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THE 444

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RESPONSE # 10:

The Christ in Paul's (disputed) letters; Christ phrases in Paul.

As I look at some of the narratives of this text, the Apostle Paul, in all instances, his intentions were always an attitude of honor and exaltation, when writing and mentioning Christ and Jesus. The subject of inversion (reversal of order) or considering the name Christ Jesus as an appellative (referring to a common noun), is to almost trivialize the awesomeness of the name or phrase, Christ and Jesus. This I say not because of the Apostle Paul, but because of the different Scholars that seem to micro-manage the name, converting it into a study of levels of simplification.

Dahl like other scholarly theologians or interpreters has several points of view, they differentiate Jesus from Christ; in that, Christ is considered to them to be a class or an office. The thought to separate the names and to consider that Jesus, the human, may not be the Christ or the class and therefore is nonconnotative; is overindulgence. In the text of Romans 10:9, shows a clear confession by Paul, that Jesus is Lord and cannot be disputed that Jesus is the Christ. This verse in Chapter 10 of the Book of Romans is extremely foundational, to solidify, not only the Lord of Lordship of Jesus but also the revealed Messiah.

Dahl on another note, seems to try to develop a form of theology for some readers to think about and analyze. The question in Dahl's observation is that he says Paul does not say the word, The Christ of God or the Lord's Christ. In my opinion, this observation is an over-

interpretation of an expression and context, that has been made clear many times over in the exegesis of the many narratives about Christ, Jesus, Lord, and Messiah. There is no reason for thinking that the Apostle Paul not using the specific words, the Christ of God or the Lord's Christ or other uses of this formula, renders Paul's expression about Jesus, nonmessianic.