

Luke 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

Analysis

Jesus promises: 'Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.' The verb 'confess' (Greek 'homologēsē,' ὁμολογήσῃ) means to acknowledge, declare openly, agree with. Public confession of Christ results in Christ's confession of us before God's angels—divine acknowledgment before heaven's court. This requires courage when confession brings persecution. Yet the promise motivates—Christ will acknowledge us before God if we acknowledge Him before humans. Conversely, denying Christ results in Christ denying us (v. 9)—terrifying warning.

Historical Context

This teaching came in context of persecution warnings (vv. 4-12). Disciples would face pressure to deny Christ to save their lives. Jesus promised that public confession—even resulting in martyrdom—guarantees Christ's confession of us before God. The phrase 'angels of God' suggests final judgment scene where Christ acknowledges His own. Early Christians faced this choice repeatedly—confess Christ and die, or deny Him and live. Martyrs chose confession, trusting this promise. Modern application extends beyond martyrdom—everyday opportunities to acknowledge or deny Christ through words and lifestyle. Consistent public identification with Christ demonstrates genuine faith.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does Christ confessing us before angels indicate about final judgment and the eternal significance of our earthly confession?
2. How does this promise motivate courage in confessing Christ publicly despite social or physical consequences?

Interlinear Text

Λέγω	δὲ	ὕμῖν	πᾶς	ὃς	ἂν	ὁμολογήσει	ἐν	ἐμοὶ
I say	Also	unto you	Whosoever	G3739	G302	confess	G1722	me
G3004	G1161	G5213	G3956			G3670		G1698
ἔμπροσθεν	τῶν	ἀνθρώπου	καὶ	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	
before	G3588	men	also	G3588	the Son	G3588	men	
G1715		G444	G2532		G5207		G444	
ὁμολογήσει	ἐν	αὐτῷ	ἔμπροσθεν	τῶν	ἀγγέλων	τοῦ	θεοῦ·	
confess	G1722	him	before	G3588	the angels	G3588	of God	
G3670		G846	G1715		G32		G2316	

Additional Cross-References

1 John 2:23 (Parallel theme): Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

Luke 15:10 (References God): Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

2 Timothy 2:12 (Parallel theme): If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Revelation 2:13 (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Revelation 2:10 (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Psalms 119:46 (Parallel theme): I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

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