

Confess: The Fourth Step in God's Plan of Salvation

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. So many times we speak of God's Plan of Salvation and give the essential requirements: H+B+R+C+B=Salvation
 - 1. We often stress the importance of Hearing, Believing, Repenting and Being Baptized without stressing the importance of Confession.

I. WHAT IT IS...

- A. 1Tim. 6:12-13 - A specific profession; note "THE" not "a"
- B. A statement of belief in a fact about Jesus
 - 1. Jesus is the Christ - Matt. 16:13-16
 - 2. An inspired declaration - Matt. 16:17
- C. Confession comes from (HOMOLOGEO) - Literally, to speak the same thing (homos --same; lego -- to speak), to assent, accord, agree with, denotes, either (a) To confess, declare, admit or (b) to confess by way of admitting oneself guilty of what one is accused of, the result of inward conviction or (c) to declare openly by way of speaking out freely, such confession being the effect of deep conviction of facts. (Vine's Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words, p. 224)

II. ...IS FOUNDATIONAL TO FAITH

- A. To the mission of Christ - Matt. 16:18
 - 1. When we confess the Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and are baptized, we become part of the confession - 1Peter 2:5-6
- B. To the position of Christ
 - 1. Witnessed by Christ - 1Tim. 6:13; John 18:36-37
 - a. Please note that Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:15-16). It should not surprise us that Jesus also confessed that He is the Christ in the presence of witnesses
 - b. For all who will to hear - John 7:17
 - 2. Confirmed by God - Matt. 17:5
 - a. By the resurrection - Rom. 1:4
 - b. Serves as God's final spokesman - Heb. 1:1-2

III. ...IS CONDITIONAL TO SALVATION

- A. Unto salvation - Rom. 10:9-10
 - 1. The example of Eunuch - Acts 8:37
 - 2. Emphasized by Jesus - Matt. 10:32-33
- B. The basis of Jesus condemnation - Matt. 26:63-64

IV. ...AND IS THE BASIS OF SOUNDNESS AND UNITY

- A. God demands that all confess the name of His Son - 1John 4:1-3

V. THE OLD LAW REQUIRED CONFESSION

- A. Prov. 28:13 - confession of sins

1. Admitting one's sins was not enough. Turning from sin (repentance) was also required of the one confessing.
- B. Psalm 32:1-5 - steps of confession.
 1. David first acknowledged his sin.
 2. David confessed His sin.
 3. David then received forgiveness of his sin.
- C. In Mosaic Law, confession was commanded - Lev. 5:5-6
 1. When one touched an unclean thing or sinned in making an oath, he was to confess that he had sinned.
 2. The sinner had to bring a trespass offering for his sins.
 3. The priest would then make atonement for him after the confession.
- D. Nehemiah is an example of confession of sins in the O.T.
 1. Nehemiah admitted his own sins and the sins of his people - Neh. 1:6.
 2. Nehemiah had the people confess their sins before God - Neh. 9:1-2.
 3. After confessing their sins they would read the law of God - Neh. 9:3.
- E. OT confession is of sins; NT confession is of Christ

VI. NEW TESTAMENT REQUIRES CONFESSION BEFORE SALVATION

- A. Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-38

VII. THE PRICE OF CONFESSION OF FAITH IN JESUS IS OFTEN HIGH

- A. A point often under emphasized by those who teach the plan of salvation
- B. John 9:22 - Jesus taught the high cost of discipleship.
 1. Jesus healed a blind man who confessed Him - John 9:11.
- C. Peter and other apostles were beaten for confessing Jesus - Acts 5:28-40.

VIII. AT JUDGMENT, ALL WILL WISH THEY HAD CONFESSED CHRIST

- A. Note that hearing, believing, repenting, and confessing will all take place on Judgment Day. The only thing the sinner will not be able to do is be baptized. And that will be enough to keep him out of heaven

IX. TYPES OF CONFESSION

- A. Peter confessed after revelation from God - Matt. 16:16-17
- B. Thomas confessed after seeing overwhelming evidence - John 20:27-28
- C. As penitent believers today, we need to confess in the same way.
 1. We must confess that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God, in obedience to the Gospel, and with our daily lives thereafter

Conclusion:

- A. The O.T. commanded confession of sins.
- B. The N.T. commands confession of faith in Christ as the Son of God
- C. The price of confession is always high; the cost of not confessing is higher.