

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

YOUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

Luke 12:8-9 “And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.”

Why do we say one of the three ecumenical Creeds in virtually every worship service we conduct? A creed is a “formal statement of Christian beliefs.” (Dictionary definition) The Small Catechism defines a creed as “a statement of what we believe, teach and confess.” St. Paul says of confessing one's faith, “It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” (Romans 10:10)

When a Christian confesses one of the ecumenical creeds he or she is saying yes through the words of these statement of beliefs “to what God has revealed (in His word) and publicly announces through these confessions their faith and trust in the triune God.

Remembering the previous verses of Luke 12, you could be afraid to speak the words of these confessions. In a country where the majority population is Muslim, you could be imprisoned or even executed for publicly speaking these words. In the United States, you may receive ostracism, condemnation and ridicule for confessing your faith. Yet, Jesus says “the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.” (Luke 12:9) Simply declining to speak these words publicly is a denial of the faith you were given at your baptism.

Jesus says to you in today's two verses, “. . . everyone who acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God.” (Luke 12:8) Lenski writes, “When the benefactor identifies himself with the beggar, the advantage is entirely on one side.” Imagine, confessing Jesus publicly before your fellow human beings here on earth and having Jesus confessing your name in front of the Angels of God. Lenski then asks this rhetorical question, “Who would trade the acclaim of the angels at that day for the pittance of the approval of men here for a few days?”

Prayer: Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I praise You through the faith You have given me. Amen.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee.
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
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