

## LESSON #17 CONFESSION

TEXTS: **Matthew 10:32, 33; Matthew 16:13-19; Romans 10:9, 10**

INTRODUCTION:

I. Confession is necessary in order to be saved (**Matthew 10:32**).

II. Confession of Christ is more than saying, "**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**"

Then what is meant when a penitent believer confesses his faith in Christ? It means that he realizes that as a lost sinner separated by his sins from God, there is no other hope and no other name through which there is salvation but Jesus Christ's. He acknowledges that he believes Christ died for his sins in accordance with God's plan revealed in the Scriptures - a death of shame. He confesses his faith in the great truth that death could not 'keep its prey', that Christ arose victorious over the grave to ascend on High. He acknowledges Jesus of Nazareth as the Risen and Glorified Lord and Christ over his own life. He acknowledges his absolute trust in Him as Savior, Redeemer, Prophet, Priest and King, and his willingness to follow Him wherever He may lead. "Here I am, you take me, I'm yours."

III. We receive encouragement by the confession that others made during the 3 years of Jesus ministry.

a. **John the Baptist - John 1:29**

b. **Peter -Matthew 16:16**

c. **Nicodemus -John 3:1**

We get our cue as to how important **our** confession is by observing two extraordinary confessions.

a. **God confessed His Son at His baptism (Matthew 3:16, 17).**

b. **Again on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5).**

Many need to make the first confession as the eunuch did (**Acts 8:36-38**).

The great tragedy is that many who had the opportunity to confess Him did not (**John 12:42, 43**).

Why not?

a. Too interested in the big things of life.

b. Too much wealth.

c. Preoccupied with the marvels of the universe rather than the "Marvelous" one.

The facts surrounding the life and death of Jesus and His claims in regard to that life and death are such that they tend great credibility to His claim to be the Son of God. From the beginning, Jesus' true disciples have confessed Him. This was the means whereby their allegiance was established and their faith in His divinity made known. In expressing their faith, His early followers put into words the only acceptable creed of the church. '**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God**' (**Acts 8:37**).