

## “CONFESS CHRIST” (1)

By Keith Greer

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33)

In our past articles we have examined Hearing, Believing, Repenting, and Baptism. Let us turn our discussion to the subject of **CONFESSION**. What does confession mean? Vine defines it as "**To assent, accord, agree with; such confession being the effect of deep conviction of facts**". So, how does one confess?

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10) The apostle Paul made a key point in this passage that is sometimes overlooked. Confession brings us unto, or towards, salvation.

When the Ethiopian eunuch failed to understand what he was reading, what did Philip teach him? "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him." (Acts 8:35) Pay close attention – what resulted from what he had heard? The eunuch desired to be baptized, and, yet, Philip asked him an important question, "Then 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." (Acts 8:37)

How would Philip know that the eunuch believed? By his confession, the eunuch acknowledged his deep conviction that he believed what Philip had told him concerning Christ, and he confessed his belief to Philip.

Can anyone **CONFESS** for you? When the blind man was healed by Jesus, the Pharisees went to the man's parents because they did not believe he had been blind from birth and then received sight. "His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." (John 9:22-23)

We all reach an age where we can speak for ourselves. When one has the belief of Christ in our heart, no one will know it until I confess that belief. Confession of Christ is the responsibility of each individual. No one can "stand in" for you! Some religions have others who "confess" for a baby because they cannot talk at a "christening." Such teaching did not come from the Bible but human theology.

By the way, do you remember what happened to the man who had been blind? He was, indeed, cast out of the synagogue. (John 9:24-34) For the Jew, to be "cast out" was to virtually give up his whole way of life. "Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God? He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you. Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him." (John 9:35-38)

"Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." (John 12:42-43) Even the religious leaders of the day knew that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies concerning the Messiah but would NOT confess. Why? The consequences resulting from doing so.

Did the chief rulers truly believe? NO! If anyone truly believes in Christ, we will acknowledge that faith openly and willingly, and outwardly demonstrate the faith that is in our hearts. "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But wilt thou know. O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:19,20) (Cont.) \*\*\*