

"The Good Confession." Acts 8:37.

1-I wish to consider this lesson under the following captions:

- 1-Origin of the confession.
- 2-Significance of the confession.
- 3-How the confession is made.
- 4-The place of the confession.

2-The Origin of the Confession:

1-When Jesus Christ began to preach, men formed various opinions of him.

- 2-Some said he was a prophet.
- 3-Others called him an imposter.
- 4-A few believed Him to Be the Messiah.

3-With this diversity of opinion as to the identity of Christ-----A line was closely drawn between His friends and His enemies.

1-The challenge of the Jews: John 9:22.
The Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue

2-Jesus said: Matthew 10:32-33.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33-But whosoever shall deny me before me, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

3-The conversation at Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16:13-20). Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." The entire system of Christianity is embraced in the confession by Peter.

4-The significance of the confession:

- 1-It is a brief statement of the system of Christianity.
- 2-It is the only thing man needs to believe to be saved.

3- *Since Creation everything pointed toward Christ. Since His coming everything points back to Him as shown in the center of the wheel system Christ is the center of Christianity.*

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5-How the confession is made:

- 1-It is to be made with the mouth, Rom. 10:9*10.
- 2-This confession is not made:
 - 1-With a nod of the head.
 - 2-By visiting the sick.
 - 3-By feeding the poor. It is made with the mouth. (Matt. 15:16; Acts 8:37).

3-The confession must be made before witnesses

- 1-1-Tim. 6:12; Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 13-I give the charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession. Matt. 27:22-4

6-The place of the confession:

- 1-It was always made before baptism; Acts 8:37
- 2-The early historians of the church;
 - 1-Irenaeus, Moshem, Neander, and others all testify to this fact.
 - 2-It was, and is today a test of the fitness of the candidate for baptism.

7-God first spoke in Eden when the human family was brought in to existence.

8-2500 years later He spoke from the summit of Mt. Horeb and the law was given.

9-His voice did not break the stillness of the centuries again until He spoke from heaven when at the baptism of Jesus in Jordan, He said, "This is my beloved Son, In whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17.

10-Some months after, and upon the mountain of transfiguration, He said, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

Matt 17:5

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