

This email is the *seventh in a series of articles* I've titled "GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW". Each future article builds upon previous articles, so if you need to review an earlier article, they are available online at www.warnerschapelchurchofchrist.org . It is my hope that these articles will be beneficial to everyone who receives them. Please share them with your friends and family members and feel free to email any questions or comments to me [David Moore] at dmoore5@triad.rr.com .

GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW!

God wants you to know that you must confess Jesus as the Son of God in order to have forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. In Matthew 10:32-33 (KJV) Jesus said: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

In light of what Jesus said, we will consider how the Ethiopian eunuch manifested his love toward Jesus by confessing Jesus before men as a part of his obedience to the gospel of Christ. After Phillip had preached Jesus to him: "they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Phillip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:36-37 KJV). The reason the eunuch confessed Jesus before Phillip is found in Romans 10:9-10 (KJV): "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath 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."

While there is a sense in which we confess or deny Jesus by our manner of life, it is important to emphasize that "with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10 KJV). With this in mind, why would anyone refuse to confess Jesus before men?

Some might say that their relationship with Jesus is personal; therefore, it isn't necessary to publicly state their belief that Jesus is the Son of God. It is true that salvation is a personal matter between the individual and God, but that only substantiates the personal responsibility of each individual "to confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus" (Rom. 10:9 KJV).

Based upon the above scriptures, confessing Jesus as the Son of God (along with belief in Jesus and repentance) is prerequisite to forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. In the next article we will consider the relationship between baptism, forgiveness of sin, and eternal salvation.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." (James 1:19 KJV)