

# “The Messiah’s Missional Mirror”

Matthew 10:32-33

March 29, 2026

## INTRO:

**On this Palm Sunday**

*What in your life speaks?*

*What **are** you &/or **aren’t** you saying?*

Do you have any idea how eternally important this is?

## PRAYER

## CONTEXT:

- Gospel of Matthew on The Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> major discourse: *prepping for sending*
- Jesus modeled, told, taught, inspired, warned...

## BIG IDEA:

Miraculous, biblical, missional, & **radical**  
Christ-likeness, (**inside & out**), divides  
humanity, heaven, & hell... eternally!

*(I’m not raising the bar, I’m reinforcing what the Bar-Setter said...these are His words!)*

## PREVIEW:

1. What’s It MEAN?
2. What’s It MAP-out?
3. What’s It MATTER?

## TEXT:

### Matthew 10:32-33

<sup>32</sup> *“Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.”*

<sup>33</sup> *“But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”*

## I. What's It **MEAN?**

### A. CONTEXT

- Jesus is **PREPPING** for **SENDING**
  - *Remember My preaching/blessings*
  - *His only call is to truly be like Christ*
  - *Plus... you're My sheep... to wolves!*
  - *Only enduring to the end = saved*
  - *FEAR God & do NOT fear any other...*
  - (Now Jesus explains that further...)
- Jesus is **Confronting & Convicting**
  - You will **NEED** to *Know, Show, & Tell*
  - **Mine are like** *Noah, Abraham, Moses*
  - ***Non-followers are NOT followers!***
  - Non-followers are NOT Family!

- Jesus is **CLARIFYING** the **CONFUSING**
  - *Believe, receive, love, live* [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#)
  - **Romans 10:9** = [John 3:3; 16; 36](#)
  - **SEE JOB & JAMES IN HARMONY!**

**B. CONTOUR** (structured parallelism reveals the point!)

[Matthew 10:32-33](#)

<sup>32</sup> *“Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.*

<sup>33</sup> *“But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.*

- **Therefore**
  - **Everyone**
    - Confesses Me / (I will) Confess them
      - Before men / Before My Father
        - Who is in heaven.
- **But**
  - **Whoever**
    - Denies Me / (I will also) Deny them
      - Before men / Before My Father
        - Who is in heaven.

Our confession or denial of Christ in this world will determine Christ’s confession or denial of us in heaven.

## C. CONTENT

- *“Therefore”* = unites pre/post
  - *“Everyone & Whoever”* = ALL, absolute, 100%
  - *“Confess/Acknowledge”* = BE His WITNESS
    - *We are compelled to confess* Luke 14:23
    - *We are commanded to confess* John 20:21
    - *We are commissioned to confess* Matthew 28:18-20
    - *We are picked, promised, empowered...Acts 1:8*
  
  - *“Me”* (not just the carpenter’s kid...) = Christ, Lord, God
    - HE *picked, promised, empowered us... Acts 1:8*
    - *We are told, taught, transformed... 2 Cor. 5:17-21*
      - *We are His : miracles, messengers, missionaries*
      - *We are His: Aroma... Army... Ambassadors...*
      - *We are His: Salt... Light of the world... hill-city*
      - *We are His: Body, Koinonia-Ecclesia, FAMILY!*
        - We confess Christ by...
          - **Speaking** **B**
          - **Sharing** **E**
          - **Standing** **I**
          - **Serving** **N**
          - **SHINING!** **G**
- *Words* **WITNESS**
  - *Walk* **WITNESS**
  - *Work* **WITNESS**
  - *Worship* **WITNESS**
  - *Warfare* **WITNESS**
- **Our lips** H
  - **Our loves** I
  - **Our lives** S

# Confessing is BE-ing!

ALL by His grace, thru His Gospel, & for His glory!

- “Before” = in front/midst of
- “Before men” = *life/witness lived*
- “Before My Father” = God The Father
- “who is in heaven.” = The 1 true God
- “But” = contrast the last
- “Denies” = reject vs. confess

## ○ WHO?

- The Corrupt (1<sup>st</sup> John)
  - Atheists
  - Antagonists (*dogs & hogs*)
  - Anti-Christis (*vipers & wolves*)
- The Cowards (Revelation 21:8)
  - The Scared
  - The Silent
  - The “Slippery-Slopers”
- The Confused (1 Timothy 4:16)
  - Stumbling Sheep (1 Corinthians 3:10ff)
  - Churchy Goats (Matthew 7:21-23)
  - False religionists (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

## ○ WHAT?

- To **NOT confess/acknowledge** Christ, Christianity, & The capital “C” Church
    - **Per HIS Word, will, & ways**
  - To **NOT align with or share in** Christ, Christianity, & The capital “C” Church
    - **Per HIS Word, will, & ways**
  - To **reject, disavow, NOT affirm** Christ, Christianity, & The capital “C” Church
    - **Per HIS Word, will, & ways**
  - To **declare separation/disconnection** from Christ, Christianity, & His Church
    - **Per HIS Word, will, & ways**
- 
- **WHERE?** - Anywhere & Everywhere!
  - **WHEN?** - ANY-time & EVERY-time!
  - **WHY?** - **Motive ALWAYS matters!**
    - ***“What do you want?”*** – *Jesus The Christ*
    - *“How much do you want it?”*
    - *“Will you stand for it, **no matter what?**”*
    - *“Who/what will you deny at times? **Why?**”*
  - **HOW?**
    - **ALL opposing mirror images** of confessing!
    - *In ANY & ALL actions, attitudes, & alignments.*
    - HEBREWS outlines how **apostacy** unfolds:
      - Drifting/Distracting
      - Discontenting/Disconnecting
      - Dilly-dallying with lesser things
      - Disobeying God’s Word, will, way
      - DEFYING all together (inside)

## II. What's It MAP-out?

### A. Christ's PERSONAL Test

- Everyone & whoever includes any-ONE!
- You are included in God's "whoever!"

### B. Christ's THEOLOGICAL Test (see 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

- *How does God's sovereign & saving-grace relate to our defining, human-responsibility?*
  - John 6:44 & 14:6
  - 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:6 & Romans 8:1
  - Again... John 3 (vv.3, 16, & 36)
- Justification + Sanctification → Glorification

### C. Christ's RELATIONAL Test

- Me to men thru you
- You to men
- You to Me
- Me to Father
- You to Father thru Me

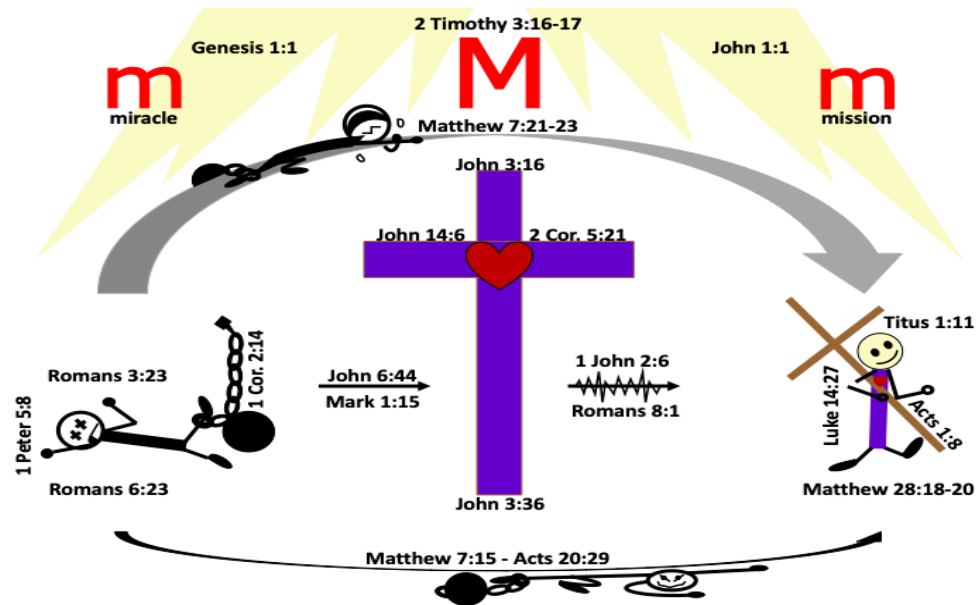
His point hinges **100%** on *confessing* or *denying!*

His point **defines** who will go to heaven or **HELL**

His point is **NOT...** "*this is HOW to get to heaven.*"

His point IS *an exhorting, & defining TEST.*

## D. Christ's GOSPEL Test



- *Any cross-less gospel is a Christ-less false Gospel!*
- *It's not enough to come to the cross, you **NEED to KNOW the LORD who hung on it!***  
- Deborah Slipper
- *Jesus Christ is **NOT** the Savior of **ANYONE** who denies Him as **LORD!** (Matt. 10:32-33)*

## E. Christ's ETERNAL Test

### Matthew 10:32-33

<sup>32</sup> "Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven."

<sup>33</sup> "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

# III. What's It **MATTER**?

## 1. Your *eternal* **STORY**

- You ARE being addressed here by *Jesus The Christ*
- HEAR & HEED Christ's missional exhortation!
- See 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:5
- *See ALL ways Christ divides & unifies in Scripture*

## 2. **Hell's** *eternal* **FURY**

- Forever fires.
- Forever weeping...
- Forever gnashing of teeth!

## 3. **GOD'S** *eternal* **GLORY**

- True confessing of Christ brings Him glory.
- ***False confessing of Christ is true denial of Him.***
- Denying Christ is lying about Him & His glory.
- Remember 1 Corinthians 10:31 & **it's love root.**

*Whatever you do, do ALL things for the glory of God...*

### John 14:15

*If you love Me you will obey My commands...*

*“Biblical confession ALWAYS summons the believer to vocal, steadfast agreement with the sovereign LORD, integrating BELIEF, IDENTITY, & MISSION into a single, courageous word.” - The Topical Lexicon*

## REVIEW:

- Jesus will confess/affirm those who confess Him.
- He will deny/reject those who deny/reject Him.

## **YOUR LIPS ARE NOT THE TEST, YOUR LIFE IS!**

NEITHER YOURS NOR CULTURE'S STANDARDS MATTER... HIS DO!

Matthew 15:8 & Isaiah 29:13

*'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.*

Miraculous, biblical, missional, & **radical** Christ-likeness, (**inside & out**), divides humanity, heaven, & hell... eternally!

## **Trust God & His Word... LISTEN to our LORD...**

- Remember how He closed His sermon in ch.5-7
- Listen to Him here in Matthew 10
- He's going to continue to underscore this point...

**FOR BETTER OR WORSE, LIKE IT OR NOT, OUR HEAD, HEART, & HANDS HARMONIZE & REVEAL OUR LIFE'S CONFESSIONS & DENIALS.**

***Faith without works is dead.*** – James 2:26

## CLOSE:

In a fallen world filled with fears, foes, & folly, Christ is crystal clear, our walks, works, & witnesses (how we BE... how we confess & acknowledge OR deny & reject God, His Word, will, & ways) will both define & divide us eternally.

(Matthew 6:4; Romans 2:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:8; Hebrews 6:10...)

He is no fool who gives away what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

- Jim Elliot

Our Head, Heart, & Hands harmonize our confessing or denying choices... Our BE-ing reveals our true faith, highest allegiances & loving passions. Therein, say's Christ, we will find our true relationship to Him AND our subsequent eternal family & address – heaven OR hell.

Thus, *we would be well served to study the contrasts between:*

- Peter's denial vs. Judas'
- Paul's confessing vs. The Rich Young Ruler's
- Stephen's confessing vs. Demas'

Biblical confessing is missional BE-ing!

Biblical denying is missional LYING!

A partial confession is a full denial.

# PRAYER