

"PETER'S GREAT CONFESSION"**Introduction**

1. This passage is the gospel in a nutshell
2. It places the main thing before us all
3. Not secondary but primary issue

1. THE GREAT QUESTION WE MUST ALL FACE

- 1) "Who is Christ?" Your destiny is in it.
- 2) Many get it wrong: v.14:
 - (i) "John": a great preacher, etc
 - (ii) "Elijah": prophet and miracle-worker
 - (iii) "Jeremiah": "man of sorrows? prophet with sad message?
Compare 586BC/AD70?
- 3) They still get it wrong: example / hero / etc.
OBSERVE: Our own age perhaps worst of all
- 4) We must get this great Question right:
 - (i) not just the miracles
 - (ii) not even the resurrection
 - (iii) but the great Judgement Day
APPLICATION: So, what is your answer?

2. THE ONLY CONFESSION WHICH WILL SAVE US

- 1) Peter speaks for all true believers here: v.16
 - (i) the promised Messiah
 - (ii) the Saviour of our souls
 - (iii) one of the Persons of the blessed Godhead
APPLICATION: Here is the way to be saved
- 2) How is this the way of salvation?
 - (i) There are 2 covenants. Explain

(ii) Their terms are different

(iii) The terms of the covenant of grace are faith and repentance

- 3) We cannot confess Christ of ourselves:
 - (i) v.17: "flesh and blood...not revealed"
OBSERVE: parents, SS teachers, ministers, etc.
 - (ii) but the heavenly Father
- 4) It is the proof that we are "blessed".
APPLICATION: Do you have this blessedness?
- 5) All do who confess Christ as Peter did:
Exx. Woman of Samaria, Thomas, etc.
APPLICATION: This is proof that you are saved

3. CHRIST'S WAY IS THE WAY OF THE CROSS

- 1) Peter is blessed, but here goes wrong:
 - (i) "Thou art Peter...this rock..."
OBSERVE: The "rock" is Christ + His truth.
 - (ii) The Church and all her enemies
 - (iii) "The keys": preaching and properly exercised church discipline:
ILLUSTRATION: Pentecost; Ananias, etc
- 2) v.21: the way of the Cross revealed
- 3) v.22-23: Peter's error rebuked
DOCTRINE: The Christian's life in this world is patterned after Christ. i.e. the way of self-denial: Christ suffered for us; we must be ready to suffer for Him.

CONCLUSION

1. Faith leads us to take up the cross
2. This way leads to the crown
3. How we should love Christ!

PSALM**27: 1 – 4****61: 4 – 8****116: 9 – 16**