

Searching His Word

God's Word Reveals His Plan – Confessing Christ

By Russell Earl

Today we look at the fourth step in God's plan for man's salvation: confessing Christ. What do we mean when we say you are to confess Christ? If someone desires to be made right in the sight of God, shouldn't they be willing to confess that Christ is the Son of God? Surely they must be.

Our point today is if we are to be in heaven with the saved then we must confess Christ or else He will not confess us. *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven (Matt 10:32-33)."*

No doubt there are those who believe in Christ yet do not confess Him. *"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 (John 12:42-43)."* If we want to be part of the saved then we too must confess Christ as the Son of God.

When we confess Christ as being the Son of God we openly acknowledge who He is and by doing such admit it is His law and His Word we must obey and not that of men. Thus, if we confess Christ we then must be willing to do what He says is necessary for salvation and to be placed in the body of Christ. Notice we should do what HE says is necessary.

"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 (Romans 10:9-10)." The confession mentioned here is a confession that includes obeying the commands of God. If one is willing to confess that Christ is Lord that same person must be willing to do the other parts of the plan as well (believe, repent, be baptized and remain faithful).

Confession can be confused with other things. While confession is a part of salvation it is not the only part. Why then does Paul emphasize faith and confession so much in Romans? There were those in Rome who believed you had only to be circumcised to be pleasing to God. Thus Paul teaches strongly on faith and confession and that work(s) of the flesh cannot open the doors of heaven for you. In the book of James it is the exact opposite. There were those who were saying all one needed was faith. This also is untrue. As we read both Romans and James we must realize that to be pleasing to God it takes confessing Christ and a faith that has works of obedience. After all why would there be so much teaching on baptism, grace (including examples) and the other necessities of salvation if they were not actually required of us!?

It is our prayer at the church of Christ that as you read these articles, you will open your Bibles and study along with us. *"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so (Acts 17:11)."*