

## CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH

(Romans 10:9-10)

### I. What is confession of Christ?

a. Some confessions that are made are not a confession of Christ.

i. There are religious groups ask for a confession before baptism.

1. For instance, the Seventh Day Adventist have a list of 13 confessions or vows that must be made before one can be baptized.
2. "Renouncing the world and its sinful ways, have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you believe that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven your sins, and given you a new heart?"
3. Others have one say something like, "I believe that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven my sins."
4. Some require that you give a testimony as to how God has saved you.
5. However, you won't find one single verse of scripture that supports or teaches this, or one example of someone doing this recorded in the New Testament.
6. The reason is simple: sins are not forgiven before baptism (Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38).
7. For a person to make a confession of forgiveness of sins before baptism would be an invalid confession because the Bible does not teach that one is forgiven before baptism.

ii. It is not a confession of sin.

1. It is true that all who are of proper mind and understanding ability have sinned.
2. It is also true that we must confess our sins to God and that children of God are taught to do this (1 John 1:9).
3. It is also true that those who are not children of God must repent of their sins (Acts 17:30).
4. However, nowhere do we read that confession of sins is a step in the conversion process, because there is a difference of confession of sin and repenting of sin.

b. There is a confession that must be made in order for one to be saved.

i. Matthew 10:32-33 – this is a confession about Jesus, about who Jesus is.

1. This is a confession that we make before conversion and one that we continue to make after conversion.
2. We make this confession first with our mouths, unto, or in order to obtain, salvation (Romans 10:9-10).

- ii. 1 Timothy 6:11-13 – Timothy made a good profession, or confession, since it is a form of the same Greek word.
  - 1. This confession was made in the past by Timothy, and Paul was reminding him of it and commending him for making it.
  - 2. It was made before witnesses – one is enough (Acts 8:37), but it must be made publicly with the mouth.
  - 3. It was something that Pilate had heard from Jesus.
    - a. Jesus was brought before Pilate because He had claimed to be the Son of God (John 19:7).
    - b. Jesus had made this claim in the past (John 4:25-26), and He made it before Pilate (John 18:33-37).
  - 4. Timothy made the same confession, that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.
  - 5. Pilate didn't hear that God for Christ' sake, had forgiven his sins.
  - 6. He didn't hear the Lord's personal testimony of how He was saved.

## II. What is being confessed?

- a. When we make the confession that we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we are confessing several things.
- b. We are confessing that Jesus is the Christ, or King.
  - i. Peter said that Jesus was the Christ, which means “anointed”, with the idea of being a king over God's people (Matthew 16:17).
  - ii. Jesus then blessed Peter for saying that and let him and us know that the fact of Him being the Christ would be the foundation on which the church was to be built.
- c. We are confessing Jesus as the Son of God.
  - i. Peter said that Jesus was the Son of the living God.
  - ii. John 1:49.
  - iii. In the Jewish way of thinking, to be the son of someone was to be equal (John 5:18).
  - iv. To be the Son of God is to be God, and Jesus was God in the flesh (John 1:1-3).
  - v. This is what Thomas confessed (John 10:28).
- d. We are confessing Jesus is Savior.
  - i. John 4:42.
  - ii. Because of Jesus dying for our sins, we have hope (Acts 4:12).
- e. We are confessing Jesus as Lord.
  - i. Romans 10:9-10 – ASV says Jesus as Lord.
  - ii. Lord means master or ruler, someone we obey.
  - iii. Luke 6:46.

- iv. When we confess Jesus as Lord, we are making a pledge of obedience to Him.

### III. What is involved in confessing Christ as Lord?

- a. There must be belief, or faith, in back of what we are saying.
  - i. Romans 10:9-10.
  - ii. It can't be faith alone though (John 12:42-43).
- b. There must be a willingness to follow through with the confession.
  - i. The tense of the word "confess" in Matthew 10:32-33 indicates a continual confession of Jesus before men.
  - ii. It is not a one time act, but one that is shown through a dedicated life to Jesus as Lord until death.
- c. There must be a statement made.
  - i. It is with the mouth.
  - ii. Acts 8:36-37.
- d. There is a realization that it costs to make this confession.
  - i. There are going to be times when we are tempted to walk back our confession.
  - ii. There is nothing worth doing that, so we must be ready to pay the cost.
  - iii. It may be our lives, as it was with Antipas (Revelation 2:13).
  - iv. It may be some other type of problem or trouble.

### IV. Why make this confession?

- a. The simple answer is that it leads to salvation (Romans 10:9-10).
- b. Confession was Timothy's response when he was called by the gospel (1 Timothy 6:11-13).
- c. Before one can be baptized, he or she must make the good profession, or confession, like the Ethiopian did.
- d. It is a prerequisite to having a relationship with God (1 John 4:15).

Not an original outline but do not know source.