

So he who has made one heart throb with gladness, has done a deed whose power is beyond computation.

Glassville, N.B.

Why Confess Christ?

By Rev. John H. MacVicar, D.D.

A noted man was once asked: "Of what religion are you?" "I am of the religion of all sensible men", he replied. "And what religion is that?" "That", he said, "all sensible men keep to themselves." But do they? Is any religion sensible that can be kept to ourselves?

There may be things concerning which you are entitled to maintain secrecy, but your relation to Christ is not one of them. Of course, if you do not follow Christ in your inner life, you have no call whatever to confess Him in your outer life, or to try to persuade others to confess Him. If, however, in your hidden life you are truly attached to Jesus, your open life will suffer by keeping the secret to yourself. Confessing Christ is not an optional duty. It is the inevitable outcome of a true relation to the Saviour. And confession, needless to say, is more than a single formal utterance of the mouth. It is the habitual acknowledgment of Christ, by lip and life, unwithdrawn to the end.

Confession makes us feel "committed". If it is true that the moment a young person entering the business world becomes committed to some responsible position or undertaking, he feels himself to be a man, it is even truer that when a young believer becomes openly "committed" to Christ, he begins to live under a sense of responsibility that is capable of quickening all the best impulses of his being and making him in every desirable way decided for Christ. Try to keep to yourself the decision you have made for Christ, and your very convictions may melt and trickle away, like ice hid in a hot hand.

Confession makes us realize the essential nature of Christianity. No one can accept Christianity in full without accepting Jesus as a Saviour and openly acknowledging Him as Lord. Christianity without Christ is not Christianity. The founders of rival religions, and the originators of great moral systems,

cared little what their followers thought of themselves, so long as they accepted their teachings. Christ, in contrast, puts Himself at the centre of all His teaching, and insists that readiness to acknowledge Him, or wilful resolve to deny Him, will be the determining ground of our final standing before God. In the one case, there will be open reward. In the other case, there will be open condemnation. Does that, even remotely, suggest that our relation to Christ is something we can keep to ourselves, if we choose?

Confession, on the human side, is the appointed means of propagating Christianity. Without it, the Christian religion as a vital force in life will collapse and disappear. Devotion to the person of Christ is Christianity's real dynamic. When such devotion shows itself in open acknowledgment, the world is put in a position to see the obverse side of faith: the side that discloses the principal image and inscription—Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of mankind. Keep your knowledge of Him to yourself and you both lack the "supports" of confession and hinder the world's plebiscite for Christ.

New Glasgow, N.S.

The Winning of Souls

By Rev. William Patterson, D.D.

VI. AFTER LIFE'S MIDDLE MILESTONE

I suppose ministers and Christian workers generally are agreed that the vast majority of those who are brought to Jesus are reached before they get out of their teens. Very few, in Christian communities, are converted after they pass middle life.

This fact, and I think it is a fact, should bring home to Sunday School teachers and parents the supreme importance of bringing before the young the claims of Christ, and of using every lawful means to get a decision for Him from the boys and girls, while the dew of youth is still upon their brow.

At the same time, let us remember that the gospel can still reach and save those who have passed life's middle milestone, and even those who at that age have become set and hardened in sin. In this article I shall briefly record two conversions from this class.