

“The Lordship of Christ”

This past week, amongst other things, I attended the Preaching Conference at the RTC on the Lordship of Christ. Some of the topics included the Lordship of Christ over the public square; the Lordship of Christ over the nations; the Lordship of Christ over the family; the Lordship of Christ over sex; and the Lordship of Christ over wealth.

The one thing that came through very clearly during this conference is that there is no part of a Christian’s life where Jesus should not be regarded as Lord. If you say that Jesus is your Saviour, then inevitably He is also your Lord. If you say that Jesus is your Saviour, but not your Lord, then either you have a wrong understanding of what it means to be a Christian or you may not be a Christian at all.

Of course, the Lordship of Christ goes beyond the fact that we are Christians. In fact, Jesus is Lord of this universe and everything in it. Sadly, many people do not acknowledge the Lordship of Christ over their present lives and that is something that needs to be addressed. Scripture is clear that one day, “...at name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and every tongue will confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Rev Dr John MacArthur Jnr wrote a book many years ago entitled, “The Gospel According to Jesus.” In this book, MacArthur outlines his concern that the message proclaimed today is not the gospel according to Jesus. He goes on to say that the gospel that is in vogue today holds forth a false hope to sinners. It promises them that they can have eternal life yet continue to live in rebellion against God. It encourages people to claim Jesus as Saviour, yet defer until later the commitment to obey Him as Lord. It promises salvation from hell but not necessarily freedom from iniquity.

Of course the danger of proclaiming a gospel where Jesus is Saviour and not Lord can easily lead to “easy-believism.” What’s more, it makes the wonderful grace we have received in Christ seem very cheap. It is a sad fact that even amongst people who claim to be Christians there is an open immorality at a level we have not seen before which is clearly against God’s word. This will inevitably occur when Jesus is claimed as Saviour but not as Lord.

Paul asks the question in Romans 6:1, “Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?” The unequivocal answer is a resounding “No.” Some translations have “God forbid!” The point Paul is making is one about the Lordship of Christ. Since we have received such a super-abundance of grace, saved from the moment of death to eternal life in Christ, how can we continue to live as though it makes no difference to our living.

The more we show that Jesus is both our Saviour and Lord, the greater the impact will be in the public square, to our families, to the nations, and over all we do and have, including our wealth. JZ