

For Our Information

Annette Gray is doing well in her recovery from knee surgery. She has already started physical therapy.

Joyce Venable is wearing a heart monitor. She has another doctor visit on Monday.

Ricky Ragsdale did not have surgery last Thursday. He is to see another neurosurgeon soon.

The Simpson family is out of town this weekend.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

Him were rebuked as those who loved the praise of men more than the praise of God because of their unwillingness to confess their faith in Christ. **(John 12:42-43)**

Confess What? So confession is a necessary element in the process of conversion. But what is to be confessed? What did that Ethiopian man in Acts 8 confess? He simply confessed his faith in the Savior from heaven. He did not have to confess sins to a priest. And friends, he did not confess, "I believe that God, for Christ's sake, has pardoned my sins."

The reason why he didn't confess that his sins had been pardoned is simple. No matter how strongly he had believed in the facts concerning Jesus; no matter how soundly he had determined to change his life with regard to sin; no matter how loudly he affirmed his intention to change before men, he had not made the change. So he couldn't say that God for Christ's sake had pardoned his sins, because at that point, his sins had not yet been pardoned. This brings us to the element of conversion that will be discussed next time.

Seeking His Righteousness

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Conversion — Confession

Jason Malham

Imagine the following scenario. A man has led a life of indifference with regard to spiritual things. Consequently, he has led a life of moral conduct characteristic of such indifference. He attends the worship services of a church of our Lord and hears a simple sermon on sin and God's plan of forgiving it. It intrigues him and he wants to hear more. Through the course of a private Bible study with a Christian, he becomes convicted that there is a God and Jesus is His life-giving Son. He develops faith in Jesus as the Son of God sent to take upon Himself the sins of an ungodly world. Having ascribed to this new body of knowledge (having developed faith), the man starts to feel very, very sorrowful. He realizes now his unsavory



Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 10:32



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Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

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1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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position and relationship with the Eternal One. He acquires the sense of godly sorrow that leads to repentance. **(2Corinthians 7:10)** And so he repents. He makes the decision that he is going to change his life from one of indifference to one of dedication to the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Is he converted? No. As we closed the last article, he has only resolved to be rid of his past life. It is, at present, still attached to him.

What Man Knows? This brings us to the Bible concept of "confession" and the Ethiopian referred to in the first article. This was a man whose story is recorded in the book of Acts, chapter 8, verses 26-39.

He was riding along in his chariot reading an Old Testament scripture (Isaiah 53) and was approached by Philip, a disciple of Jesus. Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading. Since he did not understand, Philip resolved to teach the man, give him a proper understanding of the facts of history, and thereby produce faith within his heart. **(Romans 10:17)** *"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him."* (v. 35)

They later came upon a body of water and the Ethiopian man said, *"See here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"* (v. 36) Now, the careful reader would be curious as to what prompted this man to want to be baptized in water. Of course, the simple conclusion one is forced to reach is that in preaching Jesus (v. 35) there was the preaching of water baptism (v. 36).

Our concern in this lesson on "confession", though, is Philip's response to the Ethiopian. He asked what hindered him from being baptized. *"Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.'"* (v. 37a) Have you ever wondered why Philip said that? Don't you think he knew this man now believed in the Jesus he had been preaching to him? I

Store In My Heart

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

God's promise to care for us. But notice that this promise is conditioned upon our being focused on His work.

The intent is to help us keep our focus on what is most important. Rather than being distracted by the things of this world, we can focus on the work God has given us. God will see that we have what is needed to do the work, if we will just set our minds to be busy for Him.

What was your focus during this past week? Did you arise each morning with an attitude of 'how can I serve God'? Did the prospect of study and worship get you up and moving today?

think Philip probably knew that this man believed and therefore could have simply said, "Nothing hinders you from being baptized, my friend. Let's go." But, ultimately, Philip could not know if the man had faith in his heart toward Jesus unless he revealed it to Philip. *"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?"* **(1Corinthians 2:11a)**

Pledging Allegiance. So this penitent man needed to make his faith known. This man had come to believe in Jesus Christ. He felt the sorrow of his sins which leads one to repentance. He repented in that he decided to start following God's ways. These things are evident in his desire to submit to the baptism of the New Testament. Philip, realizing all of this, put the condition on him. He showed the man that he needed to make his faith known. *"And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'"* (v. 37b)

When this man issued such a response, he pledged his allegiance to a new king. Back in elementary school, we used to "pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America". Don't you think everyone in the classroom understood that the others present were patriotic Americans? Sure. But there was still the need to express such patriotism and the same is true with one's newfound allegiance to the Christ.

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, Him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." **(Matthew 10:32-33)** Jesus was not simply speaking of the lifestyle that should be a constant expression of one's faith in Him. But also He spoke of the verbal confession necessary to be considered one of His disciples. **(Romans 10:10)** The rulers who believed in