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 (homologeo).
      2. It is made up of two words:
         a. ὀμοῦ (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 “23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
      2. Gal. 3:22 “22 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 “16 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: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
      2. Mat. 17:5 “5 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 “9 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. 10 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 “16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
            (1) Notice Jesus’ response: Mat. 16:17 “17 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 “29 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 “Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; 36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!”
   (ii) John 1:40-42 “One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 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 “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 “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 “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. 37 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 “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 “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 “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 “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 “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. 24 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; Psal. 51:13-17 “Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou
delightest not in burnt offering. 17 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.