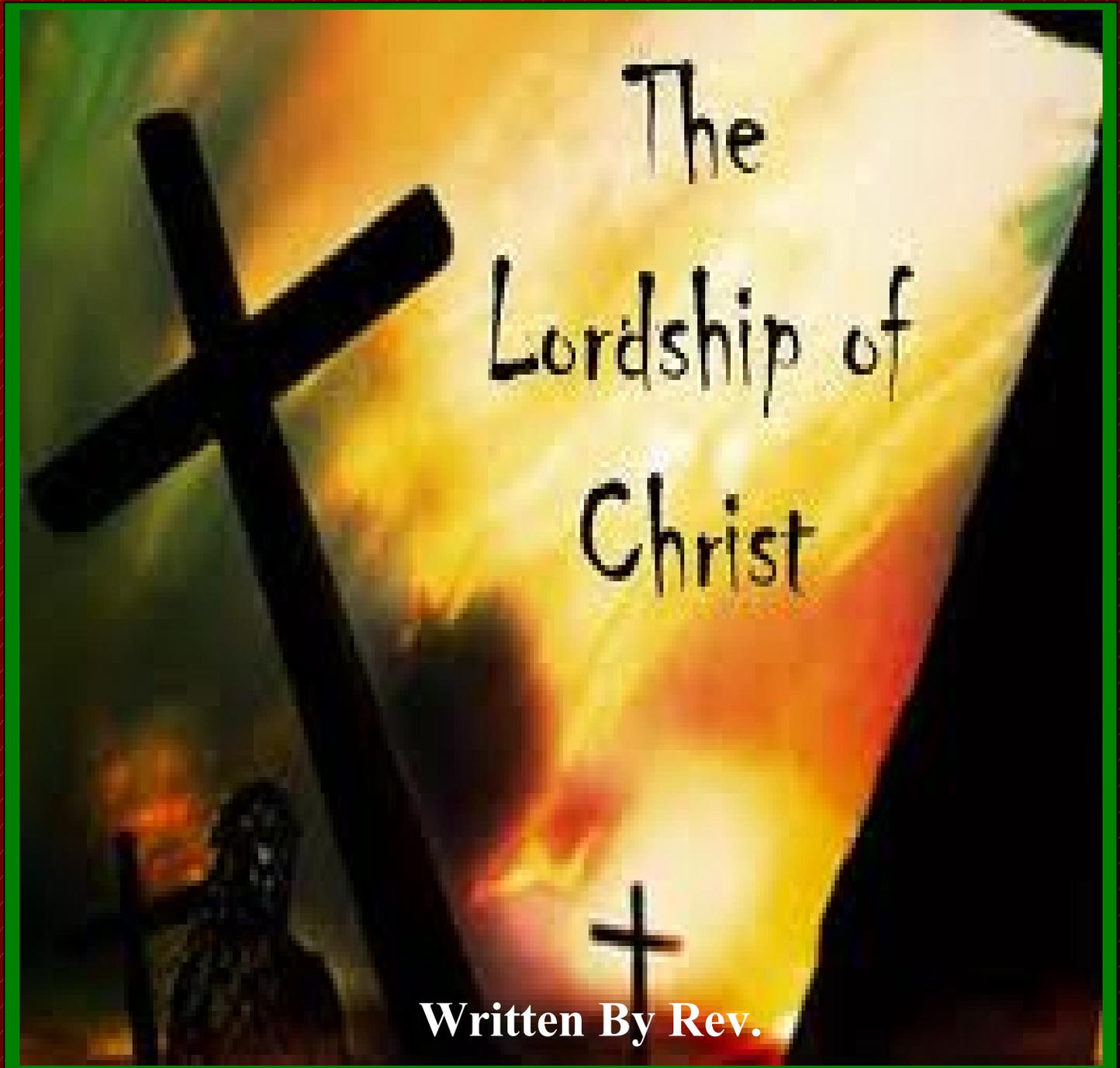


The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm  
“The Lord Is My Shepherd;  
I Shall Not Want”



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## Introduction

There is a great falling away from the faith in America. Many denominations do not even agree on Jesus being the only way to God. The gospel has been diluted into a Social Gospel that promotes the notion that every person is a child of God no matter what religion or denomination.

This false doctrine drives our political, racial, and economic worlds so as to destroy the very fabric of true faith and Biblical truth. Instead of God being supreme, man has opted to become his own god.

This theological premise is not limited to the non-Christian world. It has also invaded the church. If you are surprised to learn these facts, let me share a few statistics from the PEW report, a well known organization that tracks trends and movement in religion.

## The PEW Research Report

This report says that 78% of all Catholics do not identify themselves as being, "Born Again". Nor do 51% of all Methodists, 55% of all Presbyterians, 63% of all Lutherans, 29% of all Adventists and 29% of all Restorationists see themselves as "Born Again". These folks will not see the kingdom of God because they are not, "Born Again" by their own admission.

## **So What Does It Mean To Be, “Born Again”?**

To be “**Born Again**” is to undergo a "spiritual birth", or a regeneration of the human spirit by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is contrasted with the physical birth everyone experiences. It refers to being converted to a personal faith in Christ which causes the new birth to occur. It requires repentance from personal sin and accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior.

This report shows clearly that many of those who claim Christianity have fallen away from its roots and slipped off its foundation which is Christ. They still dwell in darkness and live in the flesh supporting a carnal lifestyle.

I suggest you read my other eBooks on How To Be Born Again, Left Behind, and The Incarnation of Christ to gain a more complete perspective. The point is, they have fallen away or never knew true faith, much less the importance of practicing the Lordship of Christ.

## **Why Should We Make Jesus Lord Over Our Life?**

When we truly are “Born Again” we want to please God. Our entire experience is based upon repentance. We openly admit to God that we have fallen short of His righteousness and are sorry for all the sin and rebellion we have participated in. Most of us would admit that we did a very bad job of being Lord over our own lives. We didn’t have the foresight to make good decisions. We got caught up into demonic snares like drugs, alcohol, imoral sex, hate, and all the other evils of this world. In short, we made a mess of things and now are in need of a Savior that will come and take charge and straighten things out.

## **The Benefits of Christ As Lord And Savior**

1. **No Worrying**... You don’t have to worry about everything that comes up. Our trust is in Jesus, that’s now the responsibility. He will handle it.
2. **Divine Power** ... to overcome bad habbits and temtations.

3. **Peace of Mind**... because you now can rest, knowing that all things will work together for your good. (**Romans 8:28**)
4. **Ringside Seat**... in the battle of the ages as the Lord Himself fights your battles with evil forces that are working against you. (**Psalm 27:1-3**)
5. **Enhanced Relationship**... with Christ because you are walking closer to Him and listening for His voice.
6. **Personal Satisfaction**... knowing that you are pleasing the Lord and honoring Him with your worship and praise.
7. **Special Revelation**... as the Holy Spirit gives you words to say and a course of actions to take in troubling situations.
8. **Answered Prayer**... Being in tune with the Holy Spirit brings answers to our prayers in a clear and understandable way.

The Daysofgratitude.org posted this blog about the benefits of making Jesus Lord. I thought you might want to see what others think.

“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” **1 Corinthians 12:3**

Making Jesus 'Lord' of your life means that He must have the first and last word in all things, which concern you. It means you are called to walk with Him, to please Him and do what He wants, when He wants it, and in the way He wants it done. Here are three great benefits that come from putting Jesus behind the wheel and making Him 'Lord.'

1) When you don't know what to say, He will tell you. 'The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I may know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will. The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me, and I have listened. I have not rebelled or turned away' (**Isaiah 50:4-5 NLT**).

2) When you can't defend yourself, He will fight for you. '...The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? When evil

people come to devour me...they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident' (**Psalm 27:1-3 NLT**).

3) When the burden feels too heavy, He will carry it for you. 'Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall' (**Psalm 55:22 NLT**). And these three benefits are yours when you make Jesus 'Lord' over every area of your life.

Dr. Roger D. Willmore, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Boaz, Alabama asked these questions in a recent web article.

## **What Does It Mean to Say “Jesus Christ Is Lord?”**

For Jesus to be Lord of your life means that He is the ruler, the boss, and the master of your whole life. He cannot be Lord of a part – He must be given control of the entire life - the whole life.

When thinking about the whole life of a person, we must think of various parts that make up a person. Paul wrote, *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* I Thess. 5:23, (NJKV).

Paul makes it plain that the whole person is made up of spirit, soul, and body. A person has an inner, private, unseen-to-the-natural-eye aspect of life and he has an outer, visible, and public life that is seen and heard by those with whom he comes in contact day by day. Jesus desires to be Lord of the seen and the unseen, the visible and the invisible, the private aspects of our life and the public aspects of our life. He wants to be Lord of our spiritual life and of our physical life.

The inner sanctuary, the spirit and soul, contains the mind, the emotion, and the will. It is in our spirit and soul that we think, feel, choose, decide, dream, and plan. Battles are fought and won or lost on the battleground of our private life. *Is Jesus Lord over this area of your life?*

The writer of Proverbs said. *“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he”* (**Prov. 23:7, NKJV**). In **Proverbs 4:23**, he wrote, *“Keep your hearts with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life”* (NKJV).

Don’t underestimate the importance of our private life. Although more attention is often given to the physical body, our true spiritual health is determined by the spirit and soul – not the body.

The outward life expresses the inner life. The outward life involves our eyes, our ears, our lips, our hands, our feet, and our entire body. Our public life is expressed by what we see, what we say, what we hear, where we go, and what we do. It is so important that Jesus be Lord over our public life.

We need to see the public life in the context of home life, the workplace, the classroom, and the neighborhood. We need to see it in its relationship with friends, family, work colleagues, neighbors, and classmates. We need to see it in its attitude toward possessions, obligations, and responsibilities, and the use of time and resources.

If we agree with the view of S. M. Zwemer (“If Jesus is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all”), then there are many areas of life that must come under His lordship. Is Jesus Lord of your thoughts? Is Jesus Lord of your emotions? Is Jesus Lord of your speech, of your relationships, of your possessions? Is Jesus Christ Lord of your whole life?

## **What Does It Involve to Say “Jesus Christ Is Lord?”**

What must a person do in order for Jesus Christ to be Lord of his life? The easy answer is, “Yield your life to Him.” This involves taking your hands off the controls of your life and allowing Him to be in control.

Such an important question requires more than a surface answer. For Jesus to become Lord of a person’s life involves absolute and total surrender. I can think of no better example of total surrender than F. B. Meyer. He was a Baptist preacher and pastor of Christ Church in the heart of London in the nineteenth century. In the midst of a successful ministry, F. B. Meyer confessed that something was lacking in his life and ministry. J. H. Jowett recounts the following story: “Dr. Meyer has told us that his early Christian

life was marred and his ministry paralyzed just because he had kept back one thing from the bunch of keys he had given to the Lord. Every key save one! The key of one room was kept for personal use, and the Lord shut out. The effect of the incomplete consecration was found in lack of power, lack of assurance, lack of joy and peace. The joy of the Lord begins when we hand over the last key. We sit with Christ on His throne as soon as we have surrendered our crowns, and made Him sole and only ruler of our life and its possessions.”

F. B. Meyer experienced the lordship of Jesus Christ when he handed over that last key. He had kept back the key to one room in his life and it brought great defeat. Remember, if He is not Lord of all (of every room), then He is not Lord at all. Have you yielded keys to every room in your life? Does He have the key to every room in your private life? Does He have the key to every room in your physical/ public life? Is there a room marked “private – keep out?” If so, you must be willing to surrender that key to the Lord.

There is a second element to yielding our lives to the Lord. In addition to *absolute surrender*, there must also be an *acknowledgment of His ownership*. Paul addressed the subject of ownership in **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**: “*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s*” (NJKV).

We are not our own. We were bought at a price. We belong to Jesus. We are His purchased possession. When a person yields to the lordship of Jesus Christ, he or she acknowledges His ownership and gives up his or her personal rights.

Yielding to the lordship of Jesus Christ also involves total and unreserved obedience. If He is the Lord of your life, you are going to do what He tells you to do.

If asked what I consider to be the most important word in the Christian vocabulary, I would say, “Obedience.” We move forward in our spiritual growth in direct proportion to our obedience to the revealed truth of God’s Word.

I like to read the account of Elijah's response to God in **1 Kings 17 and 18**. The Word of the Lord came to Elijah, and he did what God told him to do. Several times God spoke and Elijah obeyed. As a result of his obedience, Elijah was used in a powerful way to exalt God's name. His response to God's Word was always immediate and exact. He did precisely what God told him to do as soon as God told him to do it. Remember that delayed obedience is the same as disobedience. Lordship involves obedience.

Jesus raised an important question: "*But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say*" (**Luke 6:46, NKJV**)? Are you doing what the Lord has instructed you to do? Are you doing it immediately and exactly? Are you obeying God?

Stephen Olford recounts a wonderful story about an incident in the life of his friend and mentor, Graham Scroggie. Dr. Scroggie was speaking at the Keswick Convention in England on one occasion when he was approached by a young woman who had been greatly stirred by his message on the Lordship of Christ. Walking up to him at the close of the service, she said, "I want Jesus to be Lord of my life, but I am afraid God will send me overseas as a missionary, and I don't want to go."

Opening the Bible to **Acts 10:14**, Dr. Scroggie explained the utter absurdity of Peter's answer. You will remember that God had given Peter a vision of a sheet in which were all manner of four-footed animals, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Rise Peter, kill and eat." But Peter answered, "Not so, Lord." (**See Acts 10:12-14**).

Dr. Scroggie went on to explain, "A slave never dictates to a master. Therefore, to say 'Not so, Lord' was impertinent!" "Now," advised Dr. Scroggie, "I want you to cross out the two words 'not so' and leave the word 'Lord'; or else cross out the word 'Lord' and leave 'not so'." Handing her his pencil, he quietly walked away.

For some time she struggled. Then he returned. Looking over her shoulder, he saw a tear-stained page. The words 'not so' were crossed out. With a glad light in her eyes, she repeated affirmatively, "Lord!" "Lord!" "Lord!" No longer would she dictate. She was now His disciple, and He was her Lord and Master.

Finally, the lordship of Jesus Christ involves *willing service*. There must be a time in your life when you, like the prophet Isaiah, are willing to say, “Here am I Lord. Send me.”

A number of years ago my wife enjoyed attending an annual Bible conference in Asheville, North Carolina, sponsored by Columbia Bible College. It was there that I was introduced to the three A’s of Christian service: Anywhere, Anytime, and Any cost. The lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives involves our willingness to go where He sends us, when He sends us, regardless of the cost. Is Jesus the Lord of this area in your life? Can you honestly say, “Anywhere, Lord! Anytime, Lord! Any cost, Lord?”

The Christian life is a wonderful life. Christ has made every provision for His children to live full and abundant lives, but there is a cost involved. Such a life does not come cheaply or easily. The life Christ has for His children requires that we die to ourselves. There can be no rivals to the throne of our life. It is to be occupied by Jesus alone.

Dr. Roger D. Willmore gives a great explanation here of the Lordship of Christ. This has been excerpts from his article. The important thing to remember is that Jesus rules by and through His Holy Spirit. That’s why Paul tells the church to be filled with the Holy Spirit...so Jesus can be Lord. **(Ephesians 5:18)**

## **A Portrait of Man Without Christ**

The Scripture paints a dark picture of mankind without Christ.

- I. Man is born in sin **(Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12)**, and every aspect of his being has been corrupted by sin, rendering him helpless as to his own salvation.
- II. His mind is at enmity with God **(Col. 1:21; Romans 8:7)**, and cannot understand or receive the things of God **(1 Cor. 2:14; Romans 3:11)**.
- III. His heart is deceitful and desperately wicked **(Jer. 17:9; Genesis. 6:5)**.

- IV. His will is set to do evil, being controlled by the lusts of the flesh and a reprobate mind (**Eph. 2:2-3; Romans 1:28**), making him a slave to sin (**John 8:34**).
- V. He has no fear of God, no desire to seek God, and no faith in God (**Romans 3:11-18**).
- VI. What knowledge he does have of God he is actively suppressing (**Romans 1:18-32**).
- VII. The desperateness of man's state is evident in that he considers the gospel, his only hope of salvation, to be foolishness (**1 Cor. 1:18**).

The Bible declares that the unsaved are dead in their trespasses and sins (**Eph. 2:1**), and under condemnation (**Romans 6:23**). It also declares, " But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." **Romans 5:8**

It is a tragic thing to be God's creation and not know Him and be separated from His love and grace. Furthermore, how pitiful to live one's life and have no purpose to life, but to live until we die and no matter how successful or how much a failure....to end the same way....to die and leave it all.

That is the life lived by those that have not believed, repented of their sins and received Jesus Christ as their savior. One could have an empire greater than Bill Gates of Microsoft, devote one's life to making money and producing products but in reality there is no real lasting purpose to a life lived that way. The derelicts sleeping in the street in a cardboard box or the billionaires who are lost are thus separated from God and have no purpose for their lives. (Cooper Abrams of Bibletruth.org)

## **"How Do I Make Jesus Lord of My Life?"**

**Excerpts From Got\Questions.org**

The key to understanding is to know that Jesus is already Lord of your life.

- We do not make Jesus Lord. **Jesus is Lord**. What we are supposed to do is submit to His lordship.
- Another word for our response to Jesus' Lordship is "submission." To submit is to yield to the will and control of another, and, with

reference to Christians, it is yielding to the will and control of Jesus Christ.

- This means that when Scripture commands believers to love one another (**John 15:17**), that is what is to be done.
- It means that when Scripture says we are not to commit adultery or steal (**Exodus 20:14-15**), these things are not to be done.

It should be understood that submission, or obedience to the commands of God, is related to Christian growth and maturity, and is not related to becoming a Christian. A person becomes a Christian by faith alone in Christ apart from works (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

We should realize that complete obedience cannot be accomplished simply by willing it to be done or in the strength of one's inner being. It will not happen simply because we "decide" to do it. This is because even believers are prone to sinful conduct and thoughts apart from the work and power of the Holy Spirit. In order to be obedient, we must rely on the power provided by the indwelling Holy Spirit (**John 14:16-17**).

This in itself is an act of obedience, for we are commanded in **Ephesians 5:18** to be filled with the Spirit. This doesn't mean that a believer gets more of the Spirit, but rather that the Spirit gets more of the believer—which is the whole idea of submission.

Being filled with the Spirit is yielding to the Spirit's control. Practically speaking, this happens as a believer responds positively to the leading of the Holy Spirit. By this is not meant feeling that one is being lead into full-time Christian ministry and obeying that feeling, although this may be included.

Rather, it refers to the day-to-day decisions we make, such as responding kindly to someone who has mistreated us (**Romans 12:17**); being truthful in our communication with others (**Ephesians 4:25**); being honest in our business dealings (**Ephesians 4:28**); spending time in prayer and studying God's Word as we are commanded (**2 Timothy 2:15**). These are a just a few examples of daily decisions that demonstrate submissiveness to Christ.

It is also important to note that even when we fail to obey, God has made a provision for that so that we can remain in fellowship with Him. **1 John 1:9** says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our*

*sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*” Even this is part of submission and obedience—to confess our sins to God so that we can remain in fellowship with Him.

It is important to note that when tough decisions arise, the first thing we should do is pray, asking the Lord to help us to make the right decision and/or be obedient to what we already know is right from the Word.

**The idea of the Lordship of Christ...** it does not consist of one act of obedience but rather is measured by the sum of our obedience, and it cannot be accomplished in our own strength or power, but by the power available to us by the indwelling Holy Spirit. We are strongest when we are relying on Him (**2 Corinthians 12:10**).

## **Benefits To God From Our Salvation**

We are always looking at what we benefit from being saved. How about God? What does He get out of our salvation? Here are a few benefits to consider:

1. God gains a multitude of redeemed souls through which He can restore His image and likeness here on this earth.
2. God gains true worship and fellowship from millions of believers that have fought to be with Him at all cost.
3. God gains a spiritual bride for Jesus in order that they would both rule His kingdom for all eternity.
4. God gains victory over Satan, sin and death through the life of Jesus and as a direct result of our faith in Him that overcomes this world.
5. God gains the restoration of holiness throughout His creation because man has been redeemed.
6. God gains a body, made of flesh that is the light of this world.
7. God gains you and me to communicate His will and reason with on His level.

I am sure you'll find more benefits but these will due for now.

## All Or Nothing

Being a Christian is no joke. It is not a, “**get out of jail**” card in some quasi monopoly game of life. It is an all or nothing situation. You cannot live life with one foot in a world of carnality and the other in the spiritual realm. Jesus said, “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathers not with me scatters abroad. **Matthew 12:30** There is no in-between. No neutral ground. We are with Him or against Him.

There are lots of folks that play church, talking the talk, acting as though they understand but fail in the final analysis. It’s like what Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees of His day, ““Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.” NASV **Matthew 20:25** We do not want to be like them.

## Conclusion

Christianity is an absolute surrender to God. Jesus said, “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” **Matthew 16:25** He also said, “If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” **Matthew 16:24**

It is high time that we, you and me and all the other believers, sell out to Jesus and surrender to His will. He will not let us down. He is a loving God, compassionate, caring and gentle in all His ways. His Lordship is in our best interest.

Remember, He is Lord of All, whether we like it or not. However, He gives us a choice to get on board with His plan or fall by the wayside. He takes no prisoners. All who follow Him come freely, knowing the path to walk and the glory to gain.

Choose this day whom you will serve. Your decision is a matter of life and death. Make a wise choice as your eternal destiny hangs in the balance.