

# TOTAL LORD

By

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There was a time when the church house, with its tall steeple, stood in the midst of the community to remind people that Christ was in their midst. But in our day the greater the church house and the more refined the church organization, the more people are apt to limit Christ's power to that building. The state has made great effort to confine the Lord and His influence to the four walls of a church house.

Jesus claimed, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." This means that Jesus is Lord of all, everywhere, all the time.

But the world has "other lords." Paul spoke of the "god of this world" having blinded the eyes of the unbelieving. Thus, modern man is subject to the gods of pleasure, success, materialism, and the state. He has been taught that there is no absolute right or wrong, but only different opinions. No one can judge another to be wrong. There is no basis for dealing with the issues of our day — abortion, homosexuality, religious freedom, and taxes (yes, taxes, the unlawful usurpation of property and using it for evil purposes, which was the grounds for the American Revolution).

Jesus become "Lord" only in name and only in certain places and for certain people. Accountability is denied: no judgment day and no one to be judge. Such a view is the way of confusion and distress, as Isaiah said, "The way of peace they know not, and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whoever goes thereon shall not know peace."

Peace is produced by having life in alignment with God. If the world is out of alignment, then peace comes by being opposed to it, not in complying with it.

What God commands is often contrary to natural reason. For example, reason would never say to turn the other cheek, to go the second mile, and to love your enemies. Natural reason finds ways of accommodating to the world, so that one may have his personal commitment to Christ as Lord, and yet fit in rather comfortably with the world that denies Him, but to submit to Christ as Lord is to turn around to confront the world and take an opposite direction.

This is the kind of confrontation experienced by Jesus, the Apostles, and the early Christians, and is still experienced by all who answer the call of Christ to recognize Him as absolute and **total Lord**.

From a world view this hinders freedom, but in reality it affords the greatest liberty, for we are all created to fulfill God's purpose and obeying Him is the only way of complete fulfillment. In fact, this is the ground of our obedience, the will to do His will, not according to self-will of the natural man — who wills what he does because or reason — but according to faith, faith that God's will is right and best.

Such a stand requires more than nerve, grit, and gall. One does not overcome the world with the worldly means of jut-jawed success, majority rule, psycho-manipulation or other schemes designed to gain power and influence. Instead we are taught to "Trust in the Lord, and learn not upon your own understanding."

Power belongs to Christ, and it is in His power that we face the corruption of the world, wickedness in high places, the sickness and madness of the “gays”, the tyranny and greed of so-called public servants, the lies of the media and the whole force of the world opposed to the Way.

Christians are committed. We have taken sides. We are under the command and support of the One in power. He has told us the truth. He has demonstrated the way, a way of obedience and suffering, but also the way of victory.

As Lord He abides in us through His spirit to enable us to walk after the spirit rather than to follow the dictates of the flesh (Rom. 8:4). Such a walk involves all of life — vocation, recreation, personal and public relationships. We do not have to be great, rich, popular, famous, recognized, praised or celebrated. We only have to be faithful to him, as opposed to the world. “Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

It is not to the state, nor to culture nor to our peers that we must give account, but to the Lord. He has accepted the responsibility as Judge. “He (the Father) has given all judgment to the Son” (John 5:22). If we call Him Lord we also must accept our accountability to Him, both now and at judgment.

History moves toward that day of finality in which all will be fully accounted for. The wicked will not get by with it! The Lord promises their just execution.

There is a day of reward. You can serve without thought of recognition and without fear of wasted effort, for the Lord is faithful to give His servants their due.

The world is changing. The experts warn of economic collapse and war. It is not enough to try to arm ourselves to survive the changes; we must arm ourselves with faith in Christ. He is a survivor. He is eternal. Those whose lives are given fully to Him are ready to live, survive, and ultimately to receive eternal life in His image. He is Lord.

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