

# Salvation—Confession

Intro: It has been stated that a faith not worth confessing is a faith that is not worth having. So, let us consider the aspect of confessing in this lesson.

## I. WHAT IS CONFESSION.

- A. The Online Etymology Dictionary defines the English word: “late 14c., transitive and intransitive, ‘make avowal or admission of’ (a fault, crime, sin, debt, etc.), from Old French *confesser* (transitive and intransitive), from Vulgar Latin *\*confessare*, a frequentative form from Latin *confess-*, past participle stem of *confiteri* ‘to acknowledge,’ from assimilated form of *com* ‘together’ (see *con-*) + *fateri* ‘to admit,’ akin to *fari* ‘speak,’ from PIE root *\*bha-* (2) ‘to speak, tell, say.’”**
- B. The Greek word translated “confess”:**
1. It comes from the word *ὁμολογέω* (*homologeō*).
  2. It is made up of two words:
    - a. *ὁμοῦ* (*homou*) meaning same, “one and the same.”
    - b. *λέγω* (*lego*) meaning “to speak.”
    - c. Thus, it means to speak one and the same.
- C. In application, to confess is to speak one and the same thing as God said.**

## II. WHAT DID THE FATHER SAY?

### A. Regarding sin:

1. Rom. 3:23 “<sup>23</sup>For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
2. Gal. 3:22 “<sup>22</sup>But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”

### B. Regarding Jesus:

1. Mat. 3:16-17 “<sup>16</sup>And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: <sup>17</sup>And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
2. Mat. 17:5 “<sup>5</sup>While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

## III. MAN MUST CONFESS

### A. In the process of being saved.

1. Rom. 10:9-10 “<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
2. This is saying the same thing as God regarding our Lord Jesus.
  - a. Mat. 16:16 “<sup>16</sup>And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
    - (1) Notice Jesus’ response: Mat. 16:17 “<sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”
    - (2) How did the Father reveal it to him?
      - (a) At Jesus’ baptism.
      - (b) John the Baptist; John 1:29 “<sup>29</sup>The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

- (c) Andrew (Peter's brother) heard John and told Peter.
  - (i) John 1:35-36 <sup>35</sup> Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; <sup>36</sup> And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"
  - (ii) John 1:40-42 <sup>40</sup> One of the two which heard John *speaks*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone."
- (d) The miracles performed by Jesus.
  - b. 1 Tim. 6:13 <sup>13</sup> I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and *before* Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;"
    - (1) Mat. 27:11 <sup>11</sup> And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest."
    - (2) John 18:36-37 <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. <sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."
  - (3) Notice that Jesus simply affirmed the truthfulness of Pilate's question.
- c. Acts 8:37 <sup>37</sup> And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

## B. As a wayward child of God.

1. 1 John 1:9 <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
2. Demands a realization of what sin is:
  - a. Transgression of the law; 1 John 3:4 <sup>4</sup> Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."
    - (1) Sins of commission
    - (2) Sins of Omission
  - b. It is saying: "I have sinned."
  - c. Not true confession of sin:
    - (1) "If I have offended someone, I'm sorry."
    - (2) "If I have sinned."
    - (3) It is not telling the wrongs others have done to them.
    - (4) There is no need to announce sin, simply confess sin.
3. Saying "I have sinned" is not enough without proper action.
  - a. Mat. 7:21 <sup>21</sup> 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."
  - b. Repentance, in all that means, must take place in regard to the confession.
  - c. To Simon the sorcerer, Peter said, Acts 8:22-24 <sup>22</sup> Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. <sup>23</sup> For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity. <sup>24</sup> Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me."
  - d. When David sinned; Psa. 51:13-17 <sup>13</sup> Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. <sup>16</sup> For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou

delightest not in burnt offering. <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

- (1) He will teach others (v. 13)
- (2) He will sing of God's forgiveness (v. 14)
- (3) He will praise God (v. 15)
- (4) Repentant heart is what pleases God (v. 16-17)

**Conclusion:** We must confess Christ in becoming a Christian, with that confession being based upon our sincere faith in God and repentance of our sins. When we sin as a Christian, we must confess our sins with the attendant repentance and prayer to God for forgiveness.