

Lordship of the King

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as *Lord*, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved (Romans 10:9).

We come to Christ as Lord; He becomes unto us Savior. Those who come to Him only as Savior, will find Him neither Savior nor Lord.

The above verse does not command us to confess Jesus initially even as *our* Lord, only as Lord. In other words, all that is necessary initially to enter into covenant with Christ and ultimately receive salvation is to realize He is Lord over all creation and to confess that verbally. Demons realize Christ is Lord but they refuse to confess it, fighting it instead (James 2:19). Accepting Christ as Lord will inevitably cause us to also accept Christ as *our* Lord. We realize He is the ultimate king and ruler and there are no realistic options other than serving Him.

Christ *will* rule and reign, whether we want Him to, or not. And He will rule and reign over us, whether we want Him to, or not. We do *currently* have the privilege of making our own decision, but eventually that choice will be taken away. Romans 14:11 says, “For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, *every* knee shall bow to Me, and *every* tongue shall give praise to God (see also Philippians 2:11-12 and Isaiah 45:23).” At that future time, this temporary period of God’s indulgence toward us will be over.

When we make Christ our Lord, we relinquish our *temporary privilege* of self-determination; no longer do we have the privilege of making our own determinations about our lives. Accepting Christ as Lord means willingness to follow, serve, and obey Him completely *now*, while we still have a choice.

Acceptance of Christ as Lord also means we give Him the right to make us follow Him. This He will do gently at first, but with increasing intensity. First, He will make known His will through the Word and through revelation to our spirit and conscience. He will then speak through Christian leaders and friends. (This is assuming we are open to and seeking counsel from God and others.) If these promptings are ignored, physical tribulation and destruction will

be allowed to come upon our life in order to force us into alignment with Him.

Christian and non-Christian alike will receive these corrections (plus much more for those who have been rebellious), but those who enter covenant with Him will receive these corrections first, as 1 Peter 4:17 says, “It is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” This early judgment is a temporary curse that brings an eternal blessing. You can see the curse in many Christians who, although they have the most wonderful promises and should be the most blessed people, are often the most cursed, poor, and even unhappy. They cause themselves to remain in this cursed state by: not repenting; attempting to instead justify themselves; even claiming sometimes that poverty, sickness, and unhappiness are the result of being godly; or believing similar doctrines which prolong the devastation in their lives.

The eternal blessing from accepting correction speedily results in the opportunity to receive God’s promises all the more quickly. As Hebrews 12:11 says, “All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”