

- Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?
75. What was the sixth great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?
  76. What was the seventh great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?
  77. What exalted office does the Person whom we know as Jesus now hold, by virtue of His Resurrection and Exaltation?
  78. What title does our Savior bear by virtue of His exalted office as Acting Sovereign of the universe?
  79. How long shall our Savior continue in His capacity of Acting Sovereign of the Universe?
  80. In what capacity will our Lord Jesus Christ be manifested at the end of the present Dispensation?
  81. What will the Lord Jesus Christ ultimately do with His Sovereignty?
  82. By what names does our Lord Jesus Christ reveal Himself to us, in reference particularly to His eternal offices and works?

#### **Lesson One-Hundred Four**

### **THE CHRISTIAN CONFESSION OF FAITH**

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Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:13-20.

Scriptures to Memorize: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved: for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10). "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16).

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- 83. Q. In what creedal formula are the truths respecting**

the Person and Work of Jesus, embodied and expressed?

A. They are embodied and expressed in the Christian Confession of Faith.

84. Q. What is the Christian Confession of Faith?

A. The Christian Confession of Faith is: that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matt. 16:16—"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." John 20:30,31—"these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." Rom. 10:9—"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

85. Q. What means it to confess that Jesus is the Christ?

A. To confess that Jesus is the Christ, is to accept and confess Him as The Anointed One of God.

(1) *It is to confess Him as our Prophet, i.e., as the Revealer of God to Man.* (2) *It is to confess Him as our great High Priest, who offered Himself as the all-sufficient Atonement for sin, and who now intercedes for His people at the right hand of God the Father.* (3) *It is to confess Him as our King, as the Absolute Monarch of the Kingdom of Heaven, as The Head of the Church which is His Body, and as the Sovereign of all created things.* (4) *It is, in short, to accept and confess Him as Master (i.e., Teacher), Savior, and Lord.*

86. Q. What means it to confess that Jesus is the Son of the living God?

A. To confess Jesus as the Son of the living God, is to accept and confess Him as the God-Man, the Divine-Human Redeemer, the Only Begotten from the Father, etc.

(1) Son of *God*, not gods. This word lays the ax at the root of all polytheism. "It empties the Pantheon and establishes the unity of God, which is the foundation of monotheism" (Z. T. Sweeney). (2) Son of the *living* God. This lays the ax at the root of all forms of pantheism, which would represent God as a mere principle permeat-

ing the universe, or identify Him with nature, etc. Our God is not a dead God; not a mere abstraction, idea or principle; not the totality of things; not an image of wood or stone; but the *living* and true God. (3) *The Son* of the living God. Note the definite article here. Not *a son* of God, in the sense that all men are sons of God, having been created in His image; but *The Son* of God, *i.e.*, by divine begetting and birth, etc. Hence *the only begotten Son*, the only begotten from the Father, etc. This lays the ax at the root of Unitarianism and all forms of unbelief which treat Jesus as a mere man, teacher, philosopher, etc. No one who believes that Jesus was merely and *entirely* man, can honestly make this good confession of faith.

**87. Q. What is the import, practically speaking, of this Christian Confession of Faith?**

**A. To make this Christian Confession of Faith, is to accept Jesus as one's personal Master, Savior and King.**

"To intelligently confess Jesus as the Christ is to accept Him as Prophet, to teach; as Priest, to atone and intercede; and as King, to rule. Jesus sustains all of these relations to His people, and through these relations He supplies their every need" (J. B. Briney). "To believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, is to believe that He is divine, that He possesses all authority, that He is the head of His church, that He is the great High Priest, that He is the Savior of the world" (W. H. Book). "The good confession is very simple. It means: 'I accept Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God and my supreme Lord, and I promise to do my best to be like Him.' Any one can understand that; and whoever believes that and lives true to it is a Christian" (F. D. Kershner).

**88. Q. What are the outstanding characteristics of the Christian Confession of Faith?**

**A. It is: (1) heaven-born and heaven-sent, (2) scrip-**

tural, (3) comprehensive, (4) simple, (5) all-sufficient, and (6) profoundly vital.

(1) *It is heaven-born and heaven-sent.* Matt. 16:17—"flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven." (2) *It is scriptural.* That is, it is found in the New Testament writings. This cannot be said of any other creed or Confession in Christendom, not even of the so-called "Apostles' Creed." (3) *It is comprehensive,* in that it includes within its scope every fundamental truth with respect to the person, offices, and work of Christ. It embodies in one brief, concise affirmation all the facts in reference to the Incarnation, Atonement, Resurrection, and Exaltation of God's Anointed. Unlike the creeds and confessions which have been written by men, it is so comprehensive that it never needs to be revised. It is perfectly adaptable to one's ever-increasing knowledge of divine truth. (4) *It is, at the same time, exceedingly simple.* Even the most uneducated person can understand that it means, in its practical import, the acceptance of Jesus as one's Master, Savior, and King. These are matters that a child can understand. (5) *It is all-sufficient.* It is the only statement of faith that was required in apostolic times as a prerequisite of baptism and church membership. It is the only one that should be required today. Other creeds are of necessity of human origin, and consequently unscriptural and divisive. (6) Finally, *it is profoundly vital.* It pertains essentially to a Person—and to a *living* Person, if you please! "The living Creed of the living Church of the living God, is the ever-living Christ." Cf. Rev. 1:17,18—"I am . . . the Living one . . . I am alive for evermore."

**89. Q. What does Jesus say about our making this Confession of Faith?**

**A. He says that we must confess Him before men, if we would expect Him to confess us before the Father who is in heaven.**

Matt. 10:32,33—"Every one therefore who shall confess

me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven." Similarly, Paul writes: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved: for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10).

**90. Q.** In view, then, of the array of evidence presented in this series of lessons with respect to the Person and Work of Jesus, what should we do?

**A.** We should make the Christian Confession of Faith without delay, if we have not already done so, and live true to it the rest of our lives.

Rev. 3:5—"He that overcometh shall thus be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels." One who does not make this confession here in faith will make it some day in eternal remorse and despair (Phil. 2:9-11, Rev. 6:16-17).

### REVIEW EXAMINATION OVER LESSON ONE-HUNDRED FOUR

83. In what creedal formula are the truths respecting the Person and Work of Jesus, embodied and expressed?
84. What is the Christian Confession of Faith?
85. What means it to confess that Jesus is the Christ?
86. What means it to confess that Jesus is the Son of the living God?
87. What is the import, practically speaking, of this Christian Confession of Faith?
88. What are the outstanding characteristics of the Christian Confession of Faith?
89. What does Jesus say about our making this Confession of Faith?

90. In view, then, of the array of evidence presented in this series of lessons with respect to the Person and Work of Jesus, what should we do?