

# **THE CHRISTIAN'S STEWARDSHIP**

## **Stewardship Acknowledges Lordship**

Philippians 2:10-11

The heart of Stewardship for the Christian is the declaration that Jesus Christ is Lord of one's life. It begins with salvation - "Believe on Jesus Christ as Lord and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). It ends on a human level at death. In between these two points in time, we are His stewards based on His Lordship. This is not an option for the Christian either now nor in eternity.

Evidently there were some, as there are today, who called Jesus Christ Lord but did not obey Him nor act as though He was Lord. To these Jesus asked, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) Jesus was saying that to use the word and not do the work is wrong.

1. It is incorrect - The term Lord means "sovereign ruler", "master", "supreme authority", etc. Not to obey His commands is to misuse the term.
2. It is insufficient - Simply saying, "Jesus is my Lord" is not adequate. The Bible says, "Faith without works is dead." The test of Lordship is that one does the will of the Lord for His life.
3. It is inconsistent - To acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord is to obey Him in everyway. It means one's life is one of love and loyalty, service and sacrifice. Anything less is inconsistent with the term and with the Christ. It is hypocritical!
4. It is insecure - Jesus said, not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 7:21) "I will say to them, I never knew you, depart from me." Many have a false sense of security because they use the term "Lord" so freely, yet do not do the things He demands. The judgment is final.

On the other hand those who say Jesus Christ is Lord and obey His commands to live and love, to give and to sacrifice, are secure and joyous for their life is "in Christ Jesus." This solves so much and gives guidance to everything when Jesus Christ is Lord of my life. One

seeks to know God's will, and then does it. To use an old idea and a current question: "What Would Jesus Do?" determines the attitude and action.

Now what are the implications for us today as we think of our stewardship based on the Lordship of Christ.

1. It means that we determine God's will for our lives. Through prayer, Bible study, the witness of our fellow Christians and leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. It certainly involves the giving of time, talent, and treasure "as He has prospered you." (I Corinthians 16:2)
3. It does demand sacrifice. One cannot "follow" Christ without sacrificial living. The Bible says that we are to present ourselves as "living sacrifices."

Soon we shall have the opportunity of demonstrating that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives as we receive and willingly return our commitment card for STEWARDSHIP ENRICHMENT.

Our sacrificial commitment whether it be a thousand dollars or several hundred thousand dollars will indicate whether or not Jesus Christ is really Lord of our lives. The amount is not determined by how much someone else gives but again "as He has prospered you."

Here are some modern day examples of sacrifice. These are actual people just like you who faced the same decision you are facing. They had the same fears that you have, but they had a faith far greater than their fear.

- ◆ Here is a young single mother of two children. She struggled to make ends meet, but she loved her Lord and her church. She couldn't think of anything she could do beyond her regular tithe. She testified that as she prayed the Lord seemed to be saying, "You can give a second tithe for these three years. Trust me!"

On Commitment Sunday she made this her commitment. Some time later she shared with her pastor that a month later her supervisor called her into his office and said she was being promoted with a salary that was fifty percent more than she had been making.

- ◆ Here is a couple who had been setting aside in savings a thousand dollars a month. This was to supplement their regular retirement program. At the time this special savings had grown to over a hundred thousand dollars. They decided that they would make this their sacrificial commitment saying,

*Lord, you are my Lord and I want to be and do all the things that show you that I am a good manager of all you have placed in my care.*

"We have years to add to our retirement and our church needs this now. To us this is a sacrifice and we gladly make it for our God."

As the writer of Hebrews says, "Time would fail me to tell of" countless others who by faith stepped forward to do God's will. This you can do also! "As God has prospered you."

*Lord, you are my Lord and I want to be and do all the things  
that show you that I am a good manager of all you have placed in my care.*