

Is Jesus Lord?

By Don Denton

Jesus asked the multitude while teaching in and around Galilee what seemingly is a rhetorical question when He said, *Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord', and do not do the things which I say* (Luke 6:46)? The obvious statement made by Jesus' question is rhetorical. Jesus was not their Lord since they do not follow His teaching (John 14:15). But was Jesus asking a rhetorical question?

The same question could be asked of the religious people in our community. "Why do you call Jesus 'Lord, Lord' and do not follow clear biblical teaching as it relates to your worship and service to God?" Do they not love the Lord and proclaim Him as Lord? The apostle Paul addressed a somewhat similar situation as it relates to his fellow countrymen, the Jews. He wrote,

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God (Romans 10: 2, 3).

We observe religious groups and religious people seeking to establish their own right ways of worship and serving God. In our own fellowship, there are some that establish their own righteousness as well. It is easily observed they have zeal for God as did Paul's brethren in the flesh, but is it according to knowledge?

Seeking one's own righteousness has been one of mankind's greatest failings over the ages. Near the beginning, Cain offered an unacceptable sacrifice to God and over the ensuing centuries people continued to choose their own ways over God's ways. Just a few years after Christ lived on earth efforts to change Christian worship were made and by the second and third centuries radical changes had become acceptable. Worship to God in contemporary times has often become an entertainment-style and self-serving.

The results of our choices are readily observable. If Jesus has dominion over our lives as the word "Lord" signifies, our love for Him will result in obedience to His teaching. When we fail to submit to His teaching, whether intentionally or by default, Jesus is not our Lord. Jesus would later express a similar thought He made to the multitude when He said, *If you love Me, keep My commandments* (Jn. 14:15).