

The Oologah Informer

September 6th, 2015

Confession By Wayne Brewer

One of the actions that can be found in the New Testament associated with becoming a Christian and being a Christian is that of confession. The New Testament speaks of the responsibility of the Christian to “*Confess therefore one to another, and pray one for another...*” (James 5:16). Regarding the Christian’s relationship with God, John wrote, “*If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins...*” (1 John 1:9). These New Testament verses are teaching regarding the responsibility and blessings that one who is already a Christian has and will receive through confession. The context is that of a Christian recognizing sin in one’s life, repenting of that sin, and confessing one’s spiritual failures.

Another New Testament usage of the word confession is for one who is not a Christian, but who is seeking to become a Christian. The inspired author Paul placed confession in the process of becoming a Christian when he wrote, “*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (Romans 10:10). In becoming a Christian, one must believe with the heart that Jesus is the Son of God and out of that conviction comes forth the confession of faith in Jesus. An example of this process is seen in the record of the Ethiopian who became a Christian after hearing the preaching of Philip. The record says, “*Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. As they went on their way they came unto a certain water, and the eunuch said, ‘see here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?’ And Philip said, ‘If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.’ And he answered and said unto him, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God’*” (Acts 8:35-37). It should be noted that the Bible’s example of confession of faith in Jesus Christ was after belief and repentance of sin but before baptism. “*...and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him*” (Acts 8:38).

The importance of confession of faith in Jesus Christ with the mouth can be seen from an incident in the life of Peter. On the night that Jesus was taken into custody by the Jewish authorities, Peter had the opportunity to confess his faith in Jesus or deny Jesus. In that instance, Peter failed to confess Jesus, and said, “*I know not the man*” (Matthew 26:74). To Peter’s credit, he had previously confessed his faith in Jesus as the Christ (Matthew 16:16), and he would repent of his denial (Matthew 26:75) and go on to confess faith in Jesus many more times. However, the point of this example is that what one says, confession or denial, represents what is in the heart at that moment. One who does not have the courage initially to confess Jesus is the Son of God before other believers surely will not be able to live the Christian life daily before the world.

Address

13800 S. 4080 Rd on Hwy
169 South of Oologah
P.O. Box 527 Oologah, OK
74053 (918) 443-2025

www.oologahcofc.org
oologahcofc@oologahcofc.org

facebook.com/oologahchurchofchrist

Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Not Perfect... (1 Jn 1:5-9)

PM Sermon:

Choose Life

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Proverbs – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

The book of Acts – V. Smith

In SEARCH of the Lord’s Way

Tulsa KWHB-47

Sunday mornings at 7:30 am

Oologah Internet RadioPrograms

Russ’ Program on Friday’s @ 8am &
8pm

Vance’ Program on Wednesdays

@ 6:30pm & Thursdays @ 6:30am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @

4:30pm

Visit www.tgrn.org to listen

The question often arises, “is all that I need to do to be saved is confess that I believe in Jesus?” The biblical example and teaching is that one must have faith or believe in Jesus, one must repent of their sins, confession of faith in Jesus arises out of the previous two, and then one is baptized for the remission of sins (*Acts 8:35-38, Acts 2:36-38,41, Mark 16:16*). Every part of the process of becoming a Christian should be taken seriously, looking forward to living the Christian life and following the will of God that is found throughout the New Testament.