

“UNDERSTANDING LORDSHIP”

PART 3

OBJECTIVE: *To explore the principle of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our life. As we search the Scriptures, we will discover the wonderful plan and power in submitting to the Lordship of Christ.*

KEY SCRIPTURE:        *MATTHEW 14:22-33*

*THERE IS A VIEW THAT TEACHES A SINNER MUST SUBMIT TO JESUS AS RULER OF HIS LIFE IN ORDER TO BE SAVED. PROPONENTS OF THIS VIEW CALL IT LORDSHIP SALVATION, THOUGH IT SHOULD BE CALLED COMMITMENT SALVATION OR SUBMISSION SALVATION SINCE IT EMPHASIZES THE UNBELIEVER'S SUBJECTIVE RESPONSE TO JESUS CHRIST AS RULER. LORDSHIP SALVATION CONFUSES THE OBJECTIVE POSITION OF JESUS AS LORD WITH THE SUBJECTIVE RESPONSE TO ONE ASPECT OF HIS LORDSHIP - RULERSHIP. NOT ONLY DOES THIS VIEW REFLECT POOR THEOLOGICAL METHOD - SOTERIOLOGY SHOULD NOT BE BUILT MERELY ON TITLES, BUT IT CONTRADICTS THE BIBLE'S TEACHING OF SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH. THE GRACE THAT SAVES US IS THE FREE, UNMERITED, UNCONDITIONAL GIFT OF GOD. MAKING A SINNER'S SUBMISSION TO JESUS AS THE RULER OF HIS LIFE A CONDITION FOR SALVATION DESTROYS THE GRACE OF GOD WHICH MAKES SALVATION A FREE GIFT THAT CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH ([ROM. 4:4-5](#); [11:6](#); [EPH. 2:8-9](#)).*

*LORDSHIP SALVATION IS ALSO ARBITRARY BECAUSE IT ONLY EMPHASIZES RULERSHIP IN THE DIVINE TITLE LORD JESUS CHRIST. TO BE CONSISTENT, THEY SHOULD REQUIRE SINNERS TO ACCEPT JESUS AS THE CREATOR, SUSTAINER, JUDGE, PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING, BECAUSE ALL THESE AND MORE ARE ASPECTS OF HIS DEITY. FURTHERMORE, THEY SHOULD DEMAND ACCEPTANCE OF ALL THAT THE NAME JESUS MEANS, AND ALL THAT THE TITLE CHRIST MEANS.*

TEACHERS OF LORDSHIP SALVATION OFTEN DEROGATORILY REFER TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE FREENESS OF GRACE IN SALVATION AS NO-LORDSHIP, OR NON-LORDSHIP. OF COURSE, THIS IS INCORRECT AND DELIBERATELY MISLEADING. THEIR ERROR COMES FROM CONFUSING THE OBJECTIVE POSITION OF JESUS AS THE LORD WITH ONE'S SUBJECTIVE RESPONSE TO JESUS AS THEIR LORD AND MAKING IT A REQUIREMENT FOR SALVATION. THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE FREENESS OF GRACE BELIEVE THAT JESUS MUST BE THE LORD (GOD) TO BE SAVIOR. THE RESPONSE REQUIRED OF AN UNBELIEVER IS SIMPLY TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL - WHO JESUS IS, WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR OUR SALVATION, AND WHAT HE PROMISES US. THERE IS NO LEXICAL OR BIBLICAL BASIS FOR DEFINING BELIEVE AS SUBMIT. BELIEVE SIMPLY MEANS TO BE CONVINCED OF SOMETHING OR PERSUADED THAT IT IS TRUE. THERE ARE EVEN BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO HAD SUBMITTED TO JESUS AS THEIR RULER BUT WERE NOT SAVED ([MATT. 7:21-23](#)), AND THOSE WHO WERE SAVED WHEN NOT SUBMITTED TO JESUS AS THEIR RULER ([ACTS 5:1-10](#); [19:18-19](#)).

WE ARE NOT SAYING A PERSON WHO COMES TO JESUS AS SAVIOR DELIBERATELY REJECTS THE RULERSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST. WE ARE SAYING THAT TO DEMAND A SINNER TO SUBMIT TO HIM AS MASTER IS SIMPLY NOT THE ISSUE IN SALVATION, MUCH LESS IS IT REASONABLE TO DEMAND THIS OF ONE WHO IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD.

WHILE WE REJECT LORDSHIP SALVATION AND ITS REQUIREMENT THAT SINNERS MUST SUBMIT TO JESUS AS THE RULER OF THEIR LIVES, WE ENTHUSIASTICALLY EMBRACE THE TERM LORDSHIP SANCTIFICATION OR LORDSHIP DISCIPLESHIP BECAUSE SUBMITTING TO JESUS AS OUR RULER IS WHAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ALL ABOUT. ONCE WE KNOW JESUS AS SAVIOR, WE MUST LEARN TO RELATE TO HIM AS OUR NEW MASTER.