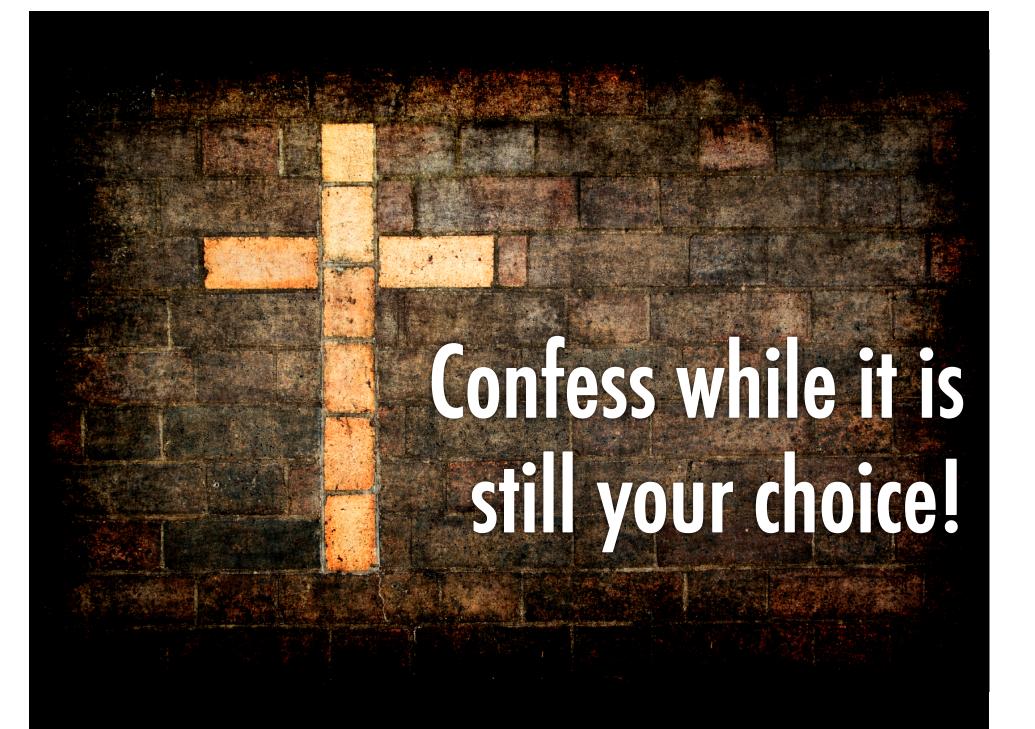


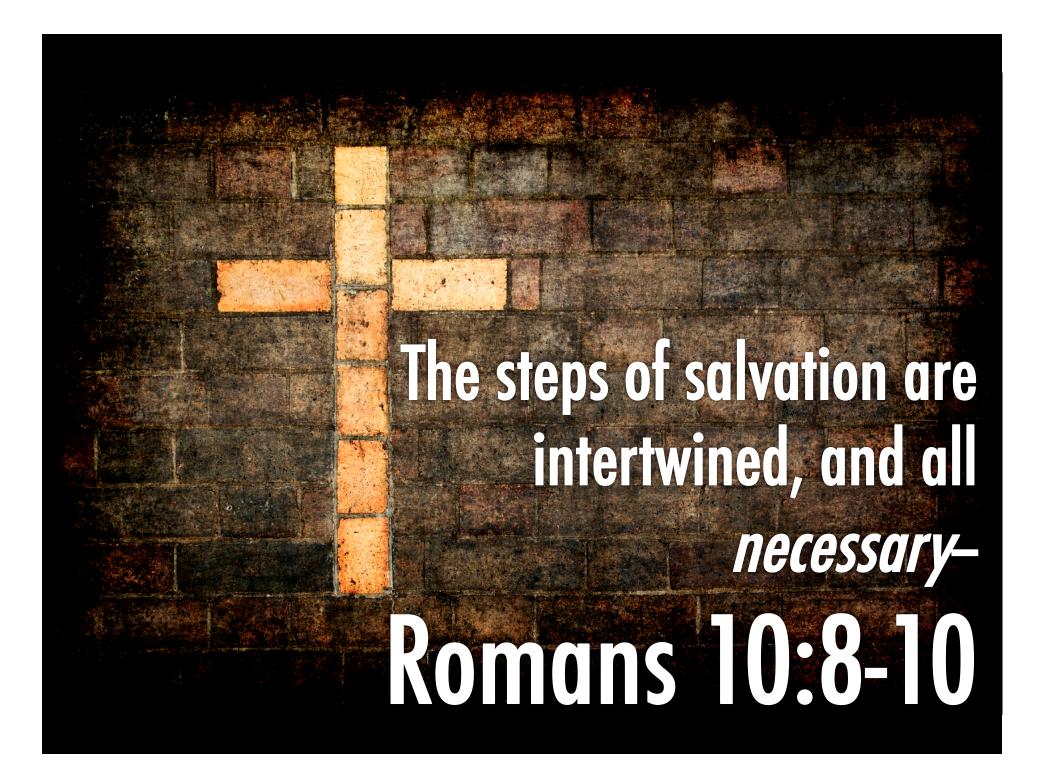
Confessing Christ

- If we have heard the gospel and have come to believe its message, then we are commanded to take another step. We must confess Jesus as the Son of God, a foundational profession of faith that is essential to our salvation (Matthew 10:32-33, 1 Timothy 3:16).
- Interestingly, everybody is going to confess Jesus someday, but many to no avail (Matthew 7:21, Romans 14:11-12).
- Some will only confess because the circumstances will remove any possibility of denial (Philippians 2:9-11).

- All excuses (no matter how reasonable)
 aside, there are eternal ramifications for
 the person who refuses to publicly confess
 once they have come to believe in Jesus
 Christ.
- 1 John 4:2-3, 2:22-23.
- So why not confess? Some are too afraid of the earthly consequences, such as loss of prestige or position (John 12:42-43).







Confessional Lives

- The same courage that motivates a first confession of faith should continue throughout the Christian's life in his or her willingness to confess transgressions committed on the long road to heaven.
- We are imperfect, but only the one who is honest about this fact will have his or her sins forgiven (1 John 1:8-10).
- To both fellow man and Holy God we must "set things straight" when we have erred (James 5:16, Psalm 32:5, Isaiah 55:7). The situation helps determine how far the confession should extend (Psalm 51:4, Matthew 18:15ff).