

CONFESSION – WHAT IT MEANS

“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” We often call this ‘the good confession.’ God’s plan for our salvation follows a natural order of events. Man must hear the gospel before he can believe it (Romans 10:17). When he believes it, he decides to follow it by repenting of his sins and being baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38). Since baptism is always done by another person and since the new Christian is added in fellowship to an existing congregation, it is important for these people to know that the candidate who requests baptism has faith. Thus, Philip was asked by the believing Ethiopian if he could be baptized. Philip answered, “If you believe with all your heart, you may (Acts 8:37). Notice that the Ethiopian confessed his faith in Christ, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

There is a time for the Christian to confess his sins and seek God’s forgiveness in prayer (1 John 1:9). But the confession made before baptism is a confession of faith, not sins. Have you ever thought in any depth what it means to say, “I believe that Jesus is the son of God”? What are we saying we believe when we confess.

- It means that we believe the Son of God was born of a virgin and walked upon this earth (Matthew 1:18-3:17)
- It means that we believe that He walked a sinless and perfect life (1 Peter 2:21-23).
- It means we believe He performed all the miracles recorded in scripture (John 20:30-31).
- It means that we believe He willingly gave his life for us (John 10:17).
- It means we believe that he died to pay the price for our sins (1 John 2:2).
- It means that we believe the miracle of his resurrection from the grave (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- It means that we believe the Bible is the inspired word of God (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- In short, it means that we believe that the entire Bible is the word of God (Matthew 4:4).

No wonder we call it the good confession and no wonder Paul says it is in the direction of salvation.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:10).