



TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

Jesus is Lord

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Many New Testament scholars affirm that the earliest Christian confession was “Jesus is Lord.” Several statements from Paul’s writings support their affirmation. In 1 Corinthians 8.6, he declared that there is “one Lord, Jesus Christ” (ESV). In Romans 10.9, he connected the confession, “Jesus is Lord” with salvation. In Philippians 2.11, he predicted that the day is coming when “every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

In view of the fact that “Jesus is Lord and Christ” was the thesis of the Peter’s first sermon in Acts 2, we are not surprised that the earliest disciples consistently recognized him as “Lord.”

Peter began by summarizing his years with him, affirming that “Jesus of Nazareth” had been “attested ... by God with mighty works and wonders and signs” (Acts 2.22). He followed that statement with another remarkably restrained summary, telling his hearers how, according to God’s “definite plan and foreknowledge,” Jesus had been “crucified and killed” (2.23).

He then turned to Jesus’ triumph. Death had not defeated him for “God raised him up” (2.24). To his Jewish hearers familiar with the law, Peter showed how David had spoken of God’s “Holy One” who would not “see corruption” (2.25-28; citing Ps 16.8-11). But David’s tomb was still occupied—implying that Jesus’ tomb was not—and so David had to have been referring to “one of his descendants ... the Christ.” It was “his flesh” that did not “see corruption” (2.29-31). To this amazing reality, the apostles were all “witnesses” (2.32).

The glorification of Jesus accomplished by his life, death, burial, and resurrection culminated in his exaltation “at the right hand of God” (2.33). Quoting again from David, Peter stressed that Jesus is the Lord who will sit at the Father’s right hand “until I make your enemies your footstool” (2.34-35, citing Ps 110.1).

Peter had made his case: “God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified” (2.36).

When his hearers responded with remorse over their sins, Peter said their problem could be resolved by making the decision to “repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (2.37-38). Three thousand people took him at his word (2.41), receiving the promised “gift of the Holy Spirit” (v. 38), and began their new lives with Jesus as their Lord (2.42-47). Together, as they submitted to him, their lives and then the history of the world were forever changed.

Jesus is Lord. Let us confess and serve him as is his due.

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