

Who do we confess?

*Aren't two sparrows sold for an assarion coin? Not one of them falls on the ground apart from your Father's will, but the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore **don't be afraid. You are of more value** than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who **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 10:29-33)*

*But the **righteousness which is of faith** says this, "**Don't say in your heart**, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)"*

*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 preach: that if you will **confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord**, and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. For **with the heart, one believes unto righteousness**; and **with the mouth confession is made unto salvation**. For the Scripture says, "**Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed**." (Romans 10:6-11)*

*But if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, **cleanses us from all sin**. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

*If we **confess our sins**, **he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins**, and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. If we say that we haven't sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I write these things to you **so that you may not sin**. If anyone sins, **we have a Counselor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous**. (1 John 1:7 – 2:1)*

*The good man **out of his good treasure** brings out good things, and the evil man **out of his evil treasure** brings out evil things. I tell you that **every idle word** that men speak, they will give account of it in the **day of judgment**. For **by your words** you will be **justified**, and by your words you will be **condemned**. (Matthew 12:35-37)*

***This is the judgment**, that the **light has come** into the world, and **men loved the darkness** rather than the light; for their works were evil. For **everyone who does evil hates the light**, and doesn't come to the light, lest his works would be exposed. But **he who does the truth comes to the light**, that his works may be revealed, that they have been done in God. (John 3:19-21)*

*My God will **supply every need** of yours **according to his riches in glory** in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)*

*Grace to you and peace be multiplied in **the knowledge of God** and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that his divine power has **granted to us all things** that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and virtue; by which he has granted to us **his precious and exceedingly great promises**; that through these you may **become partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption** that is in the world by lust. (2 Peter 1:2-4)*

*Or **do you despise the riches** of his **goodness, forbearance, and patience**, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (Romans 2:4)*

*But we all, with unveiled face beholding as **in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18 WEB)*

What are these potent promises that compose the riches of glory?

Declarations of the real **truth about our identity** from **God's perspective**.

What does it mean to confess Jesus before men?

To **agree with what God says** is **true** about us rather than what our opinions, feelings or what is popular. We confess/**agree with our mouth**, both the real **truth about God** and about **ourselves**.

*For if while we were enemies, **we were reconciled** to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we **be saved by his life**. But more than that, we even **boast in God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (Romans 5:10-11 NRSV)*

*For if we have become **united with him** in the likeness of his death, we will also **be part of his resurrection**; knowing this, that **our old man was crucified with him**, that the **body of sin** might be **done away with**, so that we would **no longer be in bondage to sin**. For he who has died has been **freed from sin**. But if we **died with Christ**, we believe that we will also **live with him**; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. **Death no more has dominion** over him! (Romans 6:5-9)*

*Thus **consider yourselves** also to be **dead to sin**, but **alive to God in Christ Jesus** our Lord. Therefore **don't let sin reign** in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. (Romans 6:11-12)*

***Being made free from sin**, you became **bondservants of righteousness**. (Romans 6:18)*

*But now, **being made free from sin**, and having become **servants of God**, you **have your fruit of sanctification**, and the result of eternal life. (Romans 6:22)*

*Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that **I will raise to David a righteous Branch**, and he shall **reign** as king and **deal wisely**, and shall execute **justice** and **righteousness** in the land. In his days Judah shall be **saved**, and Israel shall dwell safely; and **this is his name** by which he shall be called: **Yahweh our righteousness**. (Jeremiah 23:5-6)*

*Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that **I will perform that good word** which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will **I cause a Branch of righteousness to grow up** to David; and he shall execute **justice** and **righteousness** in the land. In those days shall Judah be **saved**, and Jerusalem shall **dwell safely**; and **this is the name** by which **she** shall be called: **Yahweh our righteousness**. (Jeremiah 33:14-16)*

***Babylon is suddenly fallen** and destroyed: wail for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed. We would have healed Babylon, but **she is not healed**: forsake **her**, and let us **go everyone into his own country**; for her judgment reaches to heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies. **Yahweh has brought forth our righteousness**: come, and let us **declare in Zion the work of Yahweh** our God.*

(Jeremiah 51:8-10)

Does it **feel strange** or even **dishonest** to **confess** such radical truths? Consider this.

*And by this we **know that we are of the truth**, and **persuade our hearts** before him, because **if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.***

*Beloved, **if our hearts don't condemn us, we have boldness** toward God; and whatever we ask, we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight.*
(1 John 3:19-22)

*Now, little children, **remain in him**, that when he appears, **we may have boldness**, and **not be ashamed** before him at his coming. If you **know that he is righteous**, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.* (1 John 2:28-29)

*In this **love has been made perfect** among us, **that we may have boldness** in the day of judgment, because **as he is, even so are we** in this world. There is **no fear in love**; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. He **who fears is not made perfect** in love. We love Him, because **he first loved us**.* (1 John 4:17-19)

*Behold, **how great a love** the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be **called children of God!** For this cause the **world doesn't know us**, because it didn't know him. Beloved, **now we are children of God**, and it is not yet revealed what we will be. But we know that, when he is revealed, we will **be like him**; for we will **see him just as he is**.* (1 John 3:1-2)

(Supplemental verses added in response to a question raised during the presentation regarding our being raised with Christ.)

*But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, **even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), and **raised us up with him**, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus; for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*
(Ephesians 2:4-8)

*For in him all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, and in him you are made full, who is the head of all principality and power; in whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with him **in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God**, who raised him from the dead. You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. **He made you alive together with him**, having forgiven us all our trespasses, wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us; and he has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; having stripped the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.* (Colossians 2:9-15)

***If then you were raised together with Christ**, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God.* (Colossians 3:1)

*We were buried therefore with him through baptism to death, that **just like Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.** For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, **we will also be part of his resurrection**; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him; knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no more has dominion over him! For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God. Thus **consider yourselves** also to be dead to sin, but **alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Romans 6:4-11)*