

## **Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 1**

### **Is Jesus Your Savior but Not Your Lord?**

Many 21<sup>st</sup> century believers may actually see the call to obedience as offensive. Phillip Keller in 'The High Cost of Holiness' lamented that in the West; "The individual's private conduct is said to be almost sacrosanct. He or she is permitted to do even the most despicable things without accountability to others. All sorts of legal mechanisms are put in place to protect the so-called civil liberties of the individual, even though his or her conduct is most unethical or even immoral and destructive to others.... The whole idea that Christians are to be a people under divine authority, subject implicitly to Christ's control and obedient to His commandments repels most people both inside the church and outside of it. The cost of giving Christ the sacred sacrifice of our total, whole-hearted obedience is too prohibitive!"

Perhaps that is why we hardly hear sermons on obedience these days. There are even preachers who promise their members that they can remain as they are; there is no need for repentance and transformation. Just believe in Jesus and they will be saved and God will bless them abundantly. These preachers are promulgating Christianity without the cross, that we can acknowledge Jesus as our Savior but not our Lord! Is this what the bible teaches?

### **Read Luke 6: 46**

Among the many titles given to Jesus, the title 'Lord' or *Kurios* is most common. It occurs over 700 times in the New Testament. In the Greek Old Testament, *Kurios* occurs over 9,000 times to refer to Yahweh, the Creator God of heaven and earth.

The Greek word *Kurios* means 'Master' referring to someone who owns or who has power and authority over another, e.g., a slave. Paul said in Romans 10: 9-10 that we are saved when we confess with our mouth and believe in our heart that Jesus is Lord.

What does it mean then for you and me to see Jesus as our Lord? What does it mean for us to live under His Lordship? What does Jesus expect of those who call Him 'Lord'?

### *Questions to ponder*

1. Why do we have reservations about obeying or submitting to another person? Do you have any reservation about obeying Jesus' teachings? If 'yes' why?
2. What does Jesus expect of those who call Him 'Lord'? How is Jesus the Lord of your life?

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