



Friday, August 15, 1997

Subject: Lordship of Christ

Dear Dr. Ryrie: Can Jesus be one's Savior if He is not also one's Lord? In other words, having once truly believed, does a changed life of repentance inevitably follow, or is such a change only for those Christians who, in addition to trusting Christ, have yielded their hearts? --Bill A.

Dear Bill: I'm afraid that in far too many instances the Lord Jesus is Savior but not Lord of the years of one's life. Of course, He is Lord in the sense of God, Sovereign, Ruler whether anyone acknowledges that or not. But to be the Lord of my life does require me to surrender to His mastery. And even if we do acknowledge that lordship, we can have times of rebellion as well as times of bearing fruit. At Ephesus, there were believers (Acts 19:18) who for some time continued to practice magical arts and keep books of magic in their homes (v. 19). They were believers, but for up to two years, some had not given up their use of those heathen practices. Nevertheless, every Christian will bear some fruit even if he or she is not yielded.

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