

## INTRODUCTION

To remain faithful in the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a Christian must fight the good fight of faith. Where will we find the strength to fight such a fight? Of course all the strength comes from the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, working in us by the almighty power of God. For our part, what are we to do to exercise that strength for fighting the good fight of faith?

One thing that the apostle told Timothy to do was to remember how he had professed a good profession before many witnesses. Speaking essentially the same word together with all who believe in Christ, and speaking in front of anyone who was listening, whether believer or unbeliever, Timothy had spoken forth the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We worked on that together last time, understanding why we need to learn and use the terms “profess” and “profession,” because they are the theological terms, especially in the Baptist congregations, in which we express this thing that is so important to us, and so delightful: a convert testifying to the congregation and to the world that He has become a Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ. We need the term “profession” for this, because we have adopted the word “confession” to refer to something else: our official, published statement of what we believe as a congregation, our 1689 Second London Confession.

Today we take up another aspect of our profession, which is making a good profession. We look into what the word of God says about this. We ask and answer the question: What makes a profession a good profession?

## TEXT

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have ~~confessed the good confession~~ [professed a good profession] in the presence of many witnesses.

## BODY

What makes a profession a good profession?

## I. A Profession Is Good If It Is a Profession of Faith in Christ

- A. We know from the Bible that a person is saved not by his own good works, but through faith in Jesus Christ
  - 1. John 3:15-16 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
  - 2. John 6:28-29 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."
  - 3. Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- B. So to profess a good profession is to profess
  - 1. not your own goodness, but the goodness of Jesus Christ
  - 2. not your own works, but the works of Jesus Christ
  - 3. not your own works, but your faith in Him
- C. Examples of what is not profession of faith in Christ
  - 1. I walked down front
  - 2. I prayed
  - 3. I got baptized

A profession is good if it is a profession of faith in Christ

## II. A Profession Is Good If It Is True

- A. What good is it to believe something that is not known to be true? What good is it to profess something that is not known to be true?
- B. When we profess what has been made up by men's imaginations, we do not profess a good profession
  - 1. some religious tradition
  - 2. a person's own imagination
- C. The Bible is the Word of God; what it teaches to be true is known to be true
  - 1. when we profess what we know to be true from the Bible, that is a good profession

A profession is good if it is a profession of faith in Christ

A profession is good if it is true

## III. A Profession Is Good If It Is Honest

- A. What you really think
  - 1. it is one thing to learn or memorize things that you know you are supposed to say, that you know are the right answers to the questions
  - 2. it is another thing actually to understand what you are saying, really to think it
  - 3. e.g.
- B. What you really believe: what you are counting on, depending on, staking your life on

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A profession is good if it is honest

#### IV. Examples of a Good Profession

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. (3) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
1. I believe the gospel
    - a) that was foretold in the scriptures and preached by the apostles:
    - b) that Christ died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose again
- B. Acts 24:14-15 But this I **confess** to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. (15) I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.
1. I worship God according to the way of Jesus Christ
  2. I believe all things the Bible says
  3. I hope in God, that He will raise me from the dead
- C. Romans 10:8-11 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): (9) that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME."
1. God has raised Jesus from the dead, and
  2. He is Lord
- D. Acts 8:32-39 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH. (33) IN HIS HUMILIATION HIS JUSTICE WAS TAKEN AWAY, AND WHO WILL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH." (34) So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" (35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. (36) Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (37) Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (38) So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. (39) Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.
1. I believe Jesus died for us sinners, as the prophets foretold
  2. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

- E. 1 John 1:7-9 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1. I confess that I have sinned, and need to be forgiven and cleansed
  2. I believe God forgives me and cleanses me from all unrighteousness in the blood of Jesus Christ
- F. 1 John 4:2,15 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that **confesses** that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 1 John 4:15 Whoever **confesses** that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
1. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, come in the flesh

## CONCLUSION

A profession is good if it is a profession of faith in Christ

A profession is good if it is true

A profession is good if it is honest

A profession is good if it professes the kinds of things that the saints of the past professed, as recorded in the scriptures:

I believe the gospel, that was foretold in the scriptures and preached by the apostles: that Christ died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose again

I worship God according to the way of Jesus Christ

I believe all things the Bible says

I hope in God, that He will raise me from the dead

God has raised Jesus from the dead, and He is Lord

I believe Jesus died for us sinners, as the prophets foretold

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

I confess that I have sinned, and need to be forgiven and cleansed

I believe God forgives me and cleanses me from all unrighteousness in the blood of Jesus Christ

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, come in the flesh

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Lamentations 3:21-26

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Daniel 3:1-28

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction - 1 Timothy 1:17

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 27 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" - Andrew lead

Allison - Trinity 35 "Immortal, Invisible"

Allison - Trinity 677 "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus" - ~~Alex~~ lead

G. Hebrews 11:13-16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (14) For those who say such things **declare plainly** that they seek a homeland. (15) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

1. I am a stranger here on earth
2. I am looking forward to my true home in heaven