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## BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

### THE TRUTH ABOUT LORDSHIP SALVATION

By: Evangelist Al Wentzel

This exposé was written from the view of an evangelist who was saved and called to preach by the Lord Jesus Christ. My aim is to hopefully clear up the confusion some people have concerning the Lordship of Christ. What is Lordship Salvation? Lordship salvation is a term to describe the old time saving gospel, and to differentiate from this easy-believism that is plaguing the Church of our day. For example: the word Bible describes the Holy Scriptures; the term eternal security describes the standing of the believer as possessing everlasting life; the word rapture is used to explain the catching away of the saved, and the term Lordship salvation is used to express a scriptural view of salvation. In some churches or Bible Colleges the term Lordship is viewed negatively, and is not used. In other churches and Bible colleges the statement Lordship salvation or the Lordship of Christ is used freely, and is taught in an understandable way. That's my point in writing this tract.

First of all, what is Lordship

salvation not? It is not a perversion of the gospel as one writer said. The Lordship of Christ doesn't pervert the gospel (the good news); it is the gospel (the good news) that sinners don't have to be ruled by Satan, but can have a Lord to save them and lead them. Lordship salvation is not works. Take our Bible, and read for yourself (Ephesians 2:1-10).

If you have ever studied anthropology, which is the doctrine of man, you know the human race fell into sin in Adam. We are so depraved we can't do anything to please God in order to go to Heaven. So that rules out good works for salvation. Lordship salvation is not sinless perfectionism. The Scriptures are very plain that saints are not without sin (I John 1:8), but the saint's life is characterized as a sheep, not a swine; therefore, they hate sin, and desire holiness (I John 3:6;

Hebrews 12:14). Lordship salvation is not making Christ Lord of your life. In Acts 2:36

The truth about Lordship salvation is Acts 2:36, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, who ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ," notice who made Jesus Lord; it was God. Therefore neither a sinner at the time of conversion, nor a saint in their walk with the Lord can make Jesus Lord; He

is already Lord. The believing sinner at the initial time of conversion receives Jesus Christ as his Lord (Colossians 2:6; John 1:12). Lordship salvation doesn't create the possibility of one losing his salvation. The grace that saves us is the grace that keeps us saved (John 10:27-28). Lordship salvation doesn't rule out growth in grace. A baby (which is what a newborn child of God is) needs a Lord to lead and protect him. The Lord who saved us will never leave nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5, 6). All through

the believer's earthly life, the Lord is making him into Christ's image for our good and His glory. He grows us by His grace because He is Lord (Romans 8:28,29). Lordship salvation is not a modern day perversion of the gospel as some would make you think. It is the old historic gospel of the church which was preached by our forefathers of church history and also the apostles.

One of the most explainable ways to present the Lordship of Christ is that in this pilgrimage that the born again believer is in, he has a shepherd (I Peter 2:25). You can call that shepherdship salvation. Scriptures declare God is our Father (Romans 8:14,15). That would be Fatherhood salvation. The Lordship of Christ in the believer's life is the same way. He has a Lord, and that's Lordship salvation.

Christ has always been Lord. Notice (Matthew 22:42-45). From this passage we see Christ's preincarnate Lordship. During His earthly ministry, Christ proclaimed His Lordship (Matthew 12:8; John 13:13). Scriptures say Christ is Lord over the dead and the living (Romans 14:9). At the time of the rapture, *"the Lord shall descend from Heaven."* (I Thessalonians 4:16).

At the revelation, Jesus—the King of kings and Lord of lords—will come to set up His earthly kingdom (Revelation 19:11-16). The Lordship of

Christ is preached all through the Bible. In the Old Testament, God is portrayed as the LORD God. In the New Testament He is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As a matter of fact, the word Lord is found in the Bible 7,737 times, if I haven't miscounted. It is not speaking of God every time, but most of the time it is. That's a lot of times to hardly ever hear a message concerning the Lordship of Christ.

Why is the church divided on the matter of Lordship? Basically, you have two views about when Christ becomes Lord in a believer's life. One view is a sinner is saved by accepting Jesus as Saviour without accepting Him as Lord; then later, if he chooses to be baptized, and if he chooses to let Christ be Lord, then Christ will be Lord over what he gives Him, but He will not be Lord over a man's life completely until he enters Heaven. That is a man-centered, and not a God-centered message. The Biblical message is: the Holy Ghost convicts a person of sin. John 16:8, *"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"*. Then the person repents and receives Christ as Lord and Saviour. Colossians 2:6, *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:"* Salvation is not a smorgasbord to pick and choose which offices of Christ you want. Christ is not divided. You can't receive Him as a

fire escape from Hell and an elevator to Heaven, and just live any old way you please. That's not salvation. You can't make Him Lord at all. He is already Lord (Matthew 28:18). We simply receive Him as Lord. That's not a commitment to never sin or to always be true; but there should be an attitude which is created by the Spirit of God that says, I am receiving Jesus Christ as my Saviour from Hell and from my sins. He will be the Lord over my life. You must understand. Lord means authority. Luke 22:25, *"And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors."*

One of the good things about the King James Bible is that it has a built-in dictionary. In this verse we find the definition of Lordship. Notice the words Lordship and authority. So, what is Lordship? It is one who has authority. Before a person is saved, sin has rule or authority (or Lordship, if you please) over the unsaved. But when God's grace is present in drawing the sinner, and he receives the Lord Jesus, he is no longer under the dominion (or Lordship) of sin. Instead he is under the dominion (or Lordship) of Christ. Romans 6:22, *"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."* Look at John 1:12,13 in your Bibles. Who is it we receive?

We receive the Lord Jesus Christ. This name means something. Lord means Master, Ruler, Authority. Jesus means Saviour. Christ means the Anointed One, the Messiah. What if a person said, "Well I want the Lord to rule my life here on earth because I've made a mess, but I don't want Him as Saviour." How foolish. If you are a soul winner and offer Jesus as Saviour without His Lordship, that too is foolish and dangerous. Yet that is what is happening all over the U.S., and also overseas. We send out missionaries to offer a plan of salvation and not the man of salvation—the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice Acts 16:30,31. They said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Remember, the name Lord means authority, Jesus means Saviour, and Christ means Anointed One. Look at Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine Heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." When a person is saved, he receives the Lord Jesus: not just a Saviour from Hell, but a Lord who will lead him from living like Hell. If a sinner doesn't want Christ to rule his life, he isn't ready to be saved yet. When preachers make the demands Christ made (Mark 10:17-27), naturally you won't have as many professions. But if the majority are tricked, or lied to, or the whole gospel truth isn't preached, what do you have?

A two-fold more child of Hell. There are thousands who have been reached, but without the whole truth. They've made a profession; some have even been baptized; but they are lost, and they will go on their way unless two great things happen to them: 1) They are convicted by the Spirit of God, and 2) They admit that they were never saved.

Another thing, Lordship salvation is to identify a person who is more interested in pleasing God in his personal soul winning and mass evangelistic effort, than he is about the numbers game. The men I know preaching the Lordship of Christ are trusting the Holy Ghost to magnify Christ, and awaken the sinner dead in trespasses and sins. A man that's saved and called to preach is more concerned about the truth of Scripture than he is about building an empire, and making merchandise of the souls of men.

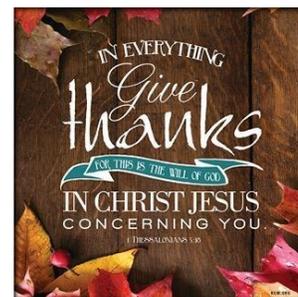
Brethren, I urge you to look at men as they are—souls for

which Christ died; souls that will one day die and go to Heaven or Hell. Let's pray for them. Let's witness to them. Let's tell them the truth. Let's preach the whole council of God to them, and trust the Spirit of God to convince and draw them; and when they receive Christ, they will be born again. They will have a Saviour and a Lord, and you and I will have fruit that will remain (John 6:47).

The truth about Lordship salvation is Acts 2:36, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."



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