

You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **James 5:8**

Store In My Heart Ecclesiastes 1:14

I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

These “bookend” passages sum up the message of this book. In an exhaustive search to find purpose and happiness in the things of this world, Solomon, discovered all was a waste of time and trouble of the mind. He used his riches and status to try all that was available to him to no avail.

His conclusion leads him back to the Creator. To focus on God in all parts of our existence is the only thing that matters. The wise man says we should enjoy life in service to God!



Confess Christ

Dan Henderson

*By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. **1John 4:2-3***

We have previously noted that knowledge and belief in God is certainly necessary for the one that would be saved. Without such one cannot even be aware of salvation. Of course, believing that salvation is possible does not mean that one is saved. As one learns of God and His plans for bringing man back into a relationship with Him it becomes obvious that being with God will require changes.

We noted in our last writing that this need for change is a point of distinction among those that learn of God. Many who believe that God is and wants us to be with Him are not willing to make the changes needed to come to Him. They want God to accept them without change, or they never develop a sufficient knowledge of God to cause a desire for change.

Another point at which we see many hesitate and even fail is with confession. Scripture reveals that confession is necessary if one is to be with God. It is even specific in regard to what we must confess if we want to have a relationship with God. To be in the presence of God we must confess our belief that Jesus is God's Son.

*Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **1John 4:15***

Paul told the Romans that this must be an honest confession

with the mouth, from the heart if we want salvation.

*But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. **Romans 10:8-10***

Even with such teaching some are not willing to profess their belief in a public manner. They want to be with God, but they do not want others to think differently about them. This attitude has been shown in men and women since the days that Jesus walked among men proclaiming God's message of repentance.

*Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God. **John 12:42-43***

We need to understand the importance of confessing our faith in Jesus as the Son of God. If we will not make our belief known to our friends and family Jesus will not bring us to the Father.

*Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 10:32-33***

*And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. **Luke 12:8-9***

Confession of our belief is essential to our salvation. If we do not have Jesus on our side as we come to God, we are lost and without hope. Telling others of our belief in Jesus as the Son of God should be a natural part of our submission to God.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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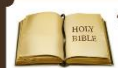
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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Paula Laubach is improving but still in pain from her fall.

Brenda Keisler has a respiratory and ear infection.

Ruben Keisler is still awaiting full results of his CT scans.

Shannon Soliday will have shoulder surgery November 11

Jim & Sue Soliday are still dealing with their other health issues but are getting over their recent illness.

Gloria Hurst's Sister, **Susan**, had knee surgery last week and is recovering at home.

The **Simpson family** is out of town this weekend.

Sunday Evening – **Zechariah** Wednesday – **John 10:22**