

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of February 11, 2024 A.D.

Jesus is Lord! Do You Know Him?

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Philippians 3:7-9

1. The word "sake" means "for the good and/or benefit of". Does Jesus expect every Christian to do and/or to say everything for Jesus' sake? (Consider 2 Cor. 5:10 and Matt. 12:36-37)
2. In your opinion, does the typical American Christian live for the sake of (a) Christ Jesus and His Kingdom? or (b) Something else?
3. Are you a follower of Christ Jesus? If Jesus were seated with you at this very moment, would Jesus agree with your response?
4. The word "surpassing" means "greatly exceeding others". In your opinion, what does Paul mean when he says, "surpassing greatness"? Is it sound biblical teaching for a person to say that "the priority of every Christian is to do everything for the sake, and for the glory, of Christ"?
5. Is knowing Christ Jesus the greatest pursuit in your life? If not, (a) what is the greatest pursuit in your life? and (b) what is the benefit that you expect to receive if and when you accomplish that pursuit? and (c) how long do you expect that benefit to last?

Read Mark 8:34-38

6. Please explain the meaning of the following phrases which are found in these verses: (a) come after Jesus; (b) must deny himself; (c) take up his cross; and (d) follow Jesus.

7. Refer to verse 35. Please explain why a person “will lose his life by wanting to save his life”. Please explain what it means for a person to “lose his life for Jesus and for the gospel”.
8. Refer to verses 36-38. When you stand in judgment before Christ, what evidence will you offer to support your claim that you were: (a) not ashamed of Jesus and (b) not ashamed of the words of Jesus? Do the words of Jesus which are written in verses 34-37 provide any guidance for how you hope to answer this question?

Read Philippians 3:7-9

9. Can any person receive eternal life without “knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”? Is there any worldly desire or accomplishment for which it is worth (a) rejecting the gift of eternal life which is offered by Christ Jesus the Lord and/or (b) suffering in hell?
10. Can you (or any person) receive and enjoy eternal life with Christ in the new heaven and the new earth (a) by living an absolutely sinless and righteous life in the present age? or (b) without receiving “the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith?

Read Colossians 3:1-4

11. Are these verses to be understood and applied literally or figuratively? Did Jesus literally (or figuratively): (a) live a sinless life? (b) become sin for all of mankind while He was on the cross? (c) pay the penalty for your sin by being separated from God while on the cross? (d) die physically as a man? (e) raise from the dead? and (f) ascend into heaven?
12. Have you died? Is your life now hidden with Christ in God? Is Christ your life? Would Jesus agree with your answers?

Consider: Is there more to the Christian life than attending a church service when it fits our mood, convenience, and/or personal schedule? Maybe - just maybe - the Christian life is knowing Jesus as our literal, actual, best friend forever, where we know Him intimately, talk with Him throughout the day, love what He loves, feel what He feels, experience His power and His presence, and desire more than anything to please Him - regardless of the cost. Maybe - just maybe - we have been missing the point all along. “You think about that.” Amen.