telling people, Jesus loves you, he can change your life, he can turn your marriage around, he can bless your work. See, we have become what some call “*Favourite Word*” people. Pastors and churches have forgotten what it was like to be in the real world just like I did. That is why I burnt out, God had to lead me back into the wilderness to show me all the people that are dying and going to hell. Whoops did I say HELL?

The “gospel” now has become a “fad” or a “new age lifestyle”, congregations only want to “**get**” from God, they don’t want to “**give**”, it is because the church has ripped them off. Some of you right now are getting hot under the collar with me because of what I am writing. This is not a “popular gospel”. Jesus gave us a **Command** not a “suggestion”, he said “go into all the world and preach.....” That is why the Bible says in **Mark 16:20** the word was confirmed with signs following. If you don’t see signs and wonders in your life, you are not preaching the word and therefore you are missing the blessing and joy of seeing the Holy Spirit in action and I do not apologise for making you think. I Rather hope this moves you into the things of God.