

Every Tongue Will Confess

Scripture

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for [His] good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:9-13 NKJV)

Thesis

Confess the Lord now to receive the reward.

Commentary

Truly, every knee shall bow in the future and confess Jesus is Lord. Some will do so after spurning Him their whole life. Their confession will be followed with everlasting torment, but for the person who will confess Jesus before death, his will be followed by everlasting joy.

My dear friends, the consequences couldn't be any higher. Jesus does not want to see you perish. He is not pleased with the death of the wicked (Ezek. 33:11). However, He will be glorified even if by the lips of the proud and rebellious.

Therefore, it is of greatest importance that you heed the admonition to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

I am amazed with the attitude of some who profess Christ, and speak as if they never have any fear. Everything is glorious every day. I suppose they are saying they never sin for sin brings a man low.

“. . . O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down. [There is] no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor [any] health in my bones Because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.” (Psalms 38:1-4 NKJV)

However, this façade is more likely supported by a misunderstanding of salvation. Many hold on to a one-time confession of faith without considering the need for a life of faith. It is not how you begin the Christian walk that counts; it is how you finish. There are warnings throughout Scripture admonishing believers to hold fast to the end.

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end” (Hebrews 3:12-14 NKJV).

No doubt, someone is asking, "Is he talking about losing your salvation? Once saved always saved, right?" Listen, my friend that is a theological truth. Those who have truly been saved will never fall away. However, will you notice carefully that the passage above is addressed to brethren? I fear a good many souls have gone into hell, who were once called brethren.

This is why God tells us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Understand He doesn't want you to walk around without joy or peace, but He does want you to attend to your life with great care. True peace comes from living a life of holiness. Don't throw off the pangs of conscience by resting in a prayer or water baptism.

Instead, work it out. Confess your sins and repent. If you see a pattern of sin, seek to mortify it. How will you know if a long practiced sin is un-mortified sin or the dominion of sin? A believer cannot be under the dominion of sin. You must work out your own salvation. Mortify the flesh constantly. Beat back pride with humility. Conquer the lust of the eyes with generosity, and overcome the temptations of the flesh with holiness.

Every tongue will confess Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father. Let it be so now for your own sake.

Father, sin is deceitful. Let us not fall into the temptations of the devil. May our confession be accompanied with sincere repentance! Lord, do not allow us to be at ease if we sin. Give us hearts that can feel your displeasure when we grieve the Holy Spirit so that we might turn and be refreshed. Let our confidence not be in a one-time confession, but in a life of confession. Help us as we work out our salvation for your glory, amen.