

Voices in the wilderness turning the repentant to the Lordship of Jesus

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Attached you'll find Spot On #18, *Revolving Around Jesus's Rule Of You Means He's LORD OF ALL You Are!* In most corners of Christianity the biblical mandate of the Lordship of Jesus in a believer's life is a hugely unrecognized truth. Theologians as well as religious leaders have differed with and contradicted each other for centuries over when the Lordship of Jesus begins for a Christian as well as what role His Lordship should play in a Christian's way of life. As you'll see in this Spot On, if **anti-Semitism** and **reversionism** hadn't dominated theology over the centuries by eliminating the Hebraic foundations, the Lordship of Jesus which is the core to belonging to Him would be the way of life of everyone who claims they belong to Him.

Mike's journey from "Lordship-committed" to "religiously-mired" back to "Lordship-committed."

My initial reading of the Bible in 1976 at age 30 was greatly influenced by my wartime experience as a Navy helicopter combat support pilot. In May of 1969 I began Navy flight training. My first roommate, George, had been a radar intercept officer for 3 deployments in the back seat of F-4 Phantom jets in Vietnam. Now the Navy had allowed him to reenter flight training to be a pilot. After our introduction George spoke firmly to me as a novice student. "Mike, the essence of flying is flying. Ground school helps, but it's what you do in the cockpit that makes you a great pilot."



Even as a spiritual infant in 1977 when I (and Sue) became followers of our Lord Jesus, I realized that following Jesus as Lord was living a way of life that serves Him and authenticates our loving trust in Him. It's the essence of flying all over again – it was what I did with my life in obedience to Him that really mattered! This relationship of love-grounded obedient trust in Jesus as our Lord met Sue's heart too, and this has been the foundation to our faith walk. For us the essence of belonging to our Lord *and* serving Him by grace is, "***In this world we are like Jesus***" (1John 4:17).

While attending seminary (1978-1982) we became religiously-mired – actively doing our part in various congregations to keep the religious system running smoothly. But after returning from Israel in 1994 with the Hebraic foundations and earnestly seeking a Hebraic understanding of Scripture, we were delightedly restored to being "Lordship committed" again. As we wrote in Spot On #17, having lived by the Hebraic foundations for almost 30 years, we view *the way of our Lord* as akin to the relationship our Hebrew forefather Abraham had with God – actions that flowed from obedient trust. The Hebraic foundations start with the simplicity of Abraham's trust in God. For the Lordship-committed, it's our simple resolute trust in our Lord Jesus and reliance on His indwelling Spirit that enables us to do our part in extending His Kingdom on earth. Keep in mind that everyone who is Lordship-committed is on the front lines against Satan's hordes in freeing those he holds captive. It's our cooperative quest with others who are Lordship committed to extend the Kingdom and bring glory to our Father.

Flee being "religiously-mired" to being "Lordship-committed."

To make this transition from being religiously-mired through anti-Semitic theology and revisionism to being Lordship-committed in love-grounded obedient trust, you must internalize what being **born again** entails from a Hebraic perspective. Two hundred years before the coming of Jesus, the Spirit revealed to the Hebraic stream of Judaism their need to be born from above. Unlike the Judaizing stream who kept God's laws without relating to Him in trust, the Hebraic stream related to God in trust-based obedience as did their Hebrew ancestor, Abraham. The Hebraic Stream sought to live with the same trust-filled relationship of responsive obedience that Abraham had with God. We who by our trust in Jesus as Lord of our lives are children of Abraham (see Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:7; James 2:20-23) must live likewise! From a Hebraic perspective, being **"born from above"** was a shift from following the letter of the law and manmade religious traditions to daily choosing to live as loving and obedient servants of our Lord Jesus – to "be Jesus" in the world.

Our Lord Jesus endorsed the escape from reliance on religious practice and ceremony when He instructed certain inquirers,

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins" (Mark 2:21,22).

No one can rely on religious form and ritual, and then add wholehearted trust in Jesus as their Lord and patch these together. Neither can they pour their old reliance on religious form and ritual onto a singularly focused yearning and intent to live and serve Jesus as their only beloved LORD.

From the perspective of the new Covenant and new life in Christ, being born again is the point at which you shift from being religiously-mired to putting your full trust and reliance in Jesus as your LORD — the LORD Who by His indwelling Spirit personally guides and empowers your daily life to become more like Him.

We have been living Lordship-committed for the past 30 years and have deep concern about many of the religiously-mired and their eternal destination. We are convinced that living Lordship-committed in loving and obedient trust is the best way to confirm your status in our Lord's view of you. The Spirit of Christ in His own is what enables us to be Him in the world. As it was with our Lord Jesus (John 4:34; 6:38), we are committed by His grace to do our Father's will (Matthew 7:21; 12:50) until we leave this earth for Home.

Mike & Sue