



"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

“Every Tongue Should Confess That Jesus Christ Is Lord”

Chuck Northrop

The confession “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” is necessary in order to be saved. In Philippians 2:10-11 Paul, an apostle of the Lord, penned, “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Since the Scriptures teach confession is essential, then all men ought to seek to understand it.

The word confess literally means “to speak the same thing” (Vine’s) and indicates agreement (Thayer’s). Thus, it is a verbal acknowledgment of what a person believes. When Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch of Ethiopia, and as they traveled, “they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36). Philip responded, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest” (Acts 8:37). At this point the eunuch confessed his belief and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37). Upon his acknowledgment of faith, he was immersed into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 8:38).

Similarly, Peter confessed his belief in Matthew 16. Jesus asked His disciples, “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” The disciples declared what others were saying about Him. Then, Jesus pointedly asked, “But whom say ye that I am?” Peter confessed, “Thou art

the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:13-16). If a person makes the same confession, do you think the person ought to know what it means? Let us examine.

Peter’s confession was clearly in reference to Jesus. The name Jesus means “Jehovah is salvation” (Vine’s) and refers to Him as the Savior. Joshua is the Hebrew equivalent. The name of Jesus was no accident. When the angel announced to Mary she would conceive and bring forth a son, he said His name shall be called Jesus, “for He shall save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). In the same passage, He was also called Emmanuel meaning “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). Thus, the Father sent Jesus, His Son, into this world for the salvation of all men.

The name Christ means “anointed” and is the Hebrew equivalent of “Messiah” (Strong’s). To Nathanael, Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man” (John 1:51). Angels are messengers. Ascending angels bring the message of men to God. Descending angels bring the message of God to men. These messengers came from Jesus and upon Him. This is descriptive of Jesus who makes it possible for men to worship God (represented by the ascending angels) by providing God’s message for men (represented by the descending angels). This representation is typical of the prophets and priests of the Old Testament. Please note both were anointed to serve. The prophets were anointed to serve by providing God’s message for the people, and the priests were anointed to serve by offering up worship for the people. Jesus is the Anointed One to serve in both capacities. In addition, Old Testament kings were anointed, and they served as heads over the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Thus, Jesus is the Anointed One because He serves as prophet, priest, and king.

Further Peter confessed Jesus to be “the Son of the living God.” This is a declaration and acknowledgment of the Deity of Jesus. Though Jesus was made flesh and dwelt among men, He is “the only begotten of the Father” (John 1:14), and His “goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2). A son bears the characteristics of his father. Thus, Jesus has a Divine characteristic of His Father. Paul declared, “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9). Jesus was not partially God; He is God manifested in the flesh. Further notice Jesus is not the Son of just any god, but “the Son of the living God.” This distinguishes the true God of heaven from any idol or pagan god.

Do you believe Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God”? Just as the eunuch and Peter made the great confession, so did Timothy. Paul wrote he “confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12 NKJV). Will you have the courage to confess your belief as the eunuch, Peter, and Timothy confessed their belief?

With the exception of baptism, God’s plan of redemption is not a one time act. Belief in Jesus is continuous action. It must not end, and there is always a need for growth.

Repentance is a lifelong endeavor. Changes are always required for the person who strives to be more like Christ and follow His word. So it is with confession. It is not merely a formal or verbal declaration. It is a way of life which includes both words and deeds. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus declared, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Could Jesus’ statement be clearer? Confession is not simply a matter of verbal acknowledgment. Confession must be done in words and deeds.

Jesus exhorted, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33). Confession with the mouth is only one way to confess. If confession is only by words and not backed by deeds, then it is hypocritical. If a person’s words are not backed by his or her actions, then the

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Matthew 10:32-33

person’s words are cheap and empty of substance. Yes, confession is a verbal acknowledgment, but all who verbally confess must do more than that. They must confess with the way they live and by their walk through life. Please do not confess Jesus with your words and deny Him with your life!

There is another type of confession which needs to be understood. It is for the Christian who has strayed away from the right ways of the Lord. It is also associated with repentance and prayer. It is the confession of sins. James exhorted, “Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man

availeth much” (James 5:16). John likewise wrote of this in 1 John 1:9 which says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” After Simon the sorcerer became a Christian (Acts 8:13), he tried to purchase the apostle’s “gift of God” (Acts 8:20). Peter called upon him to repent (Acts 8:22), and Simon said, “Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me” (Acts 8:24). In his request, Simon acknowledged his sins.

If a person desires to be saved, confession is essential. In Romans 10:9-10 Paul wrote, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Do you believe in your heart God raised Jesus from the dead and thus declared Him to be the Christ, the Son of God (Romans 1:4)? Will you confess Him before men by making the great confession with your mouth and with your life by living a life of obedience to His will?

Observations and Concerns

December 21, 2022

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you as we welcome the new season. Winter officially begins today.

“Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.” “He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down” (Psalm 104:1,19).

Expression of Gratitude: Let us be thankful for God’s rich blessings of the new and final season of this year.

Lord willing, there will be a **Budget Planning Meeting** for the men of the congregation Friday evening, January 6 at 6 P.M.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Nelda Hudson** had a CT scan this week. She is hoping to receive the results of the scan soon.
- ▶ **Bill Dilks** is still recovering after his cancer treatments. He is scheduled to meet with his doctor this week.
- ▶ **Ed Dindy**, father of Tia Swearingen, has been diagnosed with cancer and has a CT scan scheduled for this week. After the results of the scan come in, he should receive a treatment plan.
- ▶ **Donna Waggnner**, friend of Sammy Gray, hit her head during a fall and has a concussion. It was good to see her last Sunday evening.
- ▶ **Amanda Georgakus**, friend of Sherry Carmona, has breast cancer and it has metastasized to her spine.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Dec. 21	Sunday, Dec. 25 AM	Sunday, Dec. 25 PM
	Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Russ Earl	Paul Praschnik
	Song Leader	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Paul Praschnik	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper		Chuck Northrop	
	Lesson	Chris Nelson	Russ Earl	Chris Nelson
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Russ Earl	Ross Swearingen	Russ Earl
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM				
Worship 10:30 AM				
Worship 5:00 PM				
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM				
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