

Confessing ... Or Denying?

“Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, he will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. but whosoever shall deny me before men, he will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33).

Among the several ways in the New Testament by which proper response to God, and an improper response, are pictured, this is one of the most striking. We either confess him or deny him. It has to mean, of course, far more than just making a statement with the mouth, and seeing it in context helps that point to stand out. Romans 10:10 makes reference to confession with the mouth. Here, in Matthew 10, far more is emphasized.

Notice that in the context, Jesus is preparing his disciples for a life of hardship, setting before them a picture of having their message rejected (v. 14), being in circumstances of danger (v. 16), being brought up on civil charges (vv. 17-18), having family members to betray them (v. 21) and yea, to be hated of all men (v. 22). Now, such a foreboding picture immediately would cause weak men to think in terms of taking an unfaithful course in order to avoid the peril. Jesus then urges: “Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (v. 28).

After those points, he states our text verses, showing that confessing is **CONFESSING IN LIFE, AND WITH LIFE**, and with forfeiture of life if necessary! In like manner, one could, for the sake of fear or other unworthy motivation, choose to be disloyal and refuse to bear whatever burdens that come, and perhaps save the life, but it would be in denial of the Lord! In reality, to **REFUSE TO CONFESS** is to **DENY**!

We can continually express thanks that we live in circumstances wherein one can have faith, live in faith, serve in faith and teach the faith, and persecution in a physical way will not come. Yet, there are other ways wherein many fail to confess him, having to do, simply, with faithfulness. They do not confess him in consistently living for him, serving him, worshipping him, etc. Thus, they are in denial of him! And it is all the more shameful because friends, family, and neighbors know that we propose to be Christians. Then, we end up, before all of these, living contrary to his purposes for us. We thus deny him! The question, for you and me: Is my daily life a **CONFESSION** of the Lord, or is it a **DENIAL**?

-Written by Bill Jackson



STERLINGTON
Church of Christ



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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

6/4/23

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Elders:

Todd Chapman
Paul Simpson

Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

Preacher:

Don Delukie

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer-** Dave Reppond
Communion- Paul Simpson **Closing Prayer-** Luke Chapman

June 11th

Announcements- Travis Rogers **Opening Prayer-** Charles Fricke
Communion- Lyle Russell **Closing Prayer-** Matthew Fricke

Announcements

— **Question & Answer Series:** Our next Question and Answer Series will be scheduled when enough questions are turned in. Give your questions to Don.

— **Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.

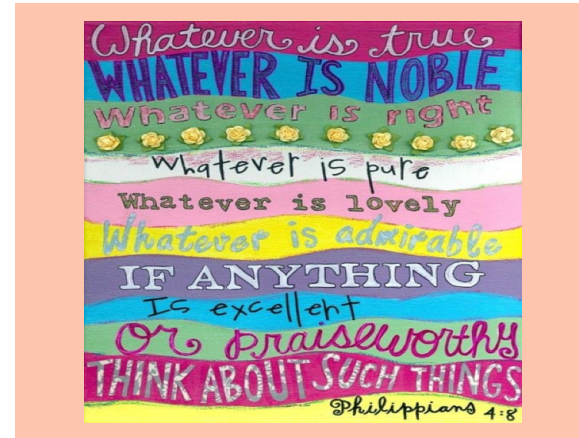
Please Pray For:

Gena Granger, Lorrie McDonald Edwards, Peggy Johnson, Waymon Swain, Ben Aaron, Roy McDonald, Dwain Flowers, Buster Guice, Charles Reeves, Keith Bailey, Ronnie White, Dave Garris, Georgia Fox, Emma Morgan, Elaine Field.

Bereaved: Families of Deb McInturff, Betty Jo Franklin, Rita Walthall, Hershel Bearden, Sheila Crowe's mother, Mike Watkins.

Continue to Pray For:

Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James & Lorene Johnson, Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Gail Sewell, Malea Zuber, Bobby Simmons, Max Aubel, Tricia Muse, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross, and Charlie McDaniel Jr.



June birthdays

10 - Sharon Harris
12 - Rachel Rogers
16 - Victor Binford
16 - Janice Hayes
20 - Debbie Grice
21 - Ashton Richardson
22 - Damien Miller
25 - Don Delukie

June Anniversaries

28 - Arthur and Cybil Binford
28 - Keith and Cheryl Brister

