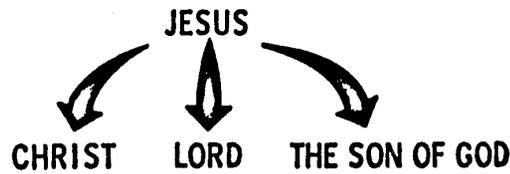


## CONFESS.....WHAT?



Not only is this confession unknown to the Bible, it places confession of faith after salvation, in violation of the New Testament (Romans 10:10). Other religious groups demand an “experience of grace” - telling some unusual feeling or incident, supposedly miraculous, as evidence of salvation. This makes an inward feeling our standard of salvation; but Paul declared, “we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7), and “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17) Still others require a repetition of the falsely so-called “Apostles Creed” or some church statement of beliefs. These all add to the scriptures in glaring violation of the command not to add to or take from God’s Word as our standard (Revelation 22:18-19). It is popular today to ask an unsaved sinner to repeat the “sinner’s prayer.” Not only is no such prayer found in the Bible, the New Testament never teaches those outside Christ to pray for salvation (1 Peter 3:12). In contrast, the New Testament simply teaches us to confess Jesus is “Christ” (the anointed One, the promised Savior), “Lord” (ruler), and the “Son of God” (which includes the facts that He is divine in nature, born of a virgin, and raised from the dead to live eternally) (Philippians 2:11; 1 John 4:15).

What is the significance of this confession? Every system of religion has one fundamental principle or grand central fact. If the basic principle is true, the religion built thereon is true; but if it is false, the religion is false. The foundation of Islamic faith is the belief, “There is one true God, and Muhammed is His Prophet.” Accept this, and you will be a Muslim. Mormonism contends “Joseph Smith, Jr. is the prophet of God.” If you believe

### **What Significance?**

- ★ **Central Theme of the Gospel**
- ★ **Foundation of the Church**
- ★ **Saving Fact of the Gospel**

Not only is this confession unknown to the Bible, it places confession of faith after salvation, in violation of the New Testament (Romans 10:10). Other

this, you will be a “Latter Day Saint” (Mormon). The proposition, “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” is the grand central theme of the Gospel (John 20:30-31). It is the foundation of the church (Matthew 16:13-19; 1 Corinthians 3:11) and the saving fact of the Gospel (Acts 16:30-31). If you truly accept this fact, you will become a Christian.

How are we to confess? We must do so “with the mouth,” as well as by our lives (Romans 10:8-10), and before witnesses, whether one, as in the case of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40), or many (1 Timothy 6:12).

Why should we declare our faith? Certainly not to join a denomination, for the Lord adds the saved to His church (Acts 2:47). Rather, you should confess in order to be saved (Romans 10:8-10).

Christ was willing to make this “good confession” before Pontius Pilate even though the truth of it cost Him His life (John 18:37; 1 Timothy 6:13). Some day you too will make this confession (Romans 14:11-12). If now, it will be to your salvation; if not until the judgment, to your damnation. Why not confess Christ now, that you might be saved? (Matthew 10:32-33)

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### **Questions for Review**

#### **I. Match the term to its definition.**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. _____ Christ     | A. divine in nature, born of a virgin, and raised from the dead to live eternally |
| 2. _____ Lord       | B. the anointed One, the promised Savior  |
| 3. _____ Son of God | C. Ruler of all   |

#### **II. True/False**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ It is not necessary for a sinner outside Christ to confess his faith in order to be saved.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Before baptism we should confess our sins.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Before baptism we should confess, “I believe that God for Christ’s sake has pardoned my sins.”

4. \_\_\_\_\_ The proposition, “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” is the grand central theme of the Gospel, the foundation of the church, and the saving fact of the Gospel.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The sinner outside Christ must confess His faith in Christ.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ We should confess an experience of grace.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ It is enough to confess Christ by the way we live.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ We must confess Christ with the mouth before witnesses.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ We should confess our faith to join a denomination.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ You can refuse to confess Christ forever.

### III. Match the Scripture with its Quote.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ Matthew 10:32-33  | A. “...God abides in him...”   |
| 2. _____ Matthew 16:16     | B. “Fight the good fight of faith...”  |
| 3. _____ John 18:37        | C. “...Everyone who is of truth hears My voice.”   |
| 4. _____ Romans 10:8-10    | D. “Every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.                           |
| 5. _____ Romans 14:11      | E. “...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”  |
| 6. _____ 1 Timothy 6:12-13 | F. “whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.” |
| 7. _____ 1 John 4:15       | G. “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”  |

## Bible Correspondence Course

### Lesson Eight

### The Good Confession

Perhaps you have joined Christians in singing this beautiful hymn:

*I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,  
Nor to defend His cause;  
Maintain the honor of His Word,  
The glory of His cross.* (Isaac Watts)

But if you are unwilling to confess Jesus as your Lord (Philippians 2:9-11), you cannot honestly repeat these brave words. Surely then you need to know what God’s Word teaches about confession. **What does the New Testament teach about confession for those who are not Christians?**

Does the law of Christ require that we declare our faith? The Spirit reveals that confession is essential if we are to obey and glorify God (Philippians 2:9-11), and one must obey Him to be saved (Hebrews 5:8-9). In order to have God dwell in us and we in Him, we must declare our faith (1 John 4:15). In fact, confession is “unto salvation” (Romans 10:8-10) and is a demand for entrance into Heaven (Matthew 10:32-33). Indeed, confession is an absolute essential!

What, then, should we confess? Some would have us repeat, “I believe that God for Christ’s sake has pardoned (forgiven) my sins.”

### Is Confession Necessary?

- |                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| ★to obey and glorify God.....   | <b>Yes!</b> |
| ★to have God and be in Him..... | <b>Yes!</b> |
| ★ to be saved.....              | <b>Yes!</b> |
| ★ to enter heaven.....          | <b>Yes!</b> |