

Why Confess Jesus Christ Before Men?

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1 Tim. 6:11-16

1 Tim. 6:12-13, *“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. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession,”*

The text explained:

“The good confession.”

Why is this called “*the good confession*” twice in a single short paragraph?

Because Christ made it under oath (to the Sanhedrin before taken to Pilot). Mark 14:60-62, *“And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”*

Because God Himself made it two times:

At the baptism of Jesus, Matt. 3:17, *“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;”*

At the transfiguration, Matt. 17:5, *“While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”*

Because it is a vital part of salvation. Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

The Importance of the question, “Why confess Jesus Christ before men?”

In the text it is connected with “laying hold on eternal life.”

It is important that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God to obtain eternal life. 1 John 5:13, *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”*

Important questions asked concerning Jesus, asked by Jesus:

- Matt. 22:42, *“... What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? ...”*
- Matt. 16:13, *“... Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”*
- Matt. 16:15, *“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”*

In this country (The United States), where there are Bibles on every hand, where all people at least know of the challenge of Christ, the issue of the “Good Confession” cannot be evaded. Nearly every person in this country knows about Jesus Christ. Many deny that He is the Son of God, saying that he was only a good prophet. What do you say that He is? What do you believe? Is He the Son of God? The answer to this question is important to God.

The evidence that Jesus is “The Christ”, the promised “Messiah”:

Simon Peter declared it. Matt. 16:15-19, *“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

The angels of God declared it:

To Joseph. Matt. 1:18-23, *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a*

publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

To Mary. Luke 1:26-33, “And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

John the Baptist declared it. John 1:29-34, “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.”

Nathanael declared it. John 1:47-51, “Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater

things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

Nicodemus declared it. John 3:1-2, “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” Jesus spake unto him, John 3:14-16, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

The Ethiopian eunuch believed and declared it. Acts 8:26-38, “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

Why make the good confession?

It is the rock on which the church is built. Matt. 16:15-19, “He saith unto them, *But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

It brings to us the acknowledgment of Christ. Matt. 10:32, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”

It is unto salvation.

Rom. 10:9-10, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Faith before confession and then baptism.

Acts 8:37-38, “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

Other conversions.

Samaritans and Simon the Sorcerer, Acts 8:12-13, “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”

Cornelius and his household (Gentiles), Acts 10:47-48, “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”

Lydia and her household, Acts 16:14-15, “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which

worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, *If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*”

Saul of Tarsus (Paul), Acts 22:16, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*”

Putting it all together.

In the preceding examples and other scriptures, we see God’s plan of salvation. It is obvious that faith, repentance, confession, and baptism were required by God for the conversion of the alien sinner. These examples, individually, do not mention every phase of the conversion process; but the conclusions are obvious. The fact that any step of an example was not mentioned, we know from other scriptures that it did happen. God cannot lie.

Specifications and omissions occurred in the scriptures, not because they did not happen, but because the writer only mentioned parts of the whole process.

In Acts 8:38 it is obvious that they had “faith,” else they would not have asked the question, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” after hearing the gospel preached.

Is it reasonable to assume that in each conversion they were allowed to do just whatever they wanted to do? Some believing only (some today believe that)? Some believing and repenting? Some believing, repenting, and being baptized? Some believing, repenting, confessing, with no baptism? Actually, baptism is mentioned more than any other step of the conversion process.

Conclusion

Faith, Repentance, and Confession lead a person UNTO Christ, but it is Baptism that puts a person INTO Christ.

- Rom. 6:3-4, “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*”
- Gal. 3:27, “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*”

After conversion to Jesus Christ, our confession of Jesus never stops. It is the duty of every Christian to carry the name of Christ to the world. Mark 16:15, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

Let us not neglect the salvation that is put before us. Heb. 2:3, *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”*

Won't you make that good confession today? All people shall eventually make it.

Phil. 2:9-11, *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Won't you make it now?

