



## The Lamb. The Lord. - April 2022

I have, from time to time, heard the expression used in church, "Make Jesus the Lord of your life." The thrust of this phrase is a call to acknowledge that, when we come in faith to Jesus, our lives are no longer our own. We don't call the shots anymore. Now, Jesus does. There is certainly some truth to that. And, I'm sure, it is a needed reminder as Christians continue to fight against the "old man", the sinful man. There is, I think, a hidden assumption being that phrase. If you and I are to make Jesus Lord of our lives, it assumes he is not Lord. Further, there must be a lord in our lives already — and we erroneously conclude *we are the masters of our fate and the captains of our souls*. There is a man centeredness, and inward bent that is sometimes revealed even in our repentance. "I will make Jesus Lord!"

After the resurrection, the disciples of Jesus had no such illusions. We don't read anything like that phrase "Make Jesus the Lord of your life" in the New Testament. Those disciples would go about proclaiming, "Jesus *IS* Lord." And he is the origin and the end of all creation, or as St. Paul says, "from him, and through him, and to him are all things. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen."

The Book of Revelation is for many a mystifying or terrifying piece of literature. Part of the Bible for which we have either fear or an obsession. How either is from what St. John intended when he wrote it. The title of the book itself (coming from its first line) should play our concerns about its content. It was not intended to confuse believers, but to reveal. Rather than cause concern, it should bring hope. If there is one overarching message of the Book of Revelation it is that Jesus is Lord. The Lamb who was slain has risen victorious and he reigns. By God's grace may we be a people who

acknowledge that Jesus is Lord & the Lamb has overcome. And may we find in those twin truths comfort and peace.

Why does it matter that Jesus, the Lord of all creation, is the Lamb who was slain?

What does it mean to be Lord?

What does the Lordship of Jesus mean *for you*?

How will you *live into* the Lordship of Jesus in the days to come?

