

Have You Confessed?

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Our Lord tells us that *“not everybody who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 7:21). A day will come when the King will return to this world in a cloud, surrounded by a host of angels, and all the people of the earth will finally know for sure that Christ is Lord! Unfortunately, confession on the day of judgment is confession that is too late. Consider another scripture; *“For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ So then each one of us shall give an account of himself to God”* (Romans 14:11-12). What a sobering thought! On that great and terrible day, every single person who rejected the Gospel, every single skeptic who needed more evidence, every single unbeliever who just did not feel the need for Christ, every single teacher of falsehood will bow before God out of terror. We have a choice, therefore, to either confess now or later. As one writer puts it, *“A willing confession now, with other things being equal, produces a blessing in this world and being confessed ultimately by Jesus before God and holy angels in judgment. A compelled confession at judgment will only add up to eternal condemnation”* (Studies In Romans, Robert Taylor, Jr., 249).

“Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God that Father” (Philippians 2:9-11). This passage serves as a wonderful companion to our previous scripture. Paul very clearly states every single knee will bow, and every single tongue shall one day confess Jesus. Some to be sure will reach the judgment seat having already confessed. These will get to enjoy the benefits of having Christ confess them before God (Luke 12:8-9). All others, however, will be forced to confess because of undeniable circumstances – there are no valid arguments that can be made by an unbeliever or an unrepentant sinner while standing before the Almighty!

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist...” (1 John 4:2-3). Given this simple choice, why do people not confess? Consider the motivation of the Jewish rulers in John 12:42-43, in which it is stated that they *“loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.”* Though they believed in the Gospel, they were not confessing Christ because of the influence of their contemporaries. Do we ever do that same thing today? At work, at school, at the gym – when there are people saying evil things about Christ, do we have the courage to confess our belief in Him and take a stand for the Truth? When we are thinking about salvation, do we choose to follow the criticism of friends from school, or unbelieving parents, over obedience to the Lord? What a sad day it will when our Lord returns to this world and judges all of the people who were almost persuaded to confess Him, but denied the confession because of the pressures of the world, and the temptation to conform (Romans 12:1-2).

With this choice in mind, let us make the decision to confess Christ now, while it is still our choice. Turn to Romans 10:8-10, which says, *“But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ – that is, the word of faith which we*

are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." The opportunity to be saved is for all of us, for there is no distinction made in this passage between Jew and Gentile, slave or free man, male or female (Galatians 3:28). One of the steps on the road to salvation is no further away from us than in our own mouths – amazingly, so few people choose to take advantage of it! How said it will be on that day when God will condemn so many people simply because they did not believe, repent, confess, and be baptized!