

Establish
Session 2

A
Modern
Day
Kingdom

Introduction:

The purpose of this teaching is to help us understand about the “Kingdom of God” and to crown Christ as king in our lives.

Someone once said that life is a stage. It’s filled with actors and players acting out the drama of history. Then, onto the center of the stage comes the most important figure in all of history ... His name is Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit’s job in the world today is to focus the spotlight on Christ as He comes front and center on that stage.

Jesus has changed history and has changed lives.

- It’s not the miracles He’s performed, although He’s performed great and mighty miracles.
- It’s not the teachings that He gave, although He is, without a doubt, recognized as the world’s greatest teacher.
- It’s not even the doctrines that He espoused, even though He set forth the highest ethical and moral way of life that mankind has ever known.

But it’s Jesus Himself! And in our last lesson, we found that a Christian is one who has personally related to this prominent figure.

A MODERN DAY KINGDOM

THE “GOOD NEWS” IS THAT OF A NEW KINGDOM:

PREDICTED by Prophets

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders... Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. — Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

ANNOUNCED by Angels

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem Luke 2:11

DECLARED by John the Baptist

Turn from your sins...turn to God...for the Kingdom of Heaven is coming soon Matthew 3:2

MANIFESTED by Jesus Christ

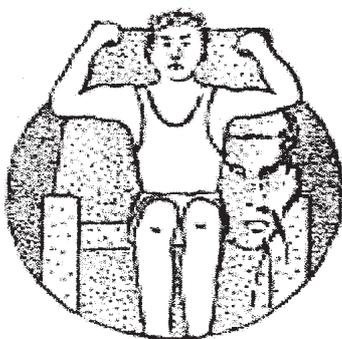
Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among them.

Matthew 4:17 & 23

PROVIDED for every beleiver

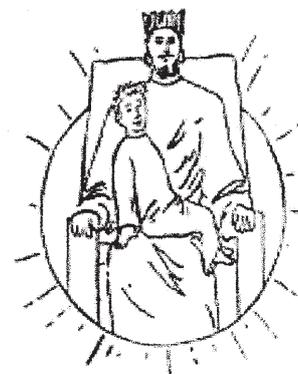
For He has rescued us out of the darkness and the gloom of Satan’s kingdom and brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Colossians 1:13

KINGDOM OF DARKNESS



My Will Be Done

KINGDOM OF LIGHT



Thy Will Be Done

Remember our definition of a Christian ... a Christian is one who loves Jesus, who trusts Him as his Savior, and is obedient to Him as his Lord.

The problem that we all face is that at the center of our life is a throne, and on that throne, before we become Christians and trust Jesus as our Savior, is "big #1", "I", "our own ego", "our own self". Christ may be somewhere near the throne, but we are sitting on that throne. Our will is the key to change that situation.

A true Christian is one who has exchanged places with Christ. A Christian is one who says, "Come Jesus, I don't deserve to be on this throne. You're the Lord! You sit on the throne and I'll take my place at your feet. You direct my life from now on." This is the person who qualifies to be a Christian.

- Someone may say to us, "Well, I believe the Bible. Don't you think that I'm a Christian?"

And we say, "You may very well be. But if you haven't yet, with your will, enthroned Jesus Christ on the throne of your life, you may have knowledge of Christianity, you may have knowledge of the Bible, but no, you don't qualify to be a Christian."

- Someone else may say, "I remember when I was in a Christian meeting and I had a tremendous experience. I can remember to this day and it warms me to the core. I went forward and people prayed for me, and I felt so good. Am I not a Christian?"

You may very well be. But if you haven't yet relinquished control of your life to the Lord Jesus, then I'd have to say, 'No'. You may have had an emotional experience. And it may have been a good experience. But you don't qualify to be a Christian until you come into the kingdom and crown Jesus as your King; not until you commit your life to Him, and exchange places with Him, and let Him come on the throne of your life by an act of your will.

- Another person may say, "Well, look. I've established good habits in my life. I go to church, I read the Bible, I pray, and I try to live good. Are you trying to say that I'm not a Christian?"

"Maybe. Quite probably you are. But you can do all those things out of force of habit, or you do all those things to work your way into a pleasing relationship with God. But the key is your will. If you haven't surrendered your whole being to Jesus in an act of your will, then those things that you're trying to do don't qualify you to be a Christian. Because the surrender of the will is where it all is. When you say, 'Jesus, come, be on the throne of my life,' then you qualify to be a Christian."

A MODERN DAY KINGDOM

THE “GOOD NEWS” IS THAT OF A NEW KINGDOM:

PREDICTED by Prophets

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders... Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. — Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

ANNOUNCED by Angels

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem Luke 2:11

DECLARED by John the Baptist

Turn from your sins...turn to God...for the Kingdom of Heaven is coming soon Matthew 3:2

MANIFESTED by Jesus Christ

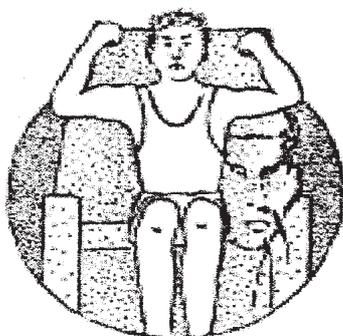
Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among them.

Matthew 4:17 & 23

PROVIDED for every believer

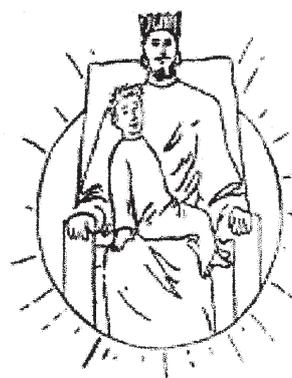
For He has rescued us out of the darkness and the gloom of Satan’s kingdom and brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Colossians 1:13

KINGDOM OF DARKNESS



My Will Be Done

KINGDOM OF LIGHT



Thy Will Be Done

So, a Christian is one who loves Jesus, who trusts Him as your Savior and who obeys Him as his Lord, because the good news of the bible is the good news of a kingdom.

For us in this century, it may be hard to grasp how that would be good news. We aren't used to living in a kingdom. We have a democracy here. It's not a kingdom. But the bible says that the good news that God offers to mankind is that He has established the Kingdom.

The Kingdom was predicted!

Way back, in the Old Testament days, as the Jewish people were seeking to hear the Lord and follow him, the Lord gave them many prophets and many ~ prophecies. One of the outstanding prophets was Isaiah ... we become familiar with what Isaiah said in the 9th chapter, hundreds of years before Jesus ever appeared on the scene here on this earth. And he said this,

“For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given ...”

“And the government shall be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace ...”

Now watch this,

“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.”

The next verse says he will “reign on David's throne” and rule over his kingdom, establishing it and upholding it with righteousness and justice, from that time on and forever.”

The Jewish people for centuries waited for the coming of the Messiah, the coming of a kingdom. They were looking for a King who would sit 'on the throne of David and rule over this world from that throne'. That's why so many of them missed Jesus. They were looking for an earthly kingdom because the prophecy indicated a King would come and establish the kingdom.

The Kingdom was Announced by Angels

You remember in Luke when the birth of Jesus was announced by angels. The angels said a savior is born, one who is Christ the Lord. No wonder the Jewish shepherds were ecstatic with joy. Because those words signaled to them that the one who they had been waiting for all this time was being born this night. The angels said so! And He was to be their Lord!

A MODERN DAY KINGDOM

THE “GOOD NEWS” IS THAT OF A NEW KINGDOM:

PREDICTED by Prophets

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders... Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. — Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

ANNOUNCED by Angels

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem Luke 2:11

DECLARED by John the Baptist

Turn from your sins...turn to God...for the Kingdom of Heaven is coming soon Matthew 3:2

MANIFESTED by Jesus Christ

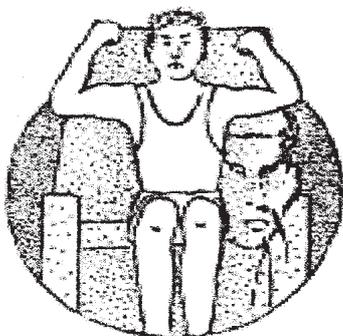
Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among them.

Matthew 4:17 & 23

PROVIDED for every believer

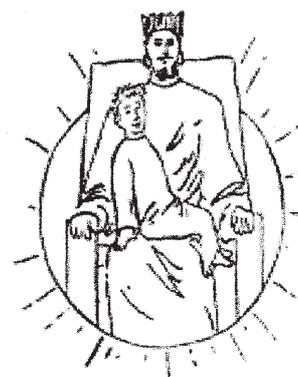
For He has rescued us out of the darkness and the gloom of Satan’s kingdom and brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Colossians 1:13

KINGDOM OF DARKNESS



My Will Be Done

KINGDOM OF LIGHT



Thy Will Be Done

The Kingdom was Declared by John the Baptist

When John the Baptist began to set the stage for Jesus coming, he had one theme ... “the kingdom you’ve been waiting for is almost here!” Repent and gets your hearts ready, because the kingdom is coming. That’s what the Jewish people had been waiting for centuries to happen.

The Kingdom was Manifested by Jesus

Guess what Jesus’ message was when he started to preach? For the first six or seven months, He has one message. Repent for the kingdom is now here. He preached the good news of the kingdom all around the country.

He displayed the kingdom in his own life

- He showed it in his submission to his Father. He said, “My only will is to do that which is the will of my Father. It’s my meat and my drink.” He didn’t come to do his own will or to do his own thing. He came here simply to be what the Father wanted him to be.

He manifested the kingdom of God by defeating the enemy.

- He healed the sick
- He cast out demons
- He defeated the works of satan

He manifested the power of the new kingdom ... not just another philosophy, not just another religion. And as He went about healing people and preaching to the people, He said, “The Kingdom is here!”

The Kingdom is Provided to Every Believer

Read Colosians 1:12-13

“And always be thankful to the Father, ... He has rescued us out of the kingdom of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son ...”

The purpose of Christ’s death on the cross was to break the power of the satan’s kingdom, and to release us so we could transfer kingdoms. When a person becomes a Christian, it isn’t that they’re released from the bondage of sin so they can do whatever they want to, so they can be independent, so they can serve themselves. No, they don’t cease now to be part of a kingdom. But rather, they transfer kingdoms ... out of the kingdom of satan, into the kingdom of Christ; out of the kingdom of darkness, into the kingdom of light.

A MODERN DAY KINGDOM

THE “GOOD NEWS” IS THAT OF A NEW KINGDOM:

PREDICTED by Prophets

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders... Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. — Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

ANNOUNCED by Angels

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem Luke 2:11

DECLARED by John the Baptist

Turn from your sins...turn to God...for the Kingdom of Heaven is coming soon Matthew 3:2

MANIFESTED by Jesus Christ

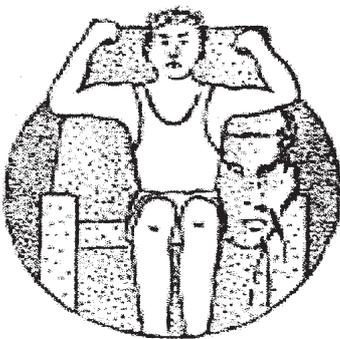
Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among them.

Matthew 4:17 & 23

PROVIDED for every believer

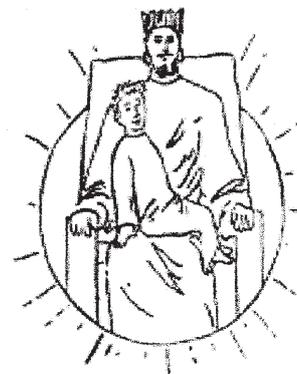
For He has rescued us out of the darkness and the gloom of Satan’s kingdom and brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Colossians 1:13

KINGDOM OF DARKNESS



My Will Be Done

KINGDOM OF LIGHT



Thy Will Be Done

You'll notice in the handout sheet that it's graphically illustrated. The kingdom of darkness ... self will is sitting on the throne, saying, "My will be done." The kingdom of light ... Jesus is sitting on the throne, and we are worshipping him. And the byword of this kingdom is, "Thy will be done!" ... not my will be done.

There's confusion in the kingdom of darkness, and conflict is inevitable. When Jesus says, "Do my will", and we say, "No, I'm going to do my own will."

But in the kingdom of Light, when the Kings says, "Do my will." And we say, "Your will is what I want to do," then there's peace and joy and order.

So the whole context of Jesus coming into this world was the context of kingdom. There was a new rulership that was going to be released on this earth, and people were going to be able to, after centuries, come back under the rulership of God through Jesus Christ.

A MODERN DAY KINGDOM

THE “GOOD NEWS” IS THAT OF A NEW KINGDOM:

PREDICTED by Prophets

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders... Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. — Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

ANNOUNCED by Angels

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem Luke 2:11

DECLARED by John the Baptist

Turn from your sins...turn to God...for the Kingdom of Heaven is coming soon Matthew 3:2

MANIFESTED by Jesus Christ

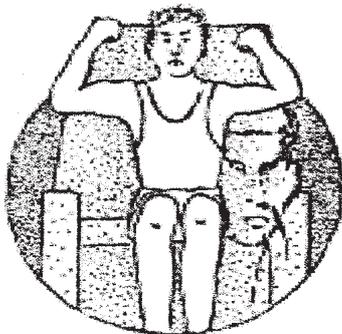
Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among them.

Matthew 4:17 & 23

PROVIDED for every believer

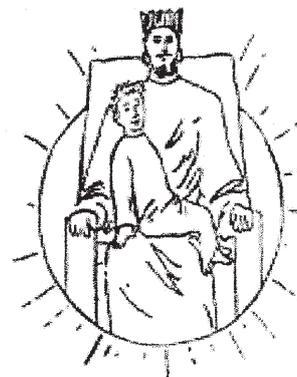
For He has rescued us out of the darkness and the gloom of Satan’s kingdom and brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Colossians 1:13

KINGDOM OF DARKNESS



My Will Be Done

KINGDOM OF LIGHT



Thy Will Be Done

Now, I want to show you from the scriptures that Jesus has a right to be the new ruler of this new kingdom. In the first place, he has a right to be that ruler because he was the **CREATOR**.

Col. 1:15-16 “For by Him all things were created ...”

Many people do not realize that the same Jesus who became a man and lived here on this earth for a brief time was the Son of God.

- Now this God-man, Jesus, who says he wants us to allow Him to be the king of our life, is literally the one who created everything there is. John 1 says, “nothing exists that he didn’t make.”
- You can look at the starry sky, at the nature around us, and behind it all stands Jesus, the creator of the universe.

Not only that, but the next verse Col.1 :17 states ... “it is his power that holds it all together.”

- He upholds everything by the word of his power.
- All the atoms, all the molecules ... why do they stay together, what is the force that attracts them one to another? The force comes from the Lord Jesus, for it is by the word of His power that all things are kept from flying apart.
- Science marvels at this ... they don’t understand it, but they see it.
- Why don’t the galaxies fly off in space?
- Why is the law of gravity the way it is?
- Why is there constantly the right chemical balance in the atmosphere so we can breath?
- Why is there another chemical balance down in the sea where the fish are?
- How are all these forms of life sustained, all these systems of nature?
- Why is it that all of this is in order?

It’s because Jesus, in the second place, is the **SUSTAINER** of all things. He upholds all things by the word of his power.

5 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

JESUS IS THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THIS KINGDOM BECAUSE HE IS THE:

— **Creator**

Christ Himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for His own use and glory. Colossians 1:16 (see also John 1:3, 10)

— **Sustainer**

He was before all else began and it is His power that holds everything together. Colossians 1:17

— **Final Authority**

Standing among them was one who looked like Jesus who called himself the Son of Man wearing a long robe circled with a golden band across His chest. His hair was white as wool or snow, and His eyes penetrated like flames of fire. His feet gleamed like burnished bronze, and His voice thundered like the waves against the shore. He held seven stars in His right hand and a sharp, double bladed sword in His mouth, and His face shone like the power of the sun in unclouded brilliance. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; but He laid His right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! Though I am the First and Last, the Living One who died, who is now alive forevermore, who has the keys of hell and death—don't be afraid!" Revelation 1:13-18

THE MAJOR MESSAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

JESUS IS LORD

Not just that Jesus is "Savior", but rather — Jesus is "Lord"

The Bible mentions—

"Savior"	37	times
"Lord"	7,736	times

Salvation

without

Lordship

is only a "half" gospel

But not only that ...

In the book of Revelations we see that Jesus is also the **FINALAUTHORITY**.

John wrote the book of Revelation while he was exiled on the island of Patmos. John was worshipping on the Lord's day. He heard a voice behind him. "I am the A and Z, the beginning and the end."

Read Rev. 1 :13-18

John recognized the awesomeness of the One who stood before him. Jesus said, "You don't need to be afraid. I am the one who is the beginning and the end. I am the one who has the keys of hell and death in my hand. I am alive forevermore. I am that one, but you don't need to be afraid."

John sees the resurrected Jesus, as He is now, exalted once again to the Father's right hand. If we saw him as John did, the ruler of the universe, King Jesus, the Lord of Lords, you know what would happen to you? You'd be flat on your face, too. Your knees would melt like wax. It would be too awesome. Because that's who he is ... the God of the Universe, the King, the Creator, and He's the One who says, "Come, let me sit on the throne of your life, let me be your Lord!"

There's no question that He has the right to ask that of us, for He is the Lord!

5 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

JESUS IS THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THIS KINGDOM BECAUSE HE IS THE:

— Creator

Christ Himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for His own use and glory. Colossians 1:16 (see also John 1:3, 10)

— Sustainer

He was before all else began and it is His power that holds everything together. Colossians 1:17

— Final Authority

Standing among them was one who looked like Jesus who called himself the Son of Man wearing a long robe circled with a golden band across His chest. His hair was white as wool or snow, and His eyes penetrated like flames of fire. His feet gleamed like burnished bronze, and His voice thundered like the waves against the shore. He held seven stars in His right hand and a sharp, double bladed sword in His mouth, and His face shone like the power of the sun in unclouded brilliance. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; but He laid His right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! Though I am the First and Last, the Living One who died, who is now alive forevermore, who has the keys of hell and death—don't be afraid!" Revelation 1:13-18

THE MAJOR MESSAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

JESUS IS LORD

Not just that Jesus is "Savior", but rather — Jesus is "Lord"

The Bible mentions—

"Savior"	37	times
"Lord"	7,736	times

Salvation

without

Lordship

is only a "half" gospel

So the major message of the new testament is simply this .."**JESUS IS LORD!**"

Now note this ... He is not just the Savior, but He is Lord.

- The bible mentions the word savior **37** times. We're glad He's our Savior.
- But the word Lord occurs **7,736** times.
- You get the sense that the lordship of Christ as the God of the Universe is pretty important, when you realize that he is referred to as "Lord" 7,000 plus times.
- **SALVATION** without **LORDSHIP** is only half a gospel.

I remember a lady coming to me weeping. She was worried about her husband. God had come to him in a special way. He had responded by coming to church for a while, but then he began to slip away. His wife wondered if her husband was ever saved. Her husband had a moving experience, but he wanted God on his own terms. He didn't want to let Jesus rule his life. When push came to shove, when things didn't go just the way he wanted them to go, then he got sour on it all, because Jesus wasn't his Lord.

The half-gospel is preached in many churches. But a half-gospel produces a self-centered experience. There are many people who attend church regularly - maybe they're saved (God knows) - but they have no concept of what Jesus saved them for or what Jesus saved them from.

Half-saved believers go through life asking "what can Jesus do for me?". Where, the true question is, "what is Jesus asking me to do for Him?" ... He's the Lord. He's the center of the universe ... not me!

5 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

JESUS IS THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THIS KINGDOM BECAUSE HE IS THE:

— Creator

Christ Himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for His own use and glory. Colossians 1:16 (see also John 1:3, 10)

— Sustainer

He was before all else began and it is His power that holds everything together. Colossians 1:17

— Final Authority

Standing among them was one who looked like Jesus who called himself the Son of Man wearing a long robe circled with a golden band across His chest. His hair was white as wool or snow, and His eyes penetrated like flames of fire. His feet gleamed like burnished bronze, and His voice thundered like the waves against the shore. He held seven stars in His right hand and a sharp, double bladed sword in His mouth, and His face shone like the power of the sun in unclouded brilliance. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; but He laid His right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! Though I am the First and Last, the Living One who died, who is now alive forevermore, who has the keys of hell and death—don't be afraid!" Revelation 1:13-18

THE MAJOR MESSAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

JESUS IS LORD

Not just that Jesus is "Savior", but rather — Jesus is "Lord"

The Bible mentions—

"Savior"	37	times
"Lord"	7,736	times

Salvation

without

Lordship

is only a "half" gospel

A “half-gospel” is preached in many churches. But a half-gospel produces a self-centered experience. There are many people who attend church regularly - maybe they’re saved (God knows) - but they have no concept of what Jesus saved them for or what Jesus saved them from.

Half-saved believers go through life asking “what can Jesus do for me?” Where the true question is, “What is Jesus asking me to do for Him?” He’s the Lord! He’s the center of the universe ... not me.

The Authentic Gospel is one which says, “Come to Jesus and give ... your life to his control, you self a living sacrifice, seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you.

The half-gospel, which really is a counterfeit gospel, says, “Come to Jesus and get ... He’ll heal you, he’ll give you joy, peace, prosperity, excitement, blessing.

Now let me say the Jesus does want to do these things for us. But they are byproducts of making Him Lord, and giving ourselves away to Him and putting Him in the proper place in our lives.

The counterfeit gospel says, I’m the lord, and Jesus is my servant. Whatever I want, He’ll do it. That’s not the true gospel. The authentic (real) gospel teaches us to say, “Jesus is my Lord - I am His servant. Whatever He wants me to do, I’ll do it.”

THE CONTENT OF OUR GOSPEL MESSAGE DETERMINES THE QUALITY OF OUR CONVERTS!

The “half-gospel” produces a SELF-CENTERED religious experience

Half-saved believers go through life continually asking “*What can Jesus do for me?*” Whereas the true question really is, “*What is Jesus asking me to do for him?*”

“Authentic Gospel”

versus

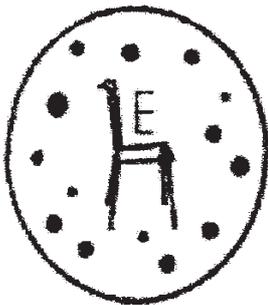
“Half-Gospel”

- a. Come to Jesus and GIVE
 — Your life to His control
 — Yourself as a living sacrifice
 — Seek first the Kingdom of God
 and **ALL** these things will be
 added unto you.
- b. Jesus is Lord
 — I am His servant

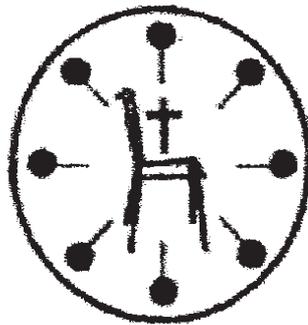
- a. Come to Jesus and GET
 — Healed
 — Joy and Peace
 — Prosperity, excitement
 — Blessing
- b. I am Lord
 — Jesus is my servant

**WE ARE TRULY “SAVED” ONLY
 BY MAKING JESUS OUR LORD**

For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised Him from the Dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9



Self on the throne



Christ on the throne

Jesus saves us from **self**

As we make Him our **Lord**

If we really understand what being Christian means — that this Christ, the living God, actually comes in to rule one’s life—then everything must change: values, goals, priorities, desires and habits. If Christ’s lordship does not disrupt our own lordship, then the reality of our conversion must be questioned.

— Charles Colson

“A CHRISTIAN OBEYS JESUS CHRIST AS LORD!”

Now we need to realize this... that we are only truly saved by making Jesus our Lord.

Quote Romans 10:9 ... “For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

The Jews were looking for a ruler to come. We’re looking for a Savior. Both of us are right. But, the thing that we miss is that He saves us by ruling us.

Many people have looked at salvation as basically a fire escape out of hell. God does rescue us. But His purpose and intent is not only to rescue us from hell, but to rescue us from all the sin, all the harm, all the evil, all the frustration, all the self-will, all the darkness, all that has gone on in our life which has frustrated His will and plan for us.

How does He do that? He brings us under the lordship of Jesus.

See the diagram. In the first circle.. all the elements of our self-ruled life are confused and out of balance. The second circle, with Jesus as our Lord, there is order, because Jesus rules here. Jesus saves us from Self as we make Him our lord. Only as we turn over the reigns of our life to Him as Lord can He save us from the mess we have made of our life while self was in control.

Phil. 3:12 ... ‘now we can become all that God intended us to be...’

There won’t be peace and joy in our life until we make Jesus our King. When He becomes our Lord, then all of life comes into its proper order. When we confess Him and crown Him as Lord, then He can restore us and work out God’s plan for us.

See the Charles Colson quote on the bottom of the page.

A Christian obeys Jesus Christ as Lord ... not someday up in heaven, but here and now today!

The “half-gospel” produces a SELF-CENTERED religious experience

Half-saved believers go through life continually asking “*What can Jesus do for me?*” Whereas the true question really is, “*What is Jesus asking me to do for him?*”

“Authentic Gospel”

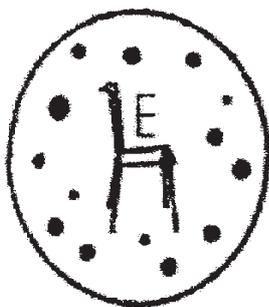
versus

“Half-Gospel”

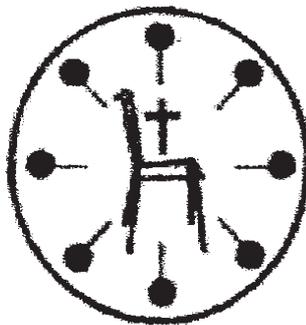
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>a. Come to Jesus and GIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Your life to His control — Yourself as a living sacrifice — Seek first the Kingdom of God and ALL these things will be added unto you. <p>b. Jesus is Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — I am His servant | <p>a. Come to Jesus and GET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Healed — Joy and Peace — Prosperity, excitement — Blessing <p>b. I am Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Jesus is my servant |
|---|---|

**WE ARE TRULY “SAVED” ONLY
BY MAKING JESUS OUR LORD**

For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised Him from the Dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9



Self on the throne



Christ on the throne

Jesus saves us from self

As we make Him our Lord

If we really understand what being Christian means — that this Christ, the living God, actually comes in to rule one’s life—then everything must change: values, goals, priorities, desires and habits. If Christ’s lordship does not disrupt our own lordship, then the reality of our conversion must be questioned.

— Charles Colson

“A CHRISTIAN OBEYS JESUS CHRIST AS LORD!”

We are now ready for the definition of the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God consists of all those, whether this side of death or the other, who are registered under God's government because they have made Jesus Christ their Lord.

The greek word for Lord is **KURIOS**

- It means the absolute authority, the supreme controller.
- The one to whom we give absolute authority and complete control.

It's hard for people living in a democracy to grasp "Lordship"

- Some places in the world the people easily submit to a king, or ruler. He has absolute authority; there is no recourse from his dictates.
- But in a democracy, everyone has a say, everyone can speak, do what they want to do. It's much more difficult for them to submit to a ruler.

A Christian is now a citizen in God's kingdom. Because of who Jesus is and what He has done, they willingly ask Jesus to become their absolute authority and supreme controller.

So when we declare "Jesus is our Lord" we're not just speaking a pious platitude

- It implies unbending allegiance to his supreme authority.
- It implies an end to life on our terms.

7 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

Definition: Kingdom of God: Consists of all those, whether this side of death or the other, who are registered under God’s government because they have made Jesus Christ their Lord.

The Greek word for “Lord”=

“Kurios”

The absolute authority
The supreme controller

So, declaring Jesus as our Lord is no pious platitude. It implies unbending allegiance to His supreme authority. It signals—

AN END TO LIFE ON OUR OWN TERMS

LUKE 9:23-26

1. (v. 23) **Self Denial**

Anyone who wants to follow Me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him everyday and keep close to Me!

“No, Lord!” is contradictory

2. (v. 24) **Total Commitment**

Whoever loses his life for My sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it.

The Rich Young Ruler — Luke 18:18-23

Anything that competes must go! It may be a part-time job, a friendship, a habit, a style of life — or anything else of our own desire — that interferes with our total commitment.

3. (v. 26) **Public Declaration**

When I, the Man of Glory, come in My glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels, I will be ashamed then of all who are ashamed of Me and of My words now. (See also Matthew 10:32-33).

Jesus is the One Who sets forth the terms for those who would follow Him and make Him their Lord in Luke 9:23-26. Let's read those verses.

Many of Jesus' sayings were hard sayings, because Jesus wasn't coming here to give us a religion that we could play with. He came to totally revolutionize our life. And so, when he called people to himself, it was on terms that were very demanding...

There are three (3) very distinct terms that Jesus sets forth in these verses.

If anyone makes Jesus Lord, they must deny himself!

- The old self has to go.
- He said **DENY SELF**, not self-denial.
- Some practice self denial... giving up candy, smoking, etc.
- But Jesus meant that we must deny self will in our life.
- In fact, He said was you take up the cross
 - Not a trinket, an ornament, but an instrument of death
 - It was a cruel means of death.
 - The picture that Jesus is trying to conjur up is that of our death - the death of our "self".
- Denying our self and taking up our cross means that we die to our self "daily"
- Paul later declares, "I am crucified with Christ, yet I live ..."

What that really means is that when He becomes our Lord, it is a complete contradiction for us to ever say to Him, "No, Lord".

When Jesus becomes our Lord, to say "No" means He's not really our Lord

- Jesus says obey my parents ... we say, "But Lord, you don't know my parents."
- Jesus says forgive someone, we say, "But Lord, you don't know what they've done to me."

Jesus is calling for us to take up our cross and follow Him. Die to our own ways and follow His ways.

7 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

Definition: Kingdom of God: Consists of all those, whether this side of death or the other, who are registered under God’s government because they have made Jesus Christ their Lord.

The Greek word for “Lord”=

“Kurios”

The absolute authority
The supreme controller

So, declaring Jesus as our Lord is no pious platitude. It implies unbending allegiance to His supreme authority. It signals—

AN END TO LIFE ON OUR OWN TERMS

LUKE 9:23-26

1. (v. 23) **Self Denial**

Anyone who wants to follow Me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him everyday and keep close to Me!

“No, Lord!” is contradictory

2. (v. 24) **Total Commitment**

Whoever loses his life for My sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it.

The Rich Young Ruler — Luke 18:18-23

Anything that competes must go! It may be a part-time job, a friendship, a habit, a style of life — or anything else of our own desire — that interferes with our total commitment.

3. (v. 26) **Public Declaration**

When I, the Man of Glory, come in My glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels, I will be ashamed then of all who are ashamed of Me and of My words now. (See also Matthew 10:32-33).

In verse 24, Jesus indicates that this is a **TOTAL COMMITMENT**.

- You lose your own life. (v24)
- Now Jesus never takes something from us that He doesn't give us much more. Jesus loves us. He's going to make us into what God intended in the first place. There is nothing that could be greater than that. But it means total commitment.

In Luke 18:18-23, we read the story of a rich young man who came to Jesus. Anyone would love to have him as a disciple or a church member. And he said, "Jesus, what should I do to gain eternal life?" Jesus said, keep the commandments. He said, "I have." Jesus looked into his heart and said, "You must sell all that you have and give it to the poor, and follow me." The young man hung his head and walked away very sad because he had many possessions.

What's the point of that story?

- Do we need to be poor? No. Jesus is just conveying that "nothing can compete with Me."
- Jesus knew that those possessions would be the main competitor in this man's life.
- We might have gone after the young man and said, "Let's just give up 50%". Jesus didn't do that. He said you lose your life, but you gain My life."
- Anything that competes has to go. It could be a job, a friendship, a habit, a style of life. Whatever it is that interferes with our total commitment to the Lord.

The Dedication Required by the Communist Party:

Douglas Hyde, in his book "Dedication to Leadership", described the communist approach to commitment.

The communist said ... "if you make little demands on people, you'll get a little response and that's all you deserve. But if you make big demands on people, you'll get a heroic response."

The communist made far greater demands on their people than the average Christian organization would dare make on their people.

Jesus asks for a lot. He won't negotiate. He isn't interested in wishy-washy, half-baked Christianity. Rather, He intends to raise up a company of people who are going to demonstrate a quality of life that can only be lived under the loving Lordship of the Son of God.

7 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

Definition: Kingdom of God: Consists of all those, whether this side of death or the other, who are registered under God’s government because they have made Jesus Christ their Lord.

The Greek word for “Lord”=

“Kurios”

The absolute authority
The supreme controller

So, declaring Jesus as our Lord is no pious platitude. It implies unbending allegiance to His supreme authority. It signals—

AN END TO LIFE ON OUR OWN TERMS

LUKE 9:23-26

1. (v. 23) **Self Denial**

Anyone who wants to follow Me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him everyday and keep close to Me!

“No, Lord!” is contradictory

2. (v. 24) **Total Commitment**

Whoever loses his life for My sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it.

The Rich Young Ruler — Luke 18:18-23

Anything that competes must go! It may be a part-time job, a friendship, a habit, a style of life — or anything else of our own desire — that interferes with our total commitment.

3. (v. 26) **Public Declaration**

When I, the Man of Glory, come in My glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels, I will be ashamed then of all who are ashamed of Me and of My words now. (See also Matthew 10:32-33).

The third condition that Jesus laid out is that we must **PUBLICLY DECLARE** our allegiance to Him.

- If you confess me, I'll confess you.
- Jesus is looking for followers who want everyone to know that they have made Jesus their Lord.
- If Jesus gave the invitation in our churches, he wouldn't do what we often do "... now everyone bow your head, slip up your hand where no one will see it." Jesus would say, "Every head up, everyone looking around. Now, if you want to give your life to me, stand up. And those who respond would be quality converts."
- "Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's and of the holy angels."

Now the masses followed Jesus, but only for a little while.

- When he began to set forth the terms of discipleship, the masses shrank to just a few.
- But that's what Jesus was after. He was after those few who would really be committed disciples. He wasn't seeking big numbers.
- He was seeking quality people with whom He could build his kingdom here on this earth.

7 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

Definition: Kingdom of God: Consists of all those, whether this side of death or the other, who are registered under God’s government because they have made Jesus Christ their Lord.

The Greek word for “Lord”=

“Kurios”

The absolute authority
The supreme controller

So, declaring Jesus as our Lord is no pious platitude. It implies unbending allegiance to His supreme authority. It signals—

AN END TO LIFE ON OUR OWN TERMS

LUKE 9:23-26

1. (v. 23) **Self Denial**

Anyone who wants to follow Me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him everyday and keep close to Me!

“No, Lord!” is contradictory

2. (v. 24) **Total Commitment**

Whoever loses his life for My sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it.

The Rich Young Ruler — Luke 18:18-23

Anything that competes must go! It may be a part-time job, a friendship, a habit, a style of life — or anything else of our own desire — that interferes with our total commitment.

3. (v. 26) **Public Declaration**

When I, the Man of Glory, come in My glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels, I will be ashamed then of all who are ashamed of Me and of My words now. (See also Matthew 10:32-33).

So when we come under the authority of the King, Romans 14 tells us very clearly:

- We are not our own bosses, to live or die as we so choose.
- He lived and died for us so we could belong to Him both when we live and when we die.
- Under the lordship and authority of this king, who is our boss, a submissive spirit becomes our natural response.
-

Later on we'll learn more about this submissive spirit. But there are three authorities to which we must be submissive in God's Kingdom:

- It should be natural for us to become submissive to **DIVINE** authority - God. James 4 says to "submit yourselves to God."
- It should also be natural to submit to **SPIRITUAL** authority. In Hebrews 13 we are told to submit to our spiritual authorities – those who rule over us, to obey them."
- It also should become natural for us to submit to **SECULAR** authority ... the bible teaches us to submit to legal authorities. God says he has ordained all of these authorities and we are to be submissive to them. And so in 1 Peter, it says to submit yourselves for the Lord's sake, to every authority instituted among men.

When Jesus becomes our Lord, there is a submissive spirit that grows in us ... to God, to spiritual authorities, and even to secular authorities around us.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING

We are not our own bosses to live or die as we ourselves might choose. Living or dying we follow the Lord. Either way we are His. Christ died and rose again for this very purpose, so that He can be our Lord both while we live and when we die.” Romans 14:7-9

1. A Submissive spirit becomes the natural response to:

— **Divine** Authority

submit yourselves to God — James 4:7

— **Spiritual** Authority

*submit to your spiritual leaders’ authority and obey them.
— Hebrews 13:17*

— **Secular** Authority

submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men. — I Peter 2:13

2. All our ways become submitted to the king:

- Who we marry
- What job we take
- Who we have as friends
- What our goals in life should be
- How we spend our money
- What we do with our leisure time

3. Our constant prayer becomes: Matthew 6:10

Lord, not my will but yours be done. Let the most important thing that happens on earth and in my life be the establishment of your Kingdom.

All our ways become submitted to Him:

- Who we marry. It becomes a choice that we bring to Him and He becomes involved in this choice.
- What job we take, what direction our vocation takes.
- Who we have as our friends.
- What our goals in life should be.
- How we spend our money.
- What we do with our leisure time

All of these aspects of our life come under the authority of our King.

Jesus said our constant prayer should be, “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name ...” then what comes next? “Thy Kingdom come!” Who’s will? “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

This is a revolutionary prayer! Jesus said we should pray this daily... every day. Lord, not my will, but yours. Your will be done ...

Out of the thousands that heard Jesus, that followed Him, that were fed by Him, that were healed by Him, who witnessed His miracles ... there ended up only 120! Those 120 would begin to build His kingdom here on earth after His death and resurrection.

He would take this handful – bless them, use them, revolutionize their lives and the environment in which they lived, but they would have to make Him their Lord.

That’s the good news ... the gospel of the LORD Jesus Christ.

That’s what He’s calling you and I to. It will take everything we have surrendered to Him, but it will be the best investment we’ve ever made.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING

We are not our own bosses to live or die as we ourselves might choose. Living or dying we follow the Lord. Either way we are His. Christ died and rose again for this very purpose, so that He can be our Lord both while we live and when we die.” Romans 14:7-9

1. A Submissive spirit becomes the natural response to:

— **Divine** Authority

submit yourselves to God — James 4:7

— **Spiritual** Authority

*submit to your spiritual leaders’ authority and obey them.
— Hebrews 13:17*

— **Secular** Authority

submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men. — I Peter 2:13

2. All our ways become submitted to the king:

- Who we marry
- What job we take
- Who we have as friends
- What our goals in life should be
- How we spend our money
- What we do with our leisure time

3. Our constant prayer becomes: Matthew 6:10

Lord, not my will but yours be done. Let the most important thing that happens on earth and in my life be the establishment of your Kingdom.

FULL LIFE IN CHRIST, Group Facilitator Suggestions ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation, Session 2

FIRST

- (1) Quickly go over the answers to the question sheet for Session#1. You can give the answers so that your group members can check their sheets, or you can let various ones respond. It is not wise to spend too much time on this unless they have important questions.
- (2) Going over the Question Sheet helps them get in the habit of doing their homework and also provides a review. Going over the questions each week will also help you to know where your group members “are at” in their understanding.

A GOOD WAY TO START

1. (If you didn't get to this last week, then use:)

“Tell us about a person in your acquaintance who you could tell truly loved Jesus Christ.”

2. Or—go right on to:

“Share what you see in your church that makes you happy and what you see that makes you sad?”

NOW — You might provoke discussion about tonight's teaching with some of the following:

1. What danger is there in accepting only a “half gospel?”
2. Why did Jesus require the religious man in Luke 18:18-23 to sell all that he had before coming and following Him? Do you think He requires this of everyone?
3. Discuss what it would mean, in a practical way, for a person to make Jesus their Lord? What things would have to change when He is in control?

FOR NEXT WEEK

Encourage your group to complete the Question Sheet for Session 2 and bring it with them to the group next session.