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THE DUTY OF CONFESSING CHRIST BEFORE MEN.

The public profession of religion we regard as the duty of all who love the Redeemer. In an age of profession, it may appear unnecessary to discuss the subject. We admit, and mourn over a tendency to assume too readily the mantle of profession. We dread the extension of any fashion that fills up the ranks of the sacramental host, without regard to the garments of salvation; we denounce any practice that would break down or take away the fence enclosing the Lord's flock. While, then we view a mere profession as a positive curse—rendering the salvation of the soul more hopeless,—since it soothes as an opiate and beguiles with a lie—yet are we convinced that when true religion is felt in the heart, it is right to stand up on the Lord's side. In penning this article we seek Divine wisdom, to guide us in the remarks we make, that the consciences of secret disciples may be quickened; and the hearts of any holding back from going forth without the camp to bear the reproach of Jesus, may be effectually touched. He that doeth truth cometh to the light, and hence we have faith in the power of God's authority, to guide into the path of privilege and duty. To the Bible then let us go. The "thus saith the Lord" is to those who have tasted that He is gracious, the word of a Father: it is never disputed and it is ardently loved. We ask then any who may have kept aloof from publicly joining the people of God, solemnly to settle the meaning of a few passages. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." "Women professing Godliness." "Let us hold fast our profession." "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." "Repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I have commanded you." "One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel." "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God."

The continuation of a church on earth demands the public profession of religion. God has a people in the earth: the directions in the New Testament as to their assembling themselves together—their communion with each other while walking