

LORD — OR SAVIOUR?

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Sometimes we throw around words rather carelessly. We don't think much about their meaning.

It can even apply to the Titles of Jesus — God ... Lord ... Christ ... Messiah ... Redeemer ... Saviour ... Alpha and Omega ... etc.

All of these are correct ... but they are not all synonyms. They are different!

One of them (at least) ... is in danger of being misused — even abused.

I want to look today at Jesus — is He Lord ... or Saviour? What is the difference — and what does it mean — in a practical sense — for you and me?

Is Jesus “Saviour”? Yes!

Acts 5:29-32

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “**We ought to obey God rather than men.**”

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

31 **Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior,** to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit which God has given to those who obey Him.”

We know Jesus is Prince and Saviour.

2 Timothy 1:8-11

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of **our Savior Jesus Christ**, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Through Him we are saved from death and blackness for ever ... and introduced into life and immortality.

John 4:27-30

27 And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,

29 **"Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" (The Prophesied Messiah)**

30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

John 4:39-42

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."

40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41 **And many more believed because of His own word.**

42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and **we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.**"

John 12:44-47

44 Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.

45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for **I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.**

Jesus made it plain that He came to save the world.

Obviously very important! If we have no Saviour ... then we have no future.

But in one sense ... knowing Jesus is our Saviour doesn't require a great deal of us? It's important! We can and should be grateful ... every day!

But in one sense ... it doesn't necessarily call for any real action on our part? We could be quite passive?

Like if someone rescued you (saved you) from drowning in a river or pulled you from a burning car. You'd be extremely grateful that they saved you! You might keep in touch out of gratitude ?

So ... it is good to know Jesus as our Saviour. But interesting that He's called Saviour only around 24 times in the New Testament (Greek: Soter). That's not a lot bearing in mind there are approximately 8,000 verses in the New Testament ... that's not very often?

However ... Jesus as Lord is mentioned over 600 times! Writers refer to Jesus as Lord nearly 30 times more than as Saviour.

Big difference in having someone as your Saviour ... passive. But Jesus as Lord ... that requires action?

Nowadays ... "Lord" can just be a title of respect — but the original meaning is one you obey. Someone who owns you ... and whose servant you are.

If someone is really our Lord ... then we are obligated ... to heed their word ... to obey them ... to serve them?

So ... you could humanly have someone as your saviour — maybe respect them and be grateful — but after that ... go your own way ... do your own thing? But ... if someone is your Lord — then you no longer can just do what you want to do. You are required to serve your Lord!

A problem today in many churches: they often teach Jesus as Saviour (which is good) ... but they sort of diminish Jesus' position as Lord ... into a vague ... almost meaningless title.

We can consider Jesus as Saviour — and be passive. We can't consider Jesus as Lord — and be passive. If He's our Lord — then action is required.

Most churches don't seem to get this?

Often the emphasis is Jesus as Saviour — at public meetings and campaigns — “accept Jesus as your personal Saviour”.

Most people have at least a vague idea that Jesus came ... was crucified ... died ... “to save us” ... so they can often identify with Jesus as Saviour. That's fairly easy to believe in.

People like Billy Graham — and today's tv evangelists ... are quick and easy to get people to believe in Jesus as Saviour ... maybe even “accept Him” as Saviour?

But what about the harder part? 😊 Jesus as Lord.

Romans 10:9

9 that **if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

The above verse is very popular at public evangelical meetings. A sort of “Sinners Prayer”.

“Confess out loud” that you believe in Jesus and you'll be saved (and go to heaven). Very often ... the previous hour is usually about how Jesus can save you from your emptiness ... depression ... drugs ... sin — bring you a happy ... successful life — if you'll accept Him as your “Personal Saviour”.

But this verse talks of the Lord Jesus Christ ... confess Him as our Lord ... and not just as our personal Saviour. What does this Lord require? Does He have commands? Am I now to be His servant? What do I now do?

Do people know what they're committing to when they claim Jesus as their “Lord” rather than just as their “Saviour”? But ... what must I now do?

Acts 16:25-33

25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

30 And he brought them out and said, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**"

31 So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.**"

32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

People then ... knew what a Lord was! That's your boss! One you answer to!
The one you serve!

If you don't serve someone ... then they're not your Lord. You're misusing the term. **A LORD IS TO BE OBEYED.**

Romans 6:16

16 **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?**

(You are that one's servants (KJV) whom you obey).

Some people try to shift the focus to how much they "Love" the Lord Jesus as their Saviour ... they sing lots of praise songs. That is good to a point. But ... you can't avoid that Jesus is Lord — and that He expects His servants to obey Him.

John 14:23-24

23 Jesus answered and said to him, **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.**

24 **He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.**

People who claim to love Jesus ... but go about doing their own thing ... don’t really love Him ... and certainly not as Lord?! He expects us to keep His Word.

Luke 9:23-25

23 Then He said to them all, **“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.**

24 **For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.**

25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

We are to deny ourselves. Because Jesus is Lord.

We are no longer “Lord” over our own lives anymore. Our Master sets the Way and Agenda. Not for us to plough our own path.

If we want to remain in complete charge of our lives ... then we can no longer pretend we have a Lord. We may have a Saviour ... but Jesus is no longer “Lord”.

Matthew 25:14-23

14 **“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants** and delivered his goods to them.

15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.

19 **After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.**

20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘**Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.**’

21 **His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’**

22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘**Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.**’

23 **His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’**

The Kingdom of Heaven is like: Lord and His Servants.

If we want to hear “Well done, good and faithful servant” ... we need to be first and foremost a servant! To a Lord ... Jesus our Lord!

Matthew 6:19-24

19 **Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;**

20 **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

21 **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 **“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**

You can’t serve two masters. That includes yourself! Are we Masters of our own lives?

Realistically ... we can only have one Master — one Lord— The Lord Jesus Christ.

Just using the term “Lord” isn’t sufficient. It may just be an empty word — the casual use of a title? Or ... is Jesus our Lord ... our Master?

Luke 13:22-29

22 And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

23 Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?”

And He said to them,

24 “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

25 **When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open for us,** and **He will answer and say to you, I do not know you, where you are from,**

26 then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’

27 But **He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’**

28 **There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.**

29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.

They call “Lord, Lord” — but they aren’t recognised.

They associated with the Master — heard His teachings — but didn’t obey. They didn’t treat Him as their Lord.

Using the word “Lord” is not going to cut it when push comes to shove.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 **“Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

22 **Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’**

23 **And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**

Not everyone who says “Lord” — but the doer ... those who heed Jesus’ words!
Many will say “Lord” ... but will not do as they are told.

These people might well have understood Jesus’ role as Saviour — the Lamb of God — that He “died for us”. That is okay up to a point ... but Jesus isn’t just our Saviour is He? He is our Lord. We are His servants ... as well as “family”.

Romans 12:1

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

To be a living sacrifice — dedicated to God ... which is our “true worship”.
Committed!

Not just pursuing our own ways ... following our own agenda. As if we had no Lord.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but **made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,** and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

One day ... **all** will acknowledge Jesus as Lord ... even though it might be the last thing that they do ... before they go into the Lake of Fire?

Yet ... keep an eye on our attitude ... seeing Jesus as our Lord should be great news — a delight ... not something we see as an impediment to going our own ways. Obedient (maybe) — but reluctant and quick to complain.

Isaiah 1:19

19 **If you are willing and obedient,**
You shall eat the good of the land;

BE WILLING AND OBEDIENT!

So ... yes great to have Jesus as Saviour. But He's also our Lord. Let's not forget it!!