Confessing Christ

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| S.R. Matthew 16:13 - 28 | 10 – 7 – 2012 |

Introduction

* 1. Back to Basics:
     1. What Does it Mean to Confess Faith in Christ?
     2. Many religious folks affirm the importance of confessing faith in Christ:
     3. This is NOT a sermon re: confession of sin, per se
  2. Mt. 10:32, 33; Lk. 12: 8, 9 Jesus tells us that those who confess Him before men, will be confessed before the Father (Mt) Angels (Lk)
  3. Rom. 10:9 “That if you **confess** with your mouth, "Jesus is **Lord**," and **believe** in your heart that **God raised him** from the dead, you will be saved.”
     1. Some have twisted passages such as this to teach that Faith & Confession of Christ are all that is necessary to be saved.
  4. Where are we going?
     1. Look at several aspects of “confessing” Christ.
     2. Examine the premise that faith and confession (ALONE) make one right with God
  5. To confess Christ is to:

1. Acknowledge Jesus as an historical person
   1. Jesus *is* an historical person
      1. Born in Bethlehem, a historical place (Mt. 2:1)
      2. Born of the lineage of Abraham & David, historical persons (Mt. 1: & Lk.3)
      3. Born during the reign of Caesar Augustus, another historical person (Lk. 2:1)
      4. Preached & crucified during the reigns of Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea & Herod, Tetrarch of Galilee—ALSO historical persons
      5. Sources outside the Bible:
         1. First Century Roman historians: Tacitus, Suetonius, Pliny the Younger
         2. b. Josephus, a Jewish historian:

1) *Antiquities*, Book XVIII, chapter iii, 3

2) *Dissertation I*

6. Jesus is NOT a myth.

* 1. Jesus’ Humanity
     1. Jesus was born of a woman (Gal. 4:4)
     2. Jesus wept (John 11:35) at the tomb of Lazarus
     3. Jesus slept (Mk. 4:38) in a boat
     4. Jesus had a physical body that could be killed (Heb. 10:5,10)
     5. He was revealed in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16). “Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He **appeared in a body**, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”
     6. 2 John 7 “Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

1. Acknowledge Jesus as the Christ
   1. Christ” is from the Greek “Christos,” which is the equivalent of the Hebrew word “Messias,” which we translate “Messiah”
      1. Strong’s # 5547 “Christos” (Greek)
      2. Strong’s # 4899 “mashiyach” the Hebrew word from which “Messias” (found in Jn. 1:41; Jn. 4:25)
         1. John 1:41 “The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).”
         2. John 4:25 “The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."
      3. Messiah – means anointed one – generally in reference to a king (cf. 1 Sam. 24:6) “the Lord’s anointed” David used in reference to king Saul.
      4. Matthew 16:16 “Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
      5. Acts 2:36 “"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
   2. Jesus, the Christ, is a King – a king over what or whom?
      1. Matthew 16:24 – 28 Read – Daniel Burgin
      2. John 18:36 “"My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."
      3. Colossians 1:13 “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,”
      4. Revelation 1:9 “I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”
      5. First century followers of Christ understood they were under the rule and reign of a king.
   3. To Confess Christ is to:
2. Acknowledge Jesus as *Deity*
   1. Remember Mt. 16:16 “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”
      1. Jesus concurred with that assessment of his essential nature.
   2. What does the phrase “Son of God” mean in context?
      1. He was not a created being: Eternal, self – existent (Jn 1:1- 3, 14; 20:30 – 31)
      2. Col. 1:15 – 17 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (cf. Psalm 89:20, 27) *Firstborn*
      3. Ph’p. 2:5 – 8 Jesus did not insist on His rights as Deity, but rather, gave up the privileges to become a slave.
      4. “Son of God” indicates his equality with God – Jews understood
         1. John 5:18 “For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.
         2. John 10:30 – 36 (Don’t read)
   3. Many admit that Jesus was an historical person, but deny His deity. Among them:
      1. Modernist – deny anything super – natural – cf. miracles.
      2. Some atheist – admit his person, but deny His claims
      3. Religious people - notably: Jews and Muslims: a prophet, but not the Prophet
      4. To confess Jesus Christ in the biblical sense is to confess His Deity! (Rom.10:9) “That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
3. Acknowledge Jesus as *Savior*
   1. He came to save the lost.
      1. Mt. 1:21 “…you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins.”
      2. Luke 19:10 “…Son of Man has come to seek & save that which was lost.”
      3. We could acknowledge Him as: Historical, Messiah (i.e. King) & Deity and YET be lost ***unless*** we also acknowledges Him as Savior!
         1. Isa. 53:4-9; 10-12 Note that the Ethiopian was reading here and in Acts 8:34,35 Philip began at the same scripture and preached Jesus to him!
         2. Heb. 9:28 “…Christ…once offered to bear the sins of many…”
         3. Rom. 5:5—8 Note v.8 “…while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
   2. Unless a person admits to the fact that Christ is our only Savior and that His blood is the only remedy for sin we have no hope
      1. (cf. Romans 3:22 – 25) “in His blood through faith”
      2. Col. 1;14 “in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
4. Acknowledge Jesus as Lord
   1. As Lord, He is absolute master and controller of my life.
      1. Romans 6:8 – 12 “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.”
      2. Romans 10:9 – 10 “That if you confess with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”
      3. Matthew 28:18 “all authority has been given unto me…”
      4. Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
   2. Gap between Promise and Practice – bulletin article
      1. “Why do you call me, Lord, Lord?” (Luke 6:46)
      2. 2 Cor. 9:13 “obedience of your confession”
      3. We say, “Jesus is my Lord”, but then disregard his will and instructions.
   3. Salvation depends upon our obedience to His will.
      1. Heb. 5:9 “and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him”
5. Conclusion:
   1. Do you believe Jesus?
   2. Do you confess your trust and allegiance?
      1. Matthew 10:32 “"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.
      2. 33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

C. If so, are you confessing Jesus as:

1. An historical person?

2. Messiah?

3. Son of God?

4. Savior?

5. Lord of your life? (does your LIFE confess Him?)

6. All of the above?

D. Those who truly believe in Jesus accept Him as ALL the above.

1. Those who truly believe in Jesus strive to obey His commands—ALL of them

2. We’re not talking about sinless perfection—we’re talking about a walk that

strives to obey and repents as often as we fail to obey.

1. Invitation—Is He truly Lord of YOUR life?
   * 1. If you are not yet in Christ?
        1. Confession is but one part of God’s plan of salvation.
        2. We plan to discuss another part next week.
     2. Confessed Him as Lord, but your life has not reflected His supremacy in your choices and actions.
        1. Please understand that our lives confess whether we truly believe

3. If we can assist you—please come as we stand & sing.