



Confession and Baptism

Introduction: Sometimes we make the mistake of thinking that once we have believed, repented, and confessed, our obedience is then culminated in baptism. In fact, this process simply puts us INTO Christ (as we shall see from this lesson) and our obedience has really only just begun. Confession, for instance, is also translated "profession" in some cases and so we should see our whole life as professing the verbal confession we made prior to baptism. Read Rom. 10.9-10 and Titus 1.16 to see the different usages of this word "confess". It should be especially interesting to note that this is a continual process. Our whole life becomes a profession of not only who Jesus is but of His purpose in coming to earth. He becomes our King as well as our Savior!

"confession/profession" Mt. 7.23, I Tim. 6.12

From W.E. Vine's Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words fill in the blanks to define "confess":

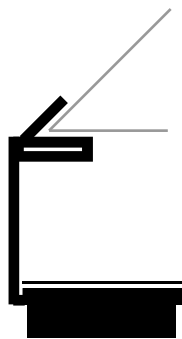
A. Verbs

HOMOLOGEO, lit., to _____ the same thing (homos, same, lego, to speak), to _____ accord, agree with.

B. Noun

HOMOLOGIA, akin to A, denotes confession, by _____ of the truth.

THOUGHT QUESTION: Do you think it is possible to deny/confess Jesus by the way we live our lives? How do you think you would know whether you were confessing or denying Jesus by what you were doing, not just saying?



A WORD ABOUT WORDS:

Many times we err greatly in our Bible study because we define the words using a modern English dictionary (say, Webster's, for instance). The problem is that the Bible was not written in English but in Hebrew, Latin (Septuagint), Aramaic and Koine Greek. If we want to know what the words meant as the writers penned them, we must rely on the language scholars. This word "baptism" is a great example of the difference in language definitions. Look it up in a modern English dictionary and you will see that we use the word quite differently from the New Testament usage. Let's be careful to define Bible words using Bible language.

BAPTIZO—to baptize, primarily a frequentive form of bapto, to dip was used among the Greeks to signify the dyeing of a garment, or the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another, etc. (the noun baptism, is defined as consisting of the processes of immersion, submersion, or emergence.) W.E. Vine's, page 97

BAPTISM—optional or necessity?

BUT, what does it do for you... can you be saved without it?

Some of the scriptural results (directly from the text):

Acts 22.16	By it your sins are...	WASHED AWAY
Acts 2.38	By it your sins are...	REMITTED
I Pet. 3.21-22	By it you have a...	GOOD CONSCIENCE
Gal. 3.27	With it you...	PUT ON CHRIST
Gal. 3.27	With it you are...	PUT INTO CHRIST
Rom. 6.1-4	By it you contact...	CHRIST'S BLOOD
John 3.3-5	It is how you are...	BORN AGAIN
I Pet. 3.21-22	By it you are...	SAVED
Acts 2.38	After it you...	RECEIVE THE GIFT

THOUGHT QUESTION: Is there anything else that gives all this?

Scripture: