

Children's Sermon: I'm sorry, confession, and forgiveness (it's ok). The Bible tells me so. *The grace of the Father, the mercy of His Son, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.*

Intro: *What's a confession? {what one confess/believes} When/where? Church/pastor/fam -Airplane couple their confession, non denom confession (doesn't mix) (non denom denom) -CLC 50th...(stand) –Lutheran vs. "Lutheran" (same 1580 –bk of concord) certainty of faith*

1 Timothy 6:12-13 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge **13** you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Jesus Christ, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate...

Prayer: *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight Oh Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.*

Theme: "Let me tell you about THE good confession."

1) The Good Confession Points To Christ.

- a. Faith to fight for... Timothy's confession (at his baptism, or his ordination)
- b. Good confession of faith – points to Christ as God and Savior **Rom 10:9-10**
 - i. Sown by H.S. **Eph 2:8,9** – Sin/Grace
 - ii. Taught by Jesus **Mat 10:32-33** Gosp/Law [Ex. Peter's denial/repent]

App: How confident my confession is not only good, but the right one? [One, jealous God]

2) The Good Confession Is Based On God's Word.

- a. Basis of Paul's letter to Timothy in Ephesus... to encourage, strengthen him
 - i. In battle against false teaching/teachers **1 Tim 1:3** Tim, Paul, 1580, us
 - ii. **1 Tim 6:3** the sound "wholesome" words of Christ **2 Tim 3:15-17**
 - 1. when wholesome words rejected... **Rom 16:17,18**
 - iii. "**Great Commission**" –main part good confession! *Baptize + teach*

App: Jesus did not doubt His words were clear/understandable (adult + child) – one interpr -Jesus' words properly divide(d) both Law/Gospel –sole basis for THE only good confession -Sin's guilt (failure) –confess (know deserve punishment) -Where we fail, Christ succeeds...

3) The Good Confession Produces Blessings.

- a. Fight the good fight of faith... Paul's athletic illustrations. Why? Life training.
 - i. Our coach is Christ: He recruits us, He trains us, He equips us
- b. Fighting for Christ's kingdom **Mat 27:11** His kingdom hearts/souls **Jn 18:36-37**
 - i. "The Way" team/kingdom –fights not 4 perishes **2 Tim 4:8, Jam 1:12**

App/Sum: So what's a confession (THE good/only one)? **THE good confession:**

-accurately reflects as certain every Word of Christ as revealed in Holy Scriptures
 -assures us of Christ's payment/forgiveness of sins and hope of eternal life...

...even if faced with persecution, suffering, or death – like Christ did!

Lord, continue to give us opportunities to confess sins/Word...

Let me tell you...!!! THE good confession – which always points to Christ/rooted in His Word -In which we have the blessings of forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in Christ. Amen.

This peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your hearts and minds in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

As indicated above, our disposition and intention has always been directed toward the goal that no other doctrine be treated and taught in our lands, territories, schools, and churches than that alone which is based on the Holy Scriptures of God and is embodied in the Augsburg Confession and its Apology, correctly understood, and that no doctrine be permitted entrance which is contrary to these. ...We desire particularly that the young men who are being trained for service in the Church and for the holy ministry be faithfully and diligently instructed therein, so that the pure teaching and confession of the faith may be preserved and perpetuated among our posterity through the help and assistance of the Holy Spirit until the glorious Advent of our only Redeemer and Savior Jesus Christ. (The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, trans. and ed. Theodore Tappert [Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959], 12)

Romans 10:9-10 ...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe that in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; ...for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Ephesians 2:8,9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Matthew 10:32-33 Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer...

1 Timothy 6:3 ...if anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions;

2 Timothy 3:15-17 ...and from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Romans 16:17-18 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 27:11 Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

John 18:36-37 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

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App: Jesus did not doubt

-Jesus' words properly divide(d) both

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- g. Fighting for **Mat 27:11** **Jn 18:36-37**
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...even if

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-In which we have the blessings of

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