

## **“COME, LET US ADORE HIM”**

# ***“His Unquestioned Lordship”***

## **Scripture Reading – Luke, 2:8-20**

*There were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger”.*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests”. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about”.*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

***‘But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.’***

***I Peter, 3:15a, NIV***

**This series for Advent is based around the theme: ‘COME, LET US ADORE HIM’.**

In it, we consider four different reasons why we should adore Jesus as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of his birth this Christmas: ‘HIS UNEQUALLED BIRTH’ ... ‘HIS UNBLEMISHED LIFE’ ... ‘HIS UNDIMINISHED DEITY’ ... and, ‘HIS UNQUESTIONED LORDSHIP’.

**Jesus did not have his start in Bethlehem.**

He stepped out of glory, and he did it just for you! God being made flesh was necessary for your salvation. Jesus’ Christmas gift to you is his legacy, his life and his Lordship. As you listen to this series, it is my prayer that you will gain insight into his matchless gift to you.

### **HIS UNEQUALLED BIRTH**

**The virgin birth is not incidental to faith and belief, it is fundamental.**

This key doctrine of the Christian faith asserts that Jesus was conceived in the womb of his mother, the Virgin Mary, without the participation of a human father. This ‘MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION’ took place when the Holy Spirit ‘OVERSHADOWED’ Mary. The Virgin Birth does

not depend on your understanding of it to be true. The angel ended his conversation with Mary by saying: “NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD”.

**Whose blood flowed through the arteries and veins of Jesus?**

Of course, God is spirit, so he has no blood; or does he? Paul said that the Church was saved through the blood of God himself. As the Son of God, Jesus did not share the sinful human nature of man.

### **HIS UNBLEMISHED LIFE**

**Are you ready for Christ?**

Simeon was ready for the first Christmas because he had settled four important questions in his life: ‘ARE YOU SAVED?’ ‘ARE YOU SURRENDERED?’ ‘ARE YOU SPIRITUAL?’ ‘ARE YOU SENSITIVE?’ If we want to be ready for Christ to come, we need to answer ‘YES’ to all four.

**What did Christ do that makes us want to adore him?**

Because Jesus is the Saviour of the World, he brings deliverance. As the Light of the World, he dispels darkness. As a chosen and precious cornerstone, Jesus determines destiny. As a sign (a miracle) that will be spoken against, he provokes derision.

### **HIS UNDIMINISHED DEITY**

**Jesus asked: “WHO DO PEOPLE SAY I AM?”**

Some called him John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Some today consider Jesus a great man, a great teacher, a prophet. Peter had it right 2,000 years ago; Jesus is “THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD”. Jesus is God, the Son.

**Some people today have difficulty with ‘THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY’.**

The Trinity is an unfathomable mystery because God cannot be compared with anyone or anything. The Trinity is an unfolded manifestation as God the Spirit glorifies God the Son, who reveals God the Father. The Trinity has an unchanging ministry as the Father wills that all men are saved, the Son is the Saviour, and the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin.

## **“HIS UNQUESTIONED LORDSHIP”**

***‘The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”.’***

***Luke, 2:10-11, NIV***

**The angel told the shepherds that this child is ‘CHRIST THE LORD’.**

This was an amazing statement for the shepherds to understand. Jehovah, the name of God, is translated as ‘LORD’ in Scripture and is found about 7,000 times in the Old Testament alone. When a pious Jew read Scripture and would come to the word, he would not say it aloud. Instead, he would bow down and worship the LORD. When a scribe came to writing the word, he would throw away his old pen and pick up a new pen to write ‘LORD’. These reasons alone show this statement was no small thing for the shepherds when the angels called Jesus ‘CHRIST THE LORD’.

**Some people say that they have decided to make Jesus their Lord.**

The reality is Jesus is already Lord, whether or not you accept the fact. The New Testament calls him Lord nearly 750 times...

*[Peter said,] “Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”.*

**Acts, 2:36, NIV**

**For the early Christians, this would become a difficult testimony.**

The word for ‘LORD’ is ‘KURIOS’, and this was the normal title of the Roman Emperors. On the pain of death, the first Christians could avoid state-sponsored persecution by acknowledging Caesar as Lord. Whilst it is probably true that many Christians who called Jesus Lord would give in to such immense pressure, it is also true that many would not call Caesar Lord under any circumstances. Instead, they stuck firmly to their belief that Jesus is Lord and would not bow the knee to Caesar – they paid for their faith with their lives in the Coliseum in Rome.

*‘In the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, ‘KURIOS’ is the regular translation of the divine name, Jehovah. Therefore, if a man called Jesus KURIOS’ he was ranking him with the Emperor and with God; he was giving him the supreme place in his life; he was pledging him implicit obedience and reverent worship. To call Jesus ‘KURIOS’ was to count him unique. The Christian must have a sense of the utter uniqueness of Jesus Christ.’*

**William Barclay**

*Is Jesus your Lord? Is he your Lord in deed as well as in word? Is he Lord of your time?*

*Is he Lord of your tongue? Is he Lord of your treasure? Is he Lord of your talents?*

*Is he Lord of your testimony? Have you submitted to the Lordship of Christ?*

## **1. HIS LORDSHIP SUBDUES SATAN**

*‘The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”.*

**Luke, 2:10-11, NIV**

*We need not fear what Satan does when we know who Jesus is.*

*You should not fear Satan when Jesus within you is Lord of heaven and hell.*

**The Lordship of Christ unleashes an awesome power within you.**

Satan does not want you to realise the kingdom authority that Jesus has. Satan wants us to forget that the Messiah came to crush the dominion of the devil. Jesus stepped out of Glory that he might live and die, and his sacrificial death brought Satan’s kingdom crashing down.

*‘Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.’*

**Hebrews, 2:14-15, NIV**

*‘Jesus had to become human so that he could die and rise again, in order to destroy the Devil’s power over death. Only then could Christ deliver those who had lived in constant fear of death and free them to live for him. When we belong to God, we need not fear death, because we know that death is only the doorway into eternal life.’*

**“LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE”, Study Notes**

**In what sense did Satan have the power of death?**

The final authority of death is in the hands of our God. Satan can do only that which is permitted by God. But because Satan is the author of sin, and sin brings death, in this sense Satan exercises power in the realm of death. Jesus called him a murderer. Satan uses the fear of death as a terrible weapon to gain control over the lives of people. His kingdom is one of darkness and death. We who trust in Jesus Christ have once and for all been delivered from Satan’s authority and from the terrible fear of death. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord have given us complete and total victory.

**Too many Christians are afraid of Satan, when he should be afraid of them.**

*‘I want to so live my life that at the end of it, the devil will have a party in hell because I have left the battlefield.’*

**C T Studd**

*‘Satan trembles when he sees, the weakest saint upon his knees.’*

**William Cowper**

## **2. HIS LORDSHIP SECURES SALVATION**

*‘The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”.*

**Luke, 2:10-11, NIV**

*You cannot receive what Jesus gives without recognising who Jesus is.*

*You should not expect to receive salvation until you acknowledge Jesus is Lord.*

**The greatest need in the world today is for salvation.**

God knew that we did not need more information and knowledge – so he did not send an educator. God knew that we did not need more technology – so he did not send a scientist. God knew that we did not need more money – so he did not send an economist. God knew that we did not need more leisure – so he did not send an entertainer. God knew that we need salvation – so he sent a Saviour.

*‘What does [the Law] say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart”, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’*

**Romans, 10:8-9, NIV**

**Salvation is as close as your own lips and heart.**

People think it must be a complicated process, but it is not. If we believe in our heart and say with our mouth that Christ is the risen Lord, we will be saved. The Bible never asks us to simply take Jesus as our friend, or our Saviour. The Bible does, however, tell us to receive him and if we do not receive him as Lord, then we cannot receive him as Saviour.

*'If the convert declares that he knows the Lord's will, and does not attend to it, it is your duty to tell him that he is not saved.'*

**C H Spurgeon**

**Spurgeon was not telling us that we are saved by works.**

However he was pointing out that although we are saved by grace through faith, that faith must be seen in action. We cannot earn our salvation by serving and obeying God. But such actions show that our commitment to God is real. Deeds of loving service are not a substitute for, but rather a verification of, our faith in Christ. When we claim to have received salvation, we need also to be doing the will of God.

It is not enough to receive him as Saviour, Jesus must be Lord of every aspect of life.

*'What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed", but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds". Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.'*

**James, 2:14-18, NIV**

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.*

**Phillips Brooks, SASB 86:4**

### **3. HIS LORDSHIP SIMPLIFIES SERVICE**

*'When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.'*

**Luke, 2:15-18, NIV**

*When Jesus is confessed as Lord from then onwards we cannot serve two masters.*

*You should recognise that making Jesus Lord is our last independent decision.*

**The shepherds lives were transformed because of the Lordship of Jesus.**

It is wonderful that the first announcement of God came to some shepherds. Shepherds were despised by the orthodox good people of the day. Their flocks made far too constant demands on them, and they were often unable to meet their religious responsibilities; so orthodoxy looked down on them. It was to men of the fields that God's message first came. After they went to see the baby themselves, they became the first evangelists of the Christmas message.

**Our service is simplified when we concentrate on pleasing Jesus.**

Jesus himself said that all he ever did was please his Father. We live in a world where people want to please others – spouses, bosses, parents, people... What we need to remember is that we cannot please all the people all the time – but we can please God all the time.

*'His mother [Mary] said to the servants, "Do whatever he [Jesus] tells you".'*

**John, 2:5, NIV**

**Our service is complicated when we put 'me' first.**

*'As [Jesus and his disciples] were walking along the road, a man said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go". Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head". He said to another man, "Follow me". But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father". Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God". Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family". Jesus replied, "No-one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God".'*

**Luke, 9:57-62, NIV**

**Three men would not meet the conditions Jesus laid down.**

*The first man was a scribe who volunteered to go until he heard the cost: he had to deny himself. Apparently he was accustomed to a comfortable home.*

*The second man was rejected because he would not take up the cross and die to self. He was worried about somebody funeral when he should have been planning his own.*

*The third man could not follow Christ because he was looking back instead of ahead. Jesus saw that this man's heart was not wholly with him.*

**You cannot use the words 'FIRST LET ME' or 'BUT' and still call him 'LORD'.**

*"Take away the stone", Jesus said. "But, Lord", said Martha, the sister of Lazarus, the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days".'*

**John, 11:39, NIV**

*'[Jesus said], "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...".'*

**Matthew, 6:33a, NIV**

*More than all else I would become the servant of my servant-Lord;*

*My highest glory his reproach, to do his will my best reward.*