

WHO IS JESUS CONFESSING ABOUT?

Obedience to God has always involved some sort of contractual relationship wherein, in order for us to be pleasing to Him and receive His favor, we needed to do fulfill His requests. With such covenants, there were positive results for heeding the Creator's commands and negative results for refusing to do as He instructed. In the New Testament, Jesus spoke to us with a similar covenant-like command. Both Matthew and Luke record Jesus' statements along this line but do so with slight differences.

In Matthews's account, Jesus says, "Whoever confess 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 confess before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8-9). In some ways, its nice that we have these two versions. That is, knowing that Jesus testifies in front of the entire hosts of heaven is a powerful scene that ought to motivate us to work diligently in His service.

When Jesus appears before the Father and the angels of heaven, will he confess you? This is the question that every single person must ponder. The great news is that we don't have to doubt or merely wonder whether or not Jesus will confess us. As long as we do His will, we can be sure of it! Let us work daily to confess our great Savior and take comfort in knowing that He's promised to confess us before all of heaven!

10/23/2011

The Knightsville Lamp

**"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"
(Ps. 119:105)**

THE KNIGHTSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

905 Pieske St.
Knightsville, IN. 47850

GOSPEL MEETING Nov. 13-18

Brandon Hathaway

"Man vs God"

Please keep the following in your prayers
and/or encourage:

-Diane Hedge

-Kurt Doughty

-Our College Students and Youth

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am

Sunday Evening Worship Service 5:30 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

ELDERS

Steve Reynolds 812-878-6216

Tom Hathaway 812-605-1206

Rich Arnold 765-548-2699

Rob Dispennett 812-241-0927

BUT THE LORD STOOD WITH ME...

Paul's second letter to Timothy is very real, "unfiltered" expression of not only the Holy Spirit's message to young Timothy, but of Paul's personal frustrations. He spends much of his letter doing everything he can to remind the young preacher that not only would He have the responsibility of teaching the truth but that he would do everything in their power to prevent the truth as part of this, Paul thought it important to reinforce the key message that, sometimes, men and women of God will feel like they're all alone.

Near the end of the letter, the apostle spent a few minutes detailing various frustrating experiences wherein those who had once stood with him, encouraged him, and helped him, were no longer individuals that he could count on. In this text, he talked about Demas who had "forsaken" him (II Tim. 4:14). And, Paul said that "no one stood with" him during these challenging times (II Tim 4:16). Then, Paul wrote the following words: "But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me" (II Tim. 4:17).

Everyone will experience times of loneliness. The reasons for feeling this way varies widely from one person to another. The misery that accompanies loneliness to completely discourage him, Paul took confidence in knowing that the Creator stood by his side to help him, support him, and encourage him. Of the many reasons we should share the message of the gospel with others, this is certainly a key one. Let us share this with others and let us grow ever-confident knowing that the Lord stands with us.

THE KNIGHTSVILLE LAMP



On I-465 there is a Marine Corps recruiting poster (like above) that says: *“We don’t accept applications only commitments.”* This advertisement helps, I believe filter out those who are mentally or physically incapable of the vigor of Marine life. To withstand Marine boot camp, training and deployment one must commit to, not apply for, that way of life.

Our Commander (the Lord Jesus Christ) has made a similar declaration to those who seek to become His disciples. Consider carefully the following: *“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it began to mock him, saying this man began to build and was not able to finish? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciple”* (Luke 14:28-33). Jesus is not seeking applicants—He seeks commitment!

The cost we must pay is everything that might come between us and the Lord—give it up! Commitment also means that we take a stand for our values, principles and faith. *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be*

able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one” (Eph. 6:10-16). One cannot stand if he has no core values guiding his decisions.

I’m sure by now that most have heard of the Iowa high school male wrestler who refused to compete against a female at the state tournament last year, relinquishing any chance of becoming a champion because he says wrestling a girl would conflict with his religious beliefs.

What is your perception of this young man? What are your thoughts about his cognitive judgment?

Joel Northrup, a sophomore who was 35-4 wrestling for Linn-Mar High School, refused to wrestle his first round opponent, Cedar Falls freshman Cassy Herkelman. In a brief statement issued through his school, Northrup said he defaulted on his match with Herkelman because he doesn’t think boys and girls should compete in this kind of contact sport. “I have a tremendous amount of respect for Cassy... However, wrestling is a combat sport and it can get violent at times, as a matter of conscience and my faith I do not believe that is appropriate for a boy to engage a girl in this manner. It is unfortunate that I have been placed in a situation not seen in most other high school sports in Iowa.”

Here is a teenager so committed to his faith that he will forfeit his chance at competing for a state championship. It was not Joel who brought this attention to himself; he just quietly walked off after signing in. It seems he was not out to make a political statement, he was simply acting upon his core beliefs.

The only kind of “spiritual relationship” with God that results in eternal rewards is one that is based upon all-embracing devoted commitment to Christ, regardless of the consequences. “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Matthew 6:33).

Those who have truly sought the Lord’s righteousness know both the Lord and his divine will. “I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Tim. 1:12).

As a parent and grandparent I sincerely desire for my children and grandchildren to come to the Lord. I rejoiced greatly when they confessed Christ and were baptized. Yet, I reflected upon their commitment. I prayed they were converted not just covered with water.

Baptism is not some “rite of passage” that our children go through moving them from childhood to adulthood. Baptism is not the “rite of passage” that moves a boy from being taught by a woman Bible teacher to a man Bible teacher. Baptism is the means by which we contact the saving blood of Christ (Rom. 6:3-4) based upon our personal faith and allegiance (commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16).

One’s commitment to the Lord can be seen by his resolves. For example, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego demonstrated their commitment to Jehovah when faced with the possibility of death. They took a stand that would have cost them much more than a state championship when they refused to bow to the graven image. They said: “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will worship the gold image which you have set up” (Daniel 3:16-18).

I stand in amazement at the commitment of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego when they were willing to die for their faith. I admire and respect young Joel Northrup who stood for his beliefs.

I firmly believe that if we could just have that kind of commitment— we could once again see the world turned upside down for the Lord (Acts 17:6).

Remember Jesus doesn’t accept applications only commitments. (Acts 17:6)

~JR Bronger