

Hands-On Lordship

1 Peter 3:13-17

February 18, 2018

INTRO: I have seen many bumper stickers that say **Jesus is My Savior**. But Jesus is more than just our Savior. He is first **Our Lord!**

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our **Lord and Savior** Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Vance Havner. “A wife who is 85% faithful to her husband is not faithful at all. There is no such thing as **part-time loyalty** to Jesus Christ.”

One of the greatest **Misconceptions** about being a Christian is that it solves all your problems. Christianity isn't a magic cure for sickness, broken relationships, abuse and injustice. It's not meant to be a quick-fix solution to everything that's wrong in your life or the lives of others.

Unfortunately, many interpret Christianity as a form of escapism, a way to avoid the harsh realities of life. Christ's message isn't about avoiding difficulties or preventing them from happening, but confronting them **Head-On & Hands-On!**

Following Jesus means embracing the hardships of humanity and struggling, empathizing, supporting and helping those who are sick, weak, poor, diseased, abandoned and forsaken. In many ways being a Christian causes more problems than it solves—but the hope and promises of Jesus strengthen us for the journey.

When the disciples decided to follow Jesus, instead of making their lives easier and more comfortable, they were persecuted and eventually Martyred because of their beliefs. Are you prepared for the commitment and burdens that Christianity requires?

Before Jesus can be your **Savior** you must first Acknowledge Him as your **Lord**.

Romans 10:9-10 that if you **confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord**, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved**; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the **mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation**.

1 Peter 3:13-17 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

In our text today **Lordship** deals more with the **practical aspects** of what that means in our daily life. Please follow as I speak to **Hands-on Lordship**.

Hands-On Lordship Involves...

I. **Dealing with Suffering. (13-14)**

A. **The Proving of Suffering. (13)** Who is there to **harm you** if you prove **zealous** for what is good?

1. **Harm** = Evil (Bring Evil to you)

2. **Zealous** = Follow eagerly

B. **The Possibility of Suffering. (14a)** "even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness"

1. **Even If kind of Faith (Dan 3:18)** "But *even if He does not*, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

2. **For Righteousness Sake. (Matt 5:10)**
"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the **sake of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

C. **The Privilege of Suffering. (14b)** "you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled "

1. **The Blessing is from God. (Heb 6:7)** For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a **blessing** from **God**;

You can be known by you critics as well as by your friends.

Intimidation = Terror in KJV

ILLUS: A believer was fleeing from his enemies during a persecution in North Africa. Pursued over a hill and through a valley with no place to hide, he fell exhausted into a cave, **expecting to be caught**. Awaiting his death, he saw a spider weaving a web. Within minutes, **the spider had woven a beautiful** web across the mouth of the cave. The man's pursuers arrived, but on seeing the unbroken web assumed it impossible for him to have entered the cave. Later that believer exclaimed, "**Where God is, a spider's web is like a wall. Where God is not, a wall is like a spider's web.**"

What a blessing. To be protected by God through a spiders web

Hands-On Lordship Involves...

II. Dealing with Sanctification. (15)

A. Sanctification Includes the Dedication of Lordship. (15a) but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,

- 1. Christ is Present** In Every Believer.
- 2. Christ is Prominent** In Many Believers.
- 3. Christ Is Preeminent** In Some Believers.

B. Sanctification Includes the Defense of Our Lips. (15b) always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you,

- 1. Evidence of Lordship.**
 - a. They Ask.** "to everyone who asks"

b. **We Tell** "to give an account for the hope that is in you,"

C. **Sanctification Includes the Demeanor of Our Life. (15c)** "yet with gentleness and reverence;"

ILLUS: Simon Peter give us an example of a Christian who lived as though Christ was not set apart as Lord. **Simon denied he knew the Lord.** He even cursed in order to prove it.

Hands-On Lordship Involves...

III. **Dealing with Slanders. (16-17)**

A. **Having a Clear Conscience In Dealing with Slanderers. (16a)** " and keep a **good conscience** so that in the thing in which you are slandered"

1. **Reduces your Stress**

2. **Strengthens your Witness**

B. **Having Commendable Conduct In Dealing with Slanderers. (16b)** "those who **revile** your **good behavior** in Christ will be put to shame.

1. **Don't Overreact!**

2. **Don't Become Defensive!**

C. **Having Made Correct Choices In Dealing with Slanderers. (17)** For it is **better**, if God should will it so, that you **suffer for doing what is right** rather than for doing what is wrong.

Everyday Believers make numerous choices.

1 Corinthians 6:12 I have the freedom to do anything, but not everything is helpful. I have the freedom to do anything, but I won't be controlled by anything.

Romans 14:21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.

Is there a Verse to Guide Believers in making Right Decisions?

The Eight Fold Test for Making Right Decisions

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.

1. Be Real (8) true True to God
2. Be Respectful (8) noble Honors God
3. Be Righteous (8) right Stay Right with God
4. Be Pure (8) pure Clean Thoughts
5. Be Pleasing (8) lovely Acceptable Behavior
6. Be Positive (8) admirable Brings Good Report
7. Be Virtuous (8) excellent Moral Goodness
8. Be Praisable (8) praiseworthy Commendable

CONC: Is Christ Lord in your Life?

Does it show in Your practical day to day life?
You're Decisions, Responses, Actions, Activities, Speech, Appearance...

Praise Team Takes The Platform