

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 8:34-38**.
- B. Tonight's lesson will focus on six passages that mention confession as part of how one becomes a Xian.

I. FIRST, 2CORINTHIANS 4:13-15.

- A. The text:

But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak, **14** knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. **15** For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.
- B. Paul gave four reasons why confession was (is) important:
 - 1. He strongly believed in the word of God (2Cor. 4:13).
 - 2. Death would not rob him of the crown of life (2Cor. 4:14).
 - 3. His sufferings were for conversion and edification (2Cor. 4:15a).
 - 4. He endured because God was being glorified (2Cor. 4:15b).
- C. Our faith needs to be strong--to make these confident assertions.

II. SECOND, MATTHEW 10:32,33.

- A. The text:

"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **33** But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.
- B. Xians must have courage in defending the cause and Lordship of X.
- C. To confess the name of X means that you want to be worthy of X.
- D. To fail to confess the name of X means you are ashamed of X.
- E. Which will it be?

III. THIRD, ROMANS 10:9,10.

- A. The text:

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.
- B. Confession is UNTO salvation, not FOR salvation. See the KJV or NKJV on this passage.
- C. Too many are mistaken thinking that the plan of salvation is to believe, repent, and confess.
- D. Our confession of Jesus as Lord must come from the heart. Mere lip service is not sufficient in becoming a Xian.

IV. FOURTH, ACTS 8:34-38.

- A. The text:

The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?" **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. **36** As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" **37** [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] **38** And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.
- B. Confession precedes baptism. Notice how the queen's treasurer was ready to confess X prior to his being baptized.
- C. This passage helps set the order of the steps to salvation.

V. **FIFTH, 1TIMOTHY 6:12.**

A. The text:

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

B. In making the good confession we say the following:

1. Jesus was God, manifest and in the flesh (2Jn. 7).

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

2. Jesus is the Son of God (1Jn. 4:15).

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

3. Jesus died for our sins and not His own (1Cor. 15:3).

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4. Jesus was raised from the dead (1Cor. 15:4).

and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

5. Jesus ascended into heaven and was glorified (Eph. 1:20-23).

which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22** And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

VI. **SIXTH, HEBREWS 10:23.**

A. The text:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

B. The admonition is to hold fast to that which we have confessed.

C. Our life must match up to our words. We should never confess the name of X and then fail to live up to what He stands for.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. Confession should not be minimized or overlooked in our becoming a Xian. It is important.

B. In six passages, we have seen that--confession is made because of:

1. Our belief in the word God.
2. Our belief in X as the Son of God.
3. Our belief in heart that Jesus is Lord.
4. Our belief in baptism's power to save.
5. Our belief in the dead, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.
6. Our belief in trying to live up to what X demands.

C. Be sure your ready for what follows when you confess the name of X.

D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.