

ABATT
Professors Only
Christian Life Assembly
Jim Hoffman

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Can we have Jesus as our Savior
without also having Him as
Lord?

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Raise your hand if there is someone in
your life who made a profession of faith,
but shows little to no signs of being saved?

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- I know all of the feelings that come with having a “professor” in your life.
- We consider having a “sit down”, a “heart to heart” where we tell them what we see.
- We try to coerce them into sitting under the word, and we re-commit to praying for them.

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- We play out the scenarios in our minds of how we will feel if they are suddenly taken out of this life.
- There are lots of things we want to do, maybe nothing we wouldn't try if we knew a new effort would work.
- It's scary, it's nerve wracking, and can be very frustrating.

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- We pray, we work, we try to maneuver conversations into spiritual territory, seemingly all to no avail.
- We just don't understand how someone who has supposedly been saved can be so uninterested in the One who saved them.
- And we wonder – are they saved?

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- A cautionary note – do not make it harder than God does to be a Christian, and do not judge too quickly.
- Growth takes time, do not expect perfection, but do look for signs of life.



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We will start today by debating something that has never been fully settled in the church and will probably split us 50/50.
☺



Can we have Jesus as our Savior without also having Him as Lord?

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Since some of us believe that we can have Jesus as Savior without making Him Lord, give me a reason why someone would NOT want Him to be Lord?

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- It would seem like a very simple and sound strategy for any believer who wants to please God to live in obedience to Him. (Lord)
- If we obey Him, we will have nothing to fear when we face Him – our problem is that we are not all that good at obeying Him.
- If the Apostle Paul calls himself a wretch, what name would be a good one to call us? 😊

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It is not my intention to undermine the faith of anyone today – the very fact that you are faithful to a serious bible class speaks volumes about you.

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- If you meet Jesus at the Bema Seat, you are in heaven The Bema Seat is about rewards for faithful service.
- The only role of sin at the Bema will be its role in keeping us from fulfilling the work we were given.
- I find it to be a very healthy spiritual exercise not to think of myself more highly than I ought to and I frequently call myself a wretch and worse! 😊

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I want to say that I never doubt my salvation anymore, but I do question why God would save me?

Any serious person, when assessing our own merit, would have the same question.

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Evidences of Salvation

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- 1st John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, **if we keep His commandments**. NASB
- 1st John 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: **anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God**, NASB
- 1st John 3:14 **We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren**. NASB

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- John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, **so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.** NASB
- Matt 7:17 So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 **So then, you will know them by their fruits.** NASB

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- Gal 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

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- John 14:15 **If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.** NASB
- The Greek word for “love” in John 14:15 is “agape” – that is the highest form of love, the love that God has for us.
- One of the primary meanings of “agape” is – “to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing”.

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- It is obvious to me some are not content with Jesus, and yet they plan to spend eternity with Him – does that not seem odd?
- In a way the “professor” is saying, “Look, Jesus, you are the only way for me to avoid hell so since you are my only choice, I choose you.” ☹
- If He is not “good enough” to be Lord now, isn’t it just weird that the “professor” will reluctantly “settle” for Him in eternity? Does that even make any sense?

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- Is this not a mindset that says, “in all honesty I really don’t want to go to heaven, but since the choice is binary, I will take heaven”?
- Sort of like, “If only there were some “in between” place where I would not have to give up my sin I would choose that”.
- Do you see the problem here?

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- A horrifying as it sounds that our mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, or grandchild, may not be in heaven with us I assure you that you would not want to spend eternity with someone who does not love God.
- If a single sinner were to enter heaven, no matter what you think now, you would bemoan their entry because then God is a liar and we have no savior!

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<p>No one who wants to be saved will ever be lost.</p>	<p>What about the one who does not want to be saved? God saves no one against their will.</p>
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- Now let me go in another direction; Ephesians 2 – “we are saved by grace through faith and not by works.”
- Romans 10:9 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. NASB

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- Sometimes it seems as though the writers of the Bible contradict each other – what do we do with that?
- On the one hand it seems clear as day – we believe on Christ and we are saved. Ephesians 2:8-9 even isolates works and excludes them from the equation.
- On the other hand, John tells us in no uncertain terms that we must “keep”, strive to obey, His commandments. (that sounds like works to me)

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So how are we to reconcile what Paul says in Ephesians and Romans with what John says in his epistles?

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If you are, you will.

If you are saved, you will love God and have the requisite desire to obey Him.

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Prayer
Bible Time
Worship
Service
Fellowship

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- 1st John 2:3 **By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.** 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; NASB
- We've examined this before and concluded that since the word "keep" here means "to guard with your eye" that this text is not about the perfection of your faith, but about the direction or your faith. 28

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What to do with "Professors"?

- Pray for them as though they are unsaved.
- Interact with them as though they are saved.
- Give them the benefit of the doubt, the Holy Spirit will not. 😊

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Questions

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