

Christ Must Reign

1 Corinthians 15:25



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FOCAL Read Together 1 Corinthians 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

I like to read well worded Church signs. You know the kind I mean – those where you can put a message on them every so often. I thank God that we have faithful men who serve the Lord by periodically changing our Church sign. I also thank God that our “sign men” know how to put up a coherent message. I saw a Church sign the other day that said something like:

Need help? Psa 27:9; 40:17; Isa 50:9; 2 Cor 1:3-4

Though I'm a Pastor and well versed in the Scripture that type of sign made me scratch my head. The average person passing by this sign won't understand one bit of this, for the average person doesn't know the abbreviations for the books of our Bible. Whoever made up this sign just as well should have put

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on it, for all the good it'll do. Signs – particularly Church signs – need to make sense. They need to clearly tell those driving by what the Lord has to offer them at that local Church. Signs need to be clear.

Signs also need to be honest. I pulled into a gas station the other day because I promised to take my wife somewhere expensive on our night out. No, really I needed gas. I pulled up to this station because the sign in front of it clearly stated:

Today's Gas Price: Regular \$3.60

It's sad that that's a bargain, but it is. But once I had the pump nozzle in the car I noticed the price that was running on the pump was not \$3.60 but \$3.95. I stopped fueling and, a little miffed, paid off the attendant, swearing never to come back again. When a sign is dishonest it angers and drives away customers. Signs need to honestly represent a business, else they are worth nothing.

Some signs are not heeded. I guess one of the most unheeded signs in America is the *stop sign*. That little red octagonal sign is so ignored – if it were a person it would have an inferiority complex. Most people – including police persons - roll through stop signs, but rarely come to a complete stop. It seems as if the only time we notice these lowly signs is when something bad happens.

When Jesus came to this earth, taking upon Himself humanity, He was always *very clear* on Who He was and on what His mission was. Jesus pointed out how He fulfilled the prophetic signs of His coming. He told His disciples that His mission was to

Mark 8:31 suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Jesus Christ – Eternal God in the flesh – came to be the one and only acceptable Offering for sin. God told Adam in the Garden to not eat of the forbidden fruit (**Genesis 2:17**). Adam decided to ignore God's command and instead do as he wanted to do. His action brought

spiritual death on all of humanity. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ, God the Son, would come to earth to set right what Adam messed up. Jesus said

Hebrews 10:9-10 ... Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. {10} By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Following crucifixion Jesus, after three days in the grave, rose from that tomb. He presented Himself to His early Church, taught and was seen of many, and then ascended unto Heaven. He now sits at the right hand of God the Father, and **He must rule, He must reign over all**. He reigns in Heaven, He rules on the earth.

He must reign. You must surrender your life to Him by faith if you expect to be saved. You must allow Him to reign over you in life if you expect to be blessed. **He must reign.**

1. Christ Must Reign For He Is God - And God Reigns!

FOCAL 1 Corinthians 15:24-25 **For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.**

Jesus must reign – He must rule and possess rule over all – for He is Eternal God in the flesh. The Bible calls Jesus “**The Only Begotten Son**” (**John 1:14**). This doesn't mean that there was a time when Jesus as God *was not*. What this means is that Jesus – in fulfillment of

Bible prophecy – would be **born of a Virgin**. The Lord prophesied through Isaiah:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

A virgin would conceive and bear a Son. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit of God came on Mary, overshadowing her, and that she conceived the Son of God (Luke 1:35). This would be the sign of the Messiah.

Eternal God took on human flesh through a human woman. But Jesus did not come into being at that point. The Bible clearly tells us that:

John 1:1, 14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {14} And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Jesus Christ is the **Only Begotten of the Father**. He was made flesh, but *never made God – for He was in the beginning with God and is God*. Jesus took the Eternal Name of God to Himself when He told the Pharisees:

John 8:58 ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

I AM is the Holy Name God gave to Moses at the

burning bush (**Exodus 3:14**). This was a Name so holy that most Jews superstitiously refused to utter it – but Jesus rightfully took it to Himself. God spoke through the Prophet Hosea, saying:

Hosea 13:4 ... thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no Saviour beside Me."

God alone is the Savior. The Apostle Paul spoke of **"God our Savior"** (1 Timothy 2:3). Yet we also see in the Scripture that the **God Who is our Savior is Jesus Christ**. We read:

Titus 1:3-4 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior; {4} To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior. God is our Savior. Jesus is God! In fact, Jesus Christ is Creator God. The Bible tells us:

Isaiah 40:28 ... the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."

but also

John 1:3 All things were made by him (Christ); and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Jesus reigns because Jesus Christ is God. We also see that

Psalms 23:1 "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

The Lord is our Shepherd – Christ is our Shepherd. He is God.

Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;...

The Lord is the **Rock of Israel**, but the **Spiritual Rock that followed Israel** was Christ:

1 Corinthians 10:4 ... they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

God alone is to be worshiped – and yet Jesus Christ is to be worshiped. He is God. When the leper wanted to be healed we see that:

Matthew 8:2-3 And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean ...

Jesus received that worship – which is unheard of if He is not God. Jesus was **worshiped as a baby in a manger (Matthew 2:11)**. When a prominent man's child died we read:

Matthew 9:18 .. there came a certain ruler, and worshiped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

The disciples worshiped Christ (Matthew 14:33) when He stilled the wind. The Gentile woman came to Christ,

Matthew 15:25 Then came she and worshiped him, saying, Lord, help me.

calling Him LORD – a title of God. Jesus was worshiped at His resurrection (Matthew 28:9).

He is God, and since

Exodus 15:18 The LORD shall reign forever and ever.

Jesus therefore **must reign!**

2. If Christ Does Not Reign You Will Have A Mess

And I don't mean “a mess of greens” either. You'll just have a mess! In every case where Christ reigned – and that reign was acknowledged – there has been great blessing. In every case where mankind has resisted the reign of Christ there has always been disaster. In every nation where the rule of Christ is not recognized that nation eventually suffers destruction. The Exodus Generation of Israel followed God from Egypt, and saw all the armies of that pagan land destroyed at the bottom

of the Red Sea. Then God's Israel decided to withstand God, to refuse to cross over the Jordan and enter the Promised Land of Canaan. The Lord told them:

Our God reigns. Because man worshiped himself rather than the Creator the Lord destroyed all but the repentant. Consider also **Israel, a nation chosen and loved by God**. Israel turned away from the command of God when He ordered them to enter Canaan. The Lord told the first generation of Israel:

Numbers 14:22-23 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; {23} Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Christ must reign. When the second generation of Israel obeyed God and followed Joshua into Canaan that God reproduced the victory at the Red Sea:

Joshua 3:15-17 And as they that bore the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bore the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, ... the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon a heap very far from the city Adam, ... And the priests that bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

When Christ reigns there is victory. When God's people follow their Redeemer they have His promise:

Isaiah 43:2-3 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. {3} For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior: ...

Christ must reign!

I love the Biblical story of Joseph – you know, the one with the coat of many colors.

You see an amazing contrast between Joseph and his father Jacob. Both men were *saved*, believers in the Lord – and yet one lived a victorious life whereas the other lived a miserable existence. Whether you live in victory or exist in misery will be determined whether Christ reigns in your life or not.

Joseph was cast into a pit by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused of sexual sin by Potipher's wife, and cast into a prison. Yet **Joseph kept his eyes on the Lord. He knew that Christ must reign**, and he never lost hope. While in prison on false charges we read that

Genesis 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed him mercy...

God takes care of His own. Joseph settled himself under God's reign, and glorified the Lord no matter what – and like cream, always rose to the top. Joseph's heart cry was “I will love you, dear Lord, and will not be moved”.

God heard Joseph's cry. While in prison we read that ...

Genesis 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

Though Joseph was not freed from the prison, he was nonetheless blessed. Curd always sinks to the bottom, but cream rises to the top. Do not be bitter in the trial but look to Him Who saved you no matter what might come your way. **Relax in Christ's arms.**

When released from prison, God elevated Joseph to a place second only to Pharaoh himself – because Joseph knew that **Christ must reign**. God is in control of His people and in control of our circumstances. Regardless of the circumstance he found himself in – regardless of what rational thought might say – Joseph *relaxed under Christ reign* and emerged victorious.

Compare Joseph to his daddy Jacob. When Joseph's brothers brought the bloody coat of many colors back to Jacob and said that their brother was dead, he **tore his clothes, dressed in sackcloth and mourned for his son many days (Genesis 37:34)**. When Joseph made his brother **Simeon** stay behind in Egypt Joseph cried, “**you**

have robbed me of Joseph, and Simeon is now gone, and you want to take away Benjamin too? All these things are against me!”(Genesis 42:36). Jacob did not have his eyes on God and as a result **abandoned all hope**. He took a miserable situation and compounded it by looking at misery instead of looking *to* the God Who reigns! The Bible says:

Genesis 37:35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

This is not living – this is mere existence! God wants more for His children. Christ wants you to know that **He must reign**. All things are under His control – trust in Him Who gave Himself for you! An old hymn¹ rightly states:

**Whate'er my God ordains is right:
His holy will abideth;
I will be still whate'er He doth;
And follow where He guideth;
This is My God, though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall:
Wherefore to Him I leave it all.**

**Whate'er my God ordains is right:
He is my Friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm,
Though many storms may gather.**

¹ by Samuel Rodigast, “Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right”, 17th century

**Now I may know both joy and woe;
Some day I shall see clearly,
That He hath loved me dearly.**

When we look at trials apart from the truth that **Christ must reign** then we will attempt our own solutions. That's as bad an idea as *sausage flavored soda*.

When **King Saul** wasn't sure what to do he always sought solutions through his own power. When confronted with **Goliath**, Saul cowered in fear. We read:

1 Samuel 17:10-11 And {Goliath} said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. {11} When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

Compare Saul and Israel's reaction to that of **the unknown shepherd David, son of Jesse**:

1 Samuel 17:26 ... **who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?**

Looking at the available evidence Goliath was stronger than Saul, stronger than David, stronger than any man in Israel. That was very true. And yet the greater truth is that **Christ must reign**.

When confronted by evil we have a choice set before us. We can retreat in fear. We can react with our own solutions. Or we can realize that great truth that **Christ must reign** – and align our lives to that truth.

When the three **Hebrew Children** were commanded by **King Nebuchadnezzar** to worship his false god or else be burned alive, they replied:

Daniel 3:17-18 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. {18} But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Our God is able. Our God reigns. Christ must reign! Whether He saves us or not we will serve Him and Him alone. **Christ must reign.** Cast into the fiery furnace the Lord Who is King over all kept them from burning, and even kept them company while they went through their fiery ordeal (**Daniel 3:25**). Christ must reign – and will reign. We lose our blessing – the **joy of our salvation** - when we fail to focus on this great truth.

Adrian Rogers said “**Christians are not just nicer people. They are new creatures with spiritual royalty.... While the Bible admits the possibility of defeat for a Christian, it never assumes the necessity of it. We are already kings and priests meant to live in perpetual victory ... It is your birthright and**

legacy.”²

For this to be true, **Christ must reign** in your lives. You are to do as Scripture says,

James 4:10 **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**

1 Peter 5:5-6 ... **God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. {6} Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**

Jesus said of Himself “**all things are delivered unto Me of My Father**” (Matthew 11:27). Christ said “**All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth**” (Matthew 28:18), a wonderful promise – especially as His young Church would bear such terrible persecution. All power is in Jesus. **He must reign**. Jesus Christ is above all. Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **He must reign, He must rule**, and this cannot be questioned. Jesus told His disciples:

John 13:13 **Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.**

He is Lord of all. Learn from the examples that God has set before us. Trust your lives into His hand, and you shall be blessed. Realize that Christ must reign, and act accordingly, and you shall be lifted up.

3. Have You Ever Submitted

² From his message “**Kingdom Authority – The Missing Miracle**”

To The Reign of Christ?

FOCAL 1 Corinthians 15:25 For **he must reign** ...

There are two test questions³ that I'd like to ask you:

1. Have you reached the point in your spiritual life that if you died today, you know you would go to heaven?

and,

2. If you stood at the gates of Heaven and God asked you why He should allow you in, how would you answer?

Some people would answer question number 1 with “**I hope I'm going to go to Heaven**”. Some people would answer the second question by saying “**I'd tell God I was a good person**” or “**I'd tell God that I went to Church on a regular basis**”. Neither answer would be right. The right answer is “**Christ must reign – and I have submitted to Him**”.

I mentioned earlier that **a leper came to Jesus, worshiping Him (Matthew 8:2)**. This person had something in his life that was systematically destroying his life, and he wanted it gone. He bent the knee to Christ, and Jesus healed him. In the same way Jesus will save you from that which is systematically robbing you of life – your sin. Every person without Christ is **dead in trespasses and in sin**. You are just as dead *spiritually*

³ From *Evangelism Explosion*, by Dr. D. James Kennedy

as the ruler's daughter was dead *physically*. You must come to Christ knowing that **Christ must reign**. You must stop being Lord of your life, and, like the Canaanite woman, call on Jesus by saying “**Lord, help me**”. Your eyes may be as blinded as the disciples on the road to Emmaus, but Jesus can open your eyes and bring you light. **Christ must reign in your life**, you must surrender your life to Him or you will never be saved. You must

Acts 16:31 ... Believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

The testimony of Scripture is that salvation comes when you **believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**. Before you met Christ you were Lord of your life – but now that you see Him as He is you *claim Him and Him alone as Lord*. My knee is bowed to Jesus and to no other. **He must reign**.

The Scripture does not say “**The Law must reign**” nor even “**Human tradition must reign**”, but “**He must reign**”. Jesus Christ alone is God's **appointed heir of all things**.

Hebrews 1:2 ... by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Heaven belongs to Jesus, and it is He Who grants entrance to it. There is no salvation without surrendering your life to Christ. The Apostle Paul tells us that **there is no peace with God unless you are first surrendered to Christ**. He said:

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:

Christ must reign. If you would have peace, you can only have it through a life submitted to Christ. We are told that:

Romans 5:11 And not only so, but WE ALSO JOY IN GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Christ must reign. We have no true joy in this life unless we submit our lives to the rulership of Christ. He will always lead us in a pleasant and joyous way. **The Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not want**. Submit to Him as sheep to the Shepherd. Furthermore, we will always be *bullied by our sin* until we submit to the reign of Christ.

Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might GRACE REIGN THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO ETERNAL LIFE BY JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

It is God's will for your lives that **Grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life** for each and every one of you – but this blessing only comes **by Jesus Christ our LORD**. Christ must reign.

May Christ touch your hearts with His blessed Word.