

Lord of the Dead and Living

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"Receive Him who is weak in the faith; but not to dispute doubtful situations. For one person believes that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, only eats vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat; and let not him who does not eat judge him who does eat: for God has received him. Who are you who judges Another's servant? To his own Lord he stands or falls. Yes, he shall be held up: for the Lord is able to make him stand. One man esteems one day above another: another esteems every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it unto the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, does not observe it for the Lord. He eats unto the Lord, for he gives God thanks. And he who does not eat, it is for the Lord that he does not eat, and he also gives God thanks. For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord. Whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and lived-again, so that He might be **Lord both of the Dead and Living**. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' (Isaiah 45:23) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Rom. 14:1-12)

Lord: from the Greek word *kyrieuse* which means: to be lord of, to be ruler over, have authority over something; (from *kýrios*, "lord")

Dead: from the Greek word *nekron* which means: a corpse, a dead body; dead; literally, "what lacks life" - In Context the dead in Christ Jesus - Christians who have physically died!

Living: from the Greek word *zonton* which means: to be alive, to be living, thus a living person. In Context the living in Christ Jesus – Christians who are physically still alive!

The context of this title of Jesus, the **Lord of the Dead and Living**, is found within a long discussion that Paul addresses concerning the need to equally love and accept all believers, both Gentile and Jew, and to cease from the judgmental back and forth attitudes and behavior over "doubtful situations" such as dietary prohibitions, and observations of special days, verses the New Covenant freedoms from certain Old Covenant observational laws. (read Romans 13:8 to 15:13), (optional reading from Acts chapters 10 & 11:1-18; and 15:1-32 will provide additional insight)

It was very difficult for Jewish believers to abandon certain of their Old Covenant customs. And it was equally difficult for Gentile believers to embrace the whole yoke of the Old Covenant laws and customs. Since both Gentile and Jewish Christians fellowshiped together certain "doubtful situations" were causing judgmental attitude problems amongst themselves.

Addressing the situation Paul wrote, "For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord. Therefore, whether we live, or die, we are the Lord's." Consider these verses:

"And being found in fashion as a man, He (Jesus) humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and those under the earth; And that every tongue **should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father." (Phill. 2:8-11)

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Thus Paul wrote, "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and lived-again, so that **He** might be **Lord both of the Dead and Living**." A mere man might be lord over other living persons; but that same man, nor any other mortal man, can ever be lord over the dead. Only God can be Lord over the dead and the living.

Paul is saying that salvation is not based upon whether a devout believer has lived and died while observing or not observing the whole Old Covenant Law; Jesus is still Lord of both the living and deceased believers: Jews and Gentiles!

Consider also these passages fro God's Word:

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, 'Truly I understand that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he who fears Him, and works righteousness, is accepted by Him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ; for **He is Lord of all**; that word you know, which was preached throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they hanged on a tree and killed. And God raised Him up the third day, and showed Him openly; but not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with Him after He rose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained of God to be the Judge of the Living and the Dead. To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name '**whoever**' believes in Him shall receive remission of sins.'" (Acts 10:34-43)

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep (dead in Christ), that you do not sorrow, as others do who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, those also who sleep in Jesus, God will bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we who **are alive** and remain until the coming of the Lord shall not precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the Dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we who are **alive** and remain shall be caught up **together** with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." (Thessalonians 4:13-18)

JESUS is ...

the Lord of the Dead and Living

He is Lord of All people who have put their faith in Jesus!

He is lord of the weak and the strong in faith!

He is Lord of those of us who are currently alive and abiding in Him!

He is Lord of all those believers throughout the past ages who have died in Christ!

And all these shall be caught up into Paradise with our Lord Jesus – forever!

Thank you Jesus for this blessed assurance
and comfort that we have in You as both our Lord and Savior!
Amen! Come quickly Lord Jesus!