

Jesus Christ His Only Son Our Lord

As millions affirm their faith each Sunday using the Apostle's Creed, they pretty soon come across the words, "I believe In Jesus Christ His Only Son Our Lord." On these two descriptions of Jesus hang all else. We must recapture the essence of just who Jesus is; only then will we discover the relationship with God and others that we seek.

Jesus is not the person he appears to be on the surface. He is so much more.

Jesus is the Shepherd of God's sheep, and our guide and protector. But he is much more than that.

Jesus is the rabbi who walked the streets of Jerusalem and preached in the synagogues. But he is much more than that.

Jesus is the baby born in a stable in Bethlehem. But he is much more than that.

Jesus is the savior of all who turn to him. But he is much more than that.

We must embrace the fact that Jesus Christ is the only son of God, sent from heaven to bring us back there, or we will not even come close to the totality of who Jesus is. Jesus is the only son of the father God. His claim to divinity must never be questioned. We must know that seeing Jesus is the same thing as seeing God.

If he is God, then the same Jesus who walked the land of Palestine also walks with us today.

If Jesus is the son of God, he created the world, the universe, and the people and everything on the earth.

Christ is an office-title, the messiah for whom the Jews waited for thousands of years.

If Jesus is the Christ, he is not a man-made creation, but a divine prophet, priest, and king.

If Jesus is the Christ, there is no one else like him. He is the only one.

But all this means nothing if we do not know him. We believe, and we must believe, in Jesus Christ as our Lord. He is in charge. We live our lives for him. Much higher than the earthly title of lord, the Lordship of Jesus Christ comes from heaven, and is the one Lord to bow before and give allegiance to. "Let all Israel, writes the apostle Paul, "be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" ~ Acts 2:36

If Jesus is Lord, he reigns on the throne of your life.

If Jesus is Lord, he rules over the affairs of your life, not you.

If Jesus is Lord, he is preeminent in all things.

If Jesus is Lord, he has the same status as God himself.

If Jesus is Lord, all other things fall to the background but loving and knowing him.

A man was rich in almost every way. His estate was worth millions. He owned houses, land, antiques and cattle. But though on the outside he had it all, he was very unhappy on the inside. His wife was growing old, and the couple was childless. He had always wanted a little boy to carry on the family legacy.

Miraculously, his wife became pregnant in her later years, and she gave birth to a little boy. The boy was severely handicapped, but the man loved him with his whole heart. When the boy was five, his mom died. The dad drew closer to his special son. At age 13, the boy's birth defects cost him his life and the father died soon after from a broken heart.

The estate was auctioned before hundreds of bidders. The first item offered was a painting of the boy. No one bid. They waited like vultures for the riches. Finally, the poor housemaid, who helped raise the boy, offered \$5 for the picture and easily took the bid. To every-one's shock, the auctioneer ripped a hand written will from the back of the picture. This is what it said: "To the person who thinks enough of my son to buy this painting, to this person I give my entire estate."

If we come to God wanting all the valuable things, being greedy, like a vulture, and wait for the best, we may lose all of what he can give. Once we reach out to him in love, once we respond to his love and the very essence of who he is, then we inherit eternal life. When we accept a tiny baby born in a stable, we meet the king of all kings. When we see the humble rabbi, we find the Teacher of all Teachers. When we see his simple love for us, we find the love of the eternal God who brings us untold riches. My prayer, dear reader, is that Jesus is indeed for you in every way the son of God, and your Lord as well.