

**THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST
IN THE LIFE AND FAITH OF CHRISTIANS
IN A BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNSHIP:
A MISSIOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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*Basadi ba ba lokilego ke ba bantši,
Eupša, ga go na yo a swanago le wena.*

(n.a.v. Spreuke 31:29)

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate to what extent the Lordship of Christ is a reality in the life and faith of Christians in the South African township of Soshanguve, north-west of Pretoria. The study is based on empirical research conducted in Soshanguve between 1996 and 1999, among members of the following three denominations: the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Zion Christian Church, and a group of Pentecostal and charismatic churches.

During the first phase the research had a predominantly quantitative nature (survey research). The second phase involved a qualitative research (in depth-interviews, analysis of written documents and sermons).

After an introductory chapter and a chapter giving the necessary background, chapter 3 describes the survey research, and chapters 4 to 6 examine the Lordship of Christ as it functions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Zion Christian Church and the Pentecostal/charismatic churches respectively.

This research shows that in the faith of many church members the Lordship of Jesus Christ is a vague notion. It is accepted that Jesus Christ has died for our sins in the past, but it is less clear what He is doing presently. The living Christ is a remote figure in the faith of the majority of church members. The gap which is left, is filled by the laws of the church and/or the leadership of the church.

Chapter 7 gives an analysis of the results. It appears that several backgrounds have to be taken into account: (1) the influence of African traditional religion, (2) the influence of Western secularism, (3) the influence of specific doctrinal tenets of the given denomination.

Chapter 8 offers a Biblical perspective on aspects which have to be dealt with in order to strengthen the notion of the Lordship of Christ in the life and faith of Christians. These are: the concept of God, the concept of salvation, the person of Christ, the Lordship of Christ over the life of the individual believer, and the Lordship of Christ over the world.

Key terms:

Christology, Lordship of Christ, Christianity in Africa, Township Christianity, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, Zion Christian Church, Pentecostal Churches in southern Africa

OPSOMMING

Die doel van hierdie studie is om ondersoek te doen na die mate waarin die koningskap van Christus 'n realiteit is in die lewe en geloof van christene in Soshanguve, 'n stedelike gebied noordwes van Pretoria. Die studie is gegrond op empiriese ondersoek wat tussen 1996 en 1999 in Soshanguve gedoen is onder lidmate van die volgende drie denominasies: die Evangelies Lutherse Kerk, die Zion Christian Church, en 'n groep Pinkster- en charismatiese kerke. Gedurende die eerste fase het die ondersoek veral 'n kwantitatiewe aard gehad ('survey research'). In die volgende fase was dit 'n meer kwalitatiewe ondersoek (in diepte-onderhoude, analise van geskrewe dokumente en preke).

Na 'n inleidende hoofstuk en 'n hoofstuk wat noodsaaklike inligting verskaf oor Soshanguve en oor die betrokke denominasies, beskryf hoofstuk 3 die eerste fase van die ondersoek. Daarna beskryf hoofstukke 4 tot 6 die manier waarop die koningskap van Christus funksioneer in die Lutherse kerk, die Zion Christian Church en Pinkster- / charismatiese kerke respektiewelik. Hierdie ondersoek toon aan dat in die geloof van baie lidmate die koningskap van Jesus Christus 'n vae betekenis het. Dit word algemeen aanvaar dat Jesus in die verlede vir ons sondes gesterf het, maar wat Hy vandag doen is minder duidelik. In die geloof van die meerderheid lidmate is die lewende Christus 'n ver verwyderde figuur. Die kloof wat daardeur ontstaan, word gevul deur die wette en/of die leierskap van die betrokke kerk.

Hoofstuk 7 bied 'n analise van die resultate. Dit blyk dat verskillende agtergronde in aanmerking geneem moet word: (1) die invloed van die tradisionele Afrika-religie, (2) die invloed van Westerse sekularisme, (3) die invloed van spesifieke dogmatiese leerstukke van die betrokke denominasie.

Hoofstuk 8 bied 'n Bybelse perspektief op aspekte wat in ag geneem moet word om die koningskap van Christus in die lewe en geloof van christene te versterk. Hierdie aspekte is: die konsep van God, die konsep van verlossing, die persoon van Christus, die koningskap van Christus in die lewe van die individuele gelowige, en sy heerskappy oor die wêreld.

Trefwoorde:

Christologie, koningskap van Christus, Christendom in Afrika, 'Township christianity', Evangelies-Lutherse Kerk in Suidelike Afrika, Zion Christian Church, Pinksterkerke in suidelike Afrika

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