

Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 9th September 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.

**This morning - "Who is Jesus?"
#2 of 5 He is Lord**

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Who is Jesus?

- This is the most vital and important question that we could ask today
- Why?
 - Because of his huge impact on history (the West, the Calendar)
 - Because you haven't got an answer to Life if you haven't got an answer regarding him
 - Because Christianity IS Jesus Christ (rather than church, morality, culture)
 - Because God says that your life here and hereafter is pinned exactly on the relationship you have with Jesus
- *N.B. this is brought to you by a believer in Jesus Christ trying to persuade you with good reasoning*

Who is Jesus?

- 1. a real historical person
- 2. an obscure person
- 3. a superb Teacher
- 4. a miracle worker
- 5. a radical interpreter of "Judaism"
- 6. a man of colossal personal authority
- ==> not less than these, but more still - his death!
 - We only begin to get the full answer when we can stand with Thomas at the end of John's gospel ...
- [Doubting] Thomas "My Lord and my God" -

Who is Jesus - 1 answer - "He is Lord"

- 1. Is this a correct reading of Christianity?
- 2. What does it mean?
- 3. Why should we believe it?
- 4. What challenge and promise does it bring us?



1. Is this a correct reading of Christianity?

- i.e. Did the first Christians make any sort of point of this? Better - did Jesus?
- N.B.
 - Old Testament is in Hebrew, New Testament is in Greek
 - Lord in Greek is Kyrios x745 in NT
 - At one end of spectrum it means "Sir" e.g. Matt 27:63 Pharisees to Pilate ... sir secure the tomb
 - Other end ... Lord translates God's Hebrew name
 - God = "El", "I am" = "Yahweh" - translated LORD in English, Kyrios in Greek
 - i.e. when the Bible says "Lord" how big is the meaning?

1. Is this a correct reading of Christianity?

- i.e. Did the first Christians make any sort of point of this? Better - did Jesus?
- Christians
 - *"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" ... one blessing from 2 persons together*
 - Paul: *"the word of faith we are proclaiming that if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved ... everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" Romans 10:9 [here Lord=LORD]*
 - 1 Corinthians 8:5 [... many idols ...] *there is one God the Father from whom all things came and for whom we live, and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ through whom all things came and through whom we live*
 - ==> intuitively natural to refer to Jesus as Lord and envisage his Lordship as bound up in the very name of God

1. Is this a correct reading of Christianity?

- i.e. Did the first Christians make any sort of point of this? Better - did Jesus?
- Jesus
 - *"Why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do the things that I say ... who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice ... " Luke 6:46*
 - *"The son of man is Lord of the Sabbath" Matt 12:8*
 - The son of David is David's Lord (from Psalm 110)
 - ==> Jesus had no problem with his own Lordship and acted as such without effort or embarrassment
 - ==> YES - this is a correct and a crucial understanding of Jesus

2. "He is Lord" What does it mean?

- WARNING - Lordship is dangerous and subversive vocabulary
 - First century
 - A. Roman coinage particularly of Augustus Caesar (27 B.C. to 14 A.D.) is inscribed "Caesar Divi F," which is the abbreviation of the Latin "Caesar Divi Filius" or "Son of the Divine [Julius] Caesar. 1. If Julius Caesar was divine and Augustus was his adopted son, Augustus then was the "Son of god."
 - "Caesar is Lord"
 - ==> Jesus' claims today are no less far-reaching
- On the surface of the gospels - Authority ... which moves toward total authority
 - To teach people God
 - Over sickness and disease
 - To forgive sins
 - Over the Evil one
 - Over creation ("the forces of Nature")
 - Over death
 - ==> either a presumptuous rival to the LORD God, or the exact expression of him
 - Over people ... to call them and change them

3. "He is Lord" Why should we believe it?

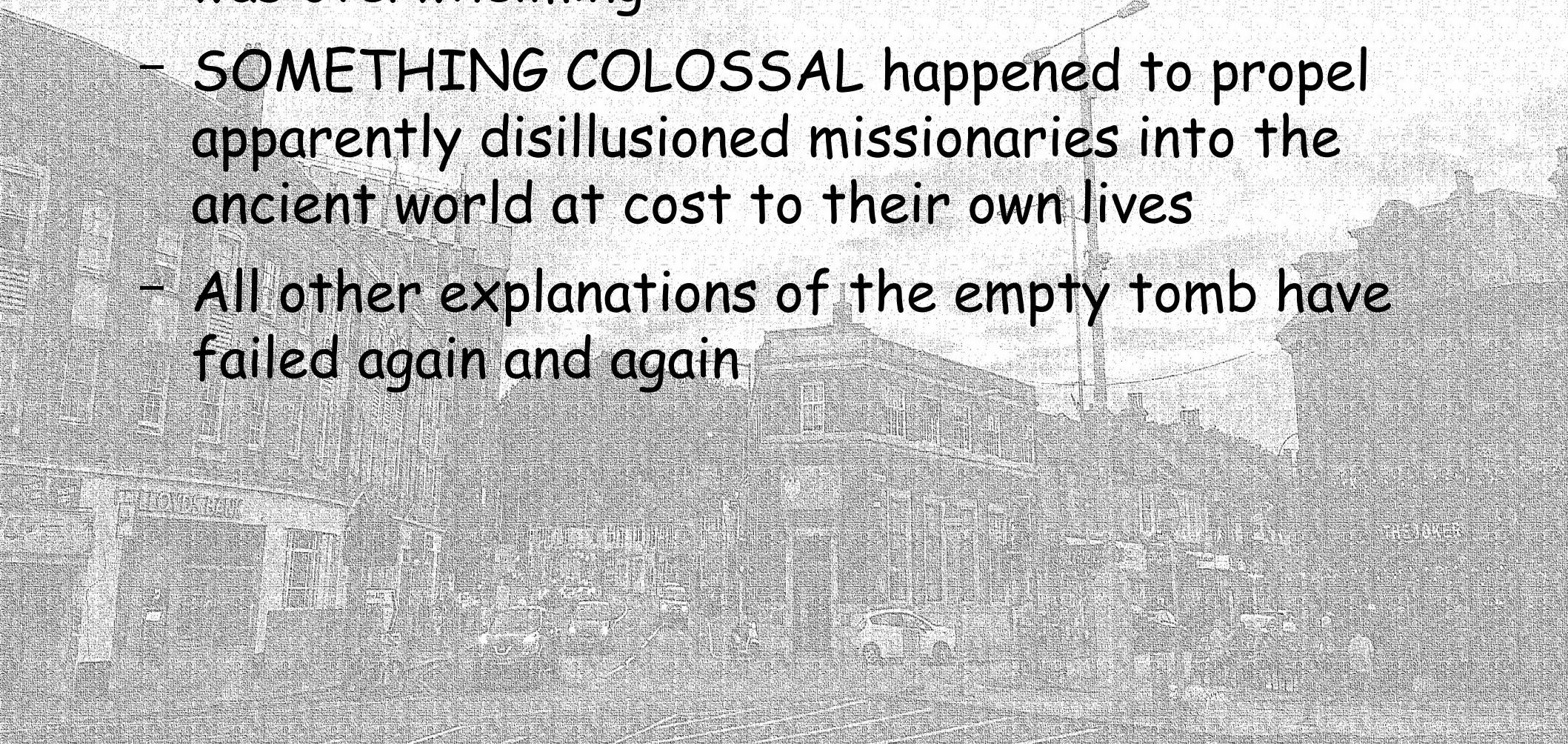
- Obviously Jesus did many acts of power and authority
- Crucially his resurrection from the dead
 - To be dead and in the grave is to fail to have power and still be in the realm of death and sin
 - To claim future glory and to remain dead is to be proved a liar
 - BUT to claim future glory and for God to endorse that claim is a demonstration of supreme power
 - ==> his resurrection is not simply a random act, but a statement with meaning and effectiveness
 - "all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore ..."

3. "He is Lord" Why should we believe it?

- *"through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead" Romans 1:4*
- *"death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" Philippians 2:9-11*
- *[resurrection] Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ" Acts 2:36*
 - Resurrection brings Jesus into a new phase of his work i.e. reigning rather than suffering
 - Resurrection demonstrates who he is as a ringing endorsement from God
 - e.g. Queen Elizabeth's coronation 2nd June 1953, her father died 6th Feb 1952

3. "He is Lord" Why should we believe it?

- Footnote: can we believe the resurrection??
 - The disciples did not expect this
 - They only came to believe it because the evidence was overwhelming
 - SOMETHING COLOSSAL happened to propel apparently disillusioned missionaries into the ancient world at cost to their own lives
 - All other explanations of the empty tomb have failed again and again



4. "He is Lord" What challenge and promise does it bring us?

- 1. **Divine Worshipping obedience** is the only adequate response to his magnitude
- 2. It applies to **everyone** - Jesus is Lord of ALL, he commands all people everywhere to repent
- 3. It is of the essence of becoming a **Christian**. The Jesus who has authority to forgive sins claims total authority over the lives of his followers
 - "No Lord" is a contradiction
 - If he is not Lord of all, then he is not Lord at all
 - ==> take my all is a daily prayer
- 4. **Comfort**: He is Lord over all things for his people
 - Over the "givens" in your life
 - Your nationality, your family, gender, genetic make up
 - Over the things that come into your life
 - Success, failure, encouragement, opposition, suffering, loss
 - Promise: nothing comes without the Lord, and from his love
 - Prayer, Promise: "Jesus you are Lord, make me your servant"