

The Confession of Our Faith

Matthew 10:32-33

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:32-39

Introduction

1. **In the Plan of Salvation we normally attach 5 steps needed in order to be saved. I like to say there are really 6.**
 - A. **These are Hearing, Believing, Repenting, Confessing, and Being Baptized. I add and Live Faithful unto Death (Rev 2:10).**
2. **There is a lot of teaching on baptism and living faithful. There is some teaching on hearing, believing and repenting. But often times the area of confession is quickly skimmed over.**
3. **There is the Confession of Faith and the Confession of Sins.**
 - A. **Knowing that we have sinned (Rom 3:23), we are told that we are to Confess our sins as it says in the Bible:**

James 5:16 **Confess your trespasses to one another**, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

I Jn 1:9-10 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- B. **When we can Confess our sins, then we are also able to Confess our faith in Jesus Christ.**
- C. **But we are not going to be dealing with this area of Confession in regards to our sins in this lesson, but rather the Confession of our faith in Christ.**

Matthew 10:32-38

4. Therefore, let's look this morning at the area of our Confession of our faith in Christ Jesus. This is necessary in order for us to obtain eternal salvation.

A. Often there are times when people Confess with their lips, but their heart is not attached to that confession.

Matt 15:8 These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

B. We know that the heart plays a vital role in our confession because that is what Philip addressed to the Ethiopian Eunuch.

Acts 8:36-37 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, **"If you believe with all your heart,** you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

1) To Confess Christ as we should, we need to have a clear understanding of what Confession is:

5. Confession:

- A. **“To Declare”; “Make No Secret of”; “To Tell the Whole Story of”** (Psalms 38:18; Ezek 12:16)
- B. **“Make Mention Of”; “Boast In”** (Isaiah 48:1)
- C. **“Acknowledge”** (1 John 2:23)
- D. **“Profession, without Controversy”; “Beyond all Question”** (1 Tim 3:16)
- E. **“The Religion WE Profess”** (Heb 3:1; 4:14)
 - 1) **The “Confession of Faith” is a public acknowledgment of fidelity to God, and to the truth through which God is revealed**
1 Kings 8:33
 - 2) **“Confession of Faith” is a declaration of unqualified confidence in Christ, of surrender to His service (Matt 10:32)! *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1992, Volume 1, Page 759***
Matthew 10:32-33
 - ☺ **We being here this morning is a Confession of Jesus.**
 - ☺☺ **It is evident by our daily walk**
Matthew 5:16

Confess Jesus Before Men

1. **Jesus said that we should be willing to confess Him before men. Yet some are afraid to confess Him. WHY?**

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, **lest they should be put out of the synagogue**; for **they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God**.

2. **We shouldn't be afraid to change our life and Confess Jesus.**

- A. **We show this by our actions.**

Ephesians:

Acts 19:18-19 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

3. **Why then is it so important for us to want to Confess Jesus Christ?**

- A. **Because our salvation depends on it!**

Rom 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved**. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **confession is made unto salvation**.

Hold Fast to Our Confession of Christ

1. The apostle Paul tells Timothy and us today:

1 Tim 6:11-14 But you, O man of God, flee these things and *pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness*. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and **have confessed the good confession** in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus **who witnessed the good confession** before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

A. Paul was referring to our supreme example when Jesus confessed who He was before Pilate.

1. Jesus held fast!
John 18:35-37

a) Truth: (John 14:6) (“I am the way, the truth...”)

2. As Jesus was not afraid to Confess who He was, we should not be afraid to Confess Him just as surely before our fellow man today!

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession.**

Hebrews 10:19-25

3. Sadly, there are many that will not Confess Christ before men!

A. Again, this is evident by actions of life

Titus 1:16 They **profess to know God**, but **in works they deny Him**, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Confess Me Now or Confess Me Later!

**1. Remember the old TV slogan advertising Quaker State Motor Oil?
(Pay me now or pay me later)**

2. Paul writes:

Rom 14:10-12 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ**. For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, **every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.**" So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Phil 2:10-11 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

If We Confess Christ - He Will Confess Us!

1. We can rest assured in what Jesus has told us that this is true!

Matt 10:32 Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him **I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.**

Rev 3:5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but **I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

If We Deny Christ - He Will Deny Us!

1. **The same promise that says he will confess us if we confess Him also says in the next verse that He WILL deny us if we Deny Him!**

Matt 10:33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

2 Tim 2:11-12 This is a **faithful saying**: for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. **If we deny Him, he also will deny us.**

2. **We are making our confession before men every single day of our life.**

- A. **What Confession are we making?**

- 1) **Confession with ALL of our Heart? If not, our confession is a confession of DENIAL!! (Just like the Pharisees)**

Our talk talks, and our walk talks, but our walk talks more than our talk talks!

Invitation

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 Richard Thetford, March 2004 (Re-accomplished from 1996 sermon – February 2007)