

## "CONFESSING CHRIST WITH THE MOUTH"

### Introduction

1. Well-known words
2. Faith and confession – both
3. This is how it ought to be for us all

### 1. THE HEART IS INVOLVED AND ENGAGED IN SALVATION

- 1) Is it possible to profess + yet not truly believe?  
Yes! Look at Judas.
- 2) The 'heart' means the innermost soul of a person: the soul of a regenerate person turns from all sin and embraces Christ as its true + highest good.
- 3) How can so great a change occur?
  - (i) the soul feels its NEED of God's mercy
  - (ii) sees its guilt IMPUTED to Christ
  - (iii) feels that inward PEACE of being justified
  - (iv) possesses a new HOPE of heaven + glory
  - (v) looks upon all believers as BROTHERS
- 4) To bring this message of life-changing joy God takes great pains:  
v.13-15  
APPLICATION: Is your heart moved by God's grace?

### 2. THE MOUTH IS ALSO ENGAGED IN SALVATION

- 1) Is it possible to believe and yet not to profess Christ with the mouth? Yes? "secret believer".
- 2) Secret believers are real believers – but they are not honouring Christ in every way : TEXT
- 3) Various reasons for this failure to comfort:
  - (i) family / church background

- (ii) nervousness / shyness / modesty...
- (iii) fear of being deceived

ILLUSTRATION: the woman with the issue

- 4) But, all who believe in their heart SHOULD confess with their mouth too:
    - (i) TEXT: this is the rule God has given
    - (ii) we must not be wiser than God
    - (iii) should we not tell what God has done for us?
    - (iv) look at Nicodemus, Zacchaeus...
  - 5) In our day it involves professing Christ and coming into membership:
    - (i) "all things common = church members
    - (ii) "This do in remembrance of ME"  
APPLICATION: Make your calling and election SURE"
- ### 3. WE MUST NOT SLIGHT THIS ORDINANCE OF GOD
- 1) Clearly, there are 2 possible errors:
    - (i) to confess with the mouth, but no heart:  
OBSERVE: This is empty, nominal Christianity
    - (ii) to believe in the heart, but no confession:  
OBSERVE: We call it "membership". Here it is.
  - 2) Reasons why it is not good to decline confession
    - (i) The NT shows it is part of true faith – see Acts
    - (ii) Christ required it: e.g. Peter, Nathaniel, the woman with the issue
    - (iii) The existence of the church
    - (iv) The next generation  
OBSERVE: If you, a believer, do not clearly profess Christ, who is going to do so?

### CONCLUSION

In the day of death, will you not be sorry that you never confessed Christ in a public way?

**PALM**

**40: 1 – 5**

**137: 1 – 6**

**66: 16 – 20**