

CONFESSION ROM. 10:9-10

The purpose of gospel preaching is to enable and encourage people to accept the grace of God. Preachers and teachers of the Lord's church have placed great emphasis upon the conditions by which one accepts God's grace. When the plan of salvation for the Christian Age is viewed in light of the individual's response to the Gospel, there are five progressive steps that take one to salvation in Christ. Confession is one of those steps. When the plan of salvation is seen in terms of a Christian's continued response to Christ, confession is again a part of God's righteous response of faith.

This is an important Bible subject, therefore it should hold tremendous interest for all who are interested in going to heaven. The purpose of this lesson is to help each of us to better understand the meaning, significance, and the obligations of the "good confession."

I. What is Confession?

A. Definition.

1. Confess comes from a compound Greek word which means to "speak the same thing."
2. It carries the primary meaning of "to same the same thing, thus to agree."
3. Before N.T. times **homologeō** had a strong association with legal proceedings and the world of commerce.
 - a. Law courts with their emphasis on testimony require agreement with the words of others to confirm the truth.
 - b. The business arena required contractual agreement to the words of various proposed transactions.
 - c. In courts and in commerce, people must be able to agree on the same things, else law and business cannot function successfully.
4. Om the N.T., the word applied usually to two basic considerations, confession of sin and confession of faith (James 5:16; I John 1:9; Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9,10; I Tim. 6:12).
5. A notable exception to these broad categories is Phil. 2:11, where all will one day confess or agree to the sovereign rule of Jesus as Lord of all creation. This confession, however, will be too late for those who did not make a biblical confession of faith in this life (2 Cor. 5:10).
6. The confession that Jesus made before Pilate is the same confession that Timothy made before many witnesses (I Tim. 6:12,13).
7. The good confession is an oral (verbal) statement before God and man of Christ's divinity.
8. Jesus said he was the Son of God and we speak the same thing.
9. Another word used means "to speak out the same thing."
 - a. Acts 19:81
 - b. Romans 14:11

II. What Should We Confess?

- A. The thing to be confessed, when obeying the gospel, is not the specification of your sins, but the Sonship of Jesus that made him Deity, and thus, worthy to be our Lord.
 1. It is a verbalization of that which we believe.
 2. Acts 8:37—simple as it can be stated!
- B. In the process of obeying the things necessary for salvation, one must believe before confessing.
 1. Romans 10:9,10
 2. "Were a man to make the confession with the mouth before he believed with the heart, it would be a downright falsehood, for he would thereby say he believed what he did not believe!" [T.W. Brents, Gospel Plan of Salvation]
 3. To believe, and then to refuse to confess that faith, is to bring to a halt one's advancement toward salvation (John 12:42).
 4. When the sinner is ready to confess Christ, he must agree with Christ, or "say the same thing"

as Christ, if he is to have any hope of salvation.

- C. Matthew 16:16
 - 1. Matthew 10:32f
 - 2. I John 4:15
 - D. When we confess that we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, we are putting practical application to that which we have given mental assent.
 - 1. When one publicly states his beliefs, he declares to others that for which he stands.
 - 2. He then must be prepared to accept the consequences.
 - 3. In the early years of the church, Christians were called to either renounce Christ or lose property, family and life.
 - 4. A person who refused to offer incense and declare sole loyalty to the emperor was subject to criminal persecution.
 - 5. In the Greek, there is only a slight difference in saying, “Lord Caesar” and “Lord Christ.” If one mumbled, he might get by.
 - 6. However, the pinch of incense to Caesar’s image was the open declaration.
 - 7. Christian could only say “Lord Christ” and suffer consequences.
 - 8. The KJV makes a point in I Tim. 6:12 by translating **homologeō** as “profession.”
 - a. The agreement that an alien sinner makes with Christ before becoming a Christian is an agreement to live a life with Jesus as one who will be dedicated to saying the same things that Jesus did.
 - b. Such a person makes a profession out of his confession.
 - 9. What about us today?
 - a. When friends ridicule Christian behavior, do we find it easy to say nothing?
 - b. Do we have the courage to declare our convictions?
 - c. When pure moral standards are declared old-fashioned, out-of-step with society today, will I assert my Christian faith, and declare my intent to follow Christ in righteousness?
 - E. Seven Remarkable Confessions of Faith in Christ.
 - 1. Matt. 16:16– Peter
 - 2. John 1:49– Nathanael
 - 3. John 4:29– Woman of Samaria
 - 4. John 6:69– Peter’s Second Confession
 - 5. John 11:27–Martha
 - 6. John 20:28– Thomas
 - 7. Acts 8:37– The Ethiopian Eunuch
- III. Significance of Confession.
- A. Jesus acknowledged by God and man.
 - 1. Matt. 3:17
 - 2. Matt. 17:5
 - B. Cost Jesus His Life
 - 1. Matt. 26:63
 - 2. John 18:37; 19:7
 - C. The church of our Lord has as its foundation “the good confession.”
 - 1. Matt. 16:13-18
 - 2. I Cor. 3:11
 - D. The final evidence for making the confession is based upon the truth of Christ’s resurrection (Rom. 1:4).
 - E. Is essential to salvation–Romans 10:9,10; Acts 8:37
 - F. Is that which brings blessings – Matt. 10:33
- IV. Obligations of Confession.
- A. Confession is a way of life.

1. To say that the good confession was meant to be made continually is not entirely correct. One is to make the confession and then live what he/she confessed.
2. There are obligations imposed in the making of this great and good confession.
 - a. I Tim. 6:12—fight the good fight.
 - b. Heb. 10:23—hold fast that confession.
3. We see the hypocrisy of a confession which is contradicted by a reprobate lifestyle (Titus 1:16)
4. When we confess Christ, we put our trust completely in Him.
 - a. Rom. 14:11
 - b. Philippians 2:11

Con: Since we have made a public statement of our belief we need to realize that a failure to continue to do so becomes an embarrassment to us and our Lord. To fail to stand up and defend Christian truth and morals becomes an effective denial of our faith. Few will deny Christ with their lips, but few are willing to make their lives a living confession (Profession) of their faith in Christ. At any time that we become a part of any unchristian thing or commit any unchristian act we are renouncing Christ in our lives, “crucifying him afresh and putting him to an open shame.”

Having made the “good confession,” it becomes necessary to follow through with other actions that show our convictions to be genuine. It is with joy that we first confessed with our mouth that Jesus is the Son of God. Even to call to memory that event brings good feelings and comfort to our minds. Knowing that we have publicly taken our stance with Jesus Christ, gives strength to continue on in His ways. The entirety of our hope rests upon this truth: “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” All will one day confess Christ (Phil. 2:9-11). We have the privilege of deciding when we will confess the name of Christ. If we confess him of our own free will, abundant life awaits us. If we wait until judgment day, it will be of no avail.