

Confess: The Fourth Step In God's Plan Of Salvation

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Introduction:

- A. An acknowledgement (speaking the same thing); a declaration
- B. 1Tim. 6:12-13
- C. So many times we speak of God's Plan of Salvation and give the essential requirements: H+B+R+C+B=Salvation
 - 1. However, many times we stress the importance of Hearing, Believing, Repenting and Being Baptized without stressing the importance of Confessing.
- D. What is "Confession"?
 - 1. "Confession" comes from (HOMOLOGEO) --- Lit., to speak the same thing (homos --same; lego -- to speak), to assent, accord, agree with, denotes, either (a) To confess, declare, admit or (b) to confess by way of admitting oneself guilty of what one is accused of, the result of inward conviction or (c) to declare openly by way of speaking out freely, such confession being the effect of deep conviction of facts. (Vine's Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words, p. 224)

I. WHAT IT IS...

- A. 1Tim. 6:12-13 - A specific profession; note "THE" not "a".
- B. A statement of belief in a fact about Jesus
 - 1. Jesus is THE Christ - Matt. 16:13-16
 - 2. An inspired declaration - Matt. 16:17

II. ...IS FOUNDATIONAL TO FAITH

- A. To the mission of Christ - Matt. 16:18
 - 1. Stated prophetically - Isa. 28:16
 - a. Applied to Christ - 1Peter 2:5-6
 - 2. There is no other - 1Cor. 3:11
- B. To the position of Christ
 - 1. Witnessed by Christ - 1Tim. 6:13; John 18:33-37
 - a. That He is a (spiritual) King - John 18:36
 - b. That He is a witness of the truth - John 17:17
 - c. For all who will to hear - John 7:17
 - 2. Confirmed by God - Matt. 17:5
 - a. By the resurrection - Rom. 1:4
 - b. Serves as God's final spokesman - Heb. 1:1
 - c. Therefore, give heed... Heb. 2:1

III. ...IS CONDITIONAL TO SALVATION

- A. Unto salvation - Rom. 10:9-10
 - 1. The example of Eunuch - Acts 8:37
 - 2. Stipulated by Jesus - Matt. 10:32-33
- B. The basis of Jesus condemnation - Matt. 26:63-64
 - 1. We live by the words that condemned Jesus

IV. AND IS THE BASIS OF SOUNDNESS AND SPIRITUAL UNITY

- A. God hates division - 1Cor. 1:10
- B. God demands that all confess the name of His Son - 1John 4:1-3
 - 1. And has made the confession representative of the faith.

V. THE OLD LAW REQUIRED CONFESSION

- A. Prov. 28:13 - confession of sins
 - 1. Admitting one's sins was not enough. Turning from the sin (repentance) was also required of the one confessing.
- B. Psa. 32:1-5 - steps of confession.
 - 1. David first acknowledged his sin.
 - 2. David confessed His sin.
 - 3. David then received forgiveness of his sin.
- C. Mosaical Law, confession was demanded - Lev. 5:5-7.
 - 1. When one touched an unclean thing, or sinned in making an oath, he was to confess that he had sinned.
 - 2. The sinner had to bring a trespass offering for his sins.
 - 3. The priest would then make atonement for them, after the confession.
- D. Nehemiah is a great example of confession of sins in the O.T.
 - 1. Nehemiah admitted his own sins and the sins of his people - Neh. 1:6.
 - 2. Nehemiah had the people confess their sins before God - Neh. 9:1-2.
 - 3. After confessing their sins they would read the law of God - Neh. 9:3.
- E. OT confession is of sins; NT confession is of Christ

VI. NEW TESTAMENT REQUIRES CONFESSION BEFORE SALVATION

- A. Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-38

VII. THE PRICE OF CONFESSION OF FAITH IN JESUS IS OFTEN HIGH

- A. A point often under emphasized by those who teach the plan of salvation
- B. John 9:22 - Jesus taught the high cost of discipleship.
 - 1. Jesus had healed a blind man... John 9:11.
 - 2. The man's parents were afraid to confess Jesus for fear that they would be cast out of the synagogue - John 9:21-22.
- C. Peter and other apostles were beaten for confessing Jesus - Acts 5:28-40.
- D. Jesus died for His confession.

VIII. AT JUDGMENT, ALL WILL WISH THEY HAD CONFESSED CHRIST

- A. Note that hearing, believing, repenting, and confessing will all take place on judgment day. The only thing the sinner will not be able to do is be baptized. And that will be enough to keep him out of heaven
- B. On the Day of Judgment, all will bow and confess Christ - Rom. 14:11-12.

IX. TYPES OF CONFESSION

- A. Peter confessed, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God" - Matt. 16:16.
- B. Thomas confessed after seeing the overwhelming evidence, "My Lord and My God" - John 20:28.

- C. As Christians today, we need to confess in these same ways.
 - 1. We must confess that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God.
 - 2. We must confess to others that Christ is Our Lord and Our God.

Conclusion:

- A. The O.T. commanded confession of sins.
- B. The N.T. commands confession of Faith in Christ as the Son of God
- C. The price of confession is always high.
- D. The cost of not confessing is always higher.