

Confession is Called For

(Saving Faith Series - #3)

March 29, 2009

Review:

What kind of faith is saving faith?

Many believe that (kind #1 – assent) Jesus is the Son of God.

But we must believe in (kind #2 – trust) Jesus to be saved.

The faith that saves is the faith that obeys.

Repentance is Required

Repentance is a *change of mind* that includes: a hatred of sin, remorse over sin, a desire to be rid of sin, and a determination to forsake sin.

There is no doubt. Confession is called for!

Paul said so in Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

John said so in 1 John 2:23, 4:15

No one who denies the son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the son has the Father also.

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

Jesus said so in Matthew 10:32,33

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

Defining our vocabulary

CONFESS - Greek – *homologeō*

Literally: to say the same thing, to agree. Hence, to acknowledge the truth about something.

From *An Expository Dictionary of NT Words*, W.E. Vine:

In Matt. 10:32 and Luke 12:8 the construction of this verb with *en*, *in*, followed by the dative case of the personal pronoun, has a special significance, namely, to confess in a person’s name, ...the suggestion being to make a public confession. Thus the statement... conveys the thought of confessing allegiance to Christ as one’s Master and Lord...

The Bible Defines Confession

What do we confess?

Peter (*Matt. 16:16*) – *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

- **The Christ** – the Messiah, the one anointed to bring salvation
- **Son of God** – God incarnate, deity

Thomas (*John 20:28*) – *My Lord and my God!*

- **My Lord** – owner and master

Paul’s description of the saving confession (*Rom. 10:9*) – *Jesus is Lord.*

Everyone will ultimately confess (*Phil 2:11*) – *Jesus Christ is Lord.*

How do we confess?

Timothy (*1 Tim. 6:12*) – *...you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

- **Publicly**

Jesus says our confession must be *before men.* (*Matt 10:32*)

Paul says this confession is *with your mouth.* (*Rom 10:9-10*)

- **Orally**

When do we confess?

Romans 10:9,10 indicates an initial, decisive confession of faith.

Romans 10:13 equates confessing with “calling on the name of the Lord” which in Acts 22:16 is a sinner’s plea for salvation in baptism.

- **At our decision to trust Jesus and obey Him in baptism**

We are to witness to an unbelieving world.

We are to confess our faith under adverse circumstances. *Jn 9:22, 12:42*

Even when in danger of persecution or death. *Acts 4:1-20*

- **Throughout the Christian life**

Question: What saves us?

Acts 16:30,31 *Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...*

Acts 26:20 *I preached that they should repent and turn to God...*

Romans 10:9-10 *it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

Acts 2:38 *Repent and be baptized, ...so that your sins may be forgiven.*

Eph. 2:8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ---*

Faith is the sole MEANS of receiving salvation, but there are other CONDITIONS required by God.