

Romans 10:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Analysis

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—This is Christianity's most famous conversion formula. Homologeō (ὁμολογέω) means "confess, acknowledge publicly, declare allegiance." The confession's content: kyrion Iēsoun (κύριον Ἰησοῦν, "Jesus is Lord")—the earliest Christian creed (1 Cor 12:3; Phil 2:11). "Lord" (kyrios, κύριος) is the LXX translation of Yahweh; confessing Jesus as kyrios is a declaration of His deity and universal sovereignty.

Pisteuō en tē kardia (πιστεύω ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ, "believe in the heart") is internal conviction, not mere intellectual assent (James 2:19). The heart (kardia, καρδία) in Hebraic thought is the volitional center—mind, will, affections united. The belief's content: **that God hath raised him from the dead**—the historical Resurrection as objective fact (1 Cor 15:14-17). Faith and confession are distinguished but inseparable—genuine heart-belief inevitably produces mouth-confession. **Thou shalt be saved** (sōthēsē, σωθήσῃ) —future passive, emphasizing God's saving action in response to faith-confession.

Historical Context

"Jesus is Lord" was a politically dangerous confession in the Roman Empire, where Caesar claimed divine honors and "Lord" (kyrios) was an imperial title. Christians

faced persecution for refusing to say "Caesar is lord" and burn incense to the emperor. This confession cost many their lives (Rev 2:13; martyrdom accounts). In Jewish contexts, calling Jesus "Lord" (Yahweh) was blasphemy to unbelievers but the heart of Christian orthodoxy. The early church's baptismal liturgies centered on this confession.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Have you personally confessed Jesus as *kyrios*—absolute sovereign over your life, not just Savior from hell?
2. How does belief in the historical Resurrection distinguish Christianity from all other religions and philosophies?
3. What would it cost you to publicly confess Christ in your specific social, professional, and family context?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	έὰν	όμολογήσῃς	ἐν	τῷ	στόματί	σου	κύριον
That	if	thou shalt confess	in	G3588	mouth	thine	the Lord
G3754	G1437	G3670	G1722		G4750	G4675	G2962
Ἰησοῦν	καὶ	πιστεύσῃς	ἐν	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	σου	ὅτι
Jesus	and	shalt believe	in	G3588	heart	thine	That
G2424	G2532	G4100	G1722		G2588	G4675	G3754
θεὸς	αὐτὸν	ἥγειρεν	ἐκ	νεκρῶν	σωθήσῃ·		
God	him	hath raised	from	the dead	thou shalt be saved		
G2316	G846	G1453	G1537	G3498	G4982		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:8 (References God): Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

Acts 16:31 (Salvation): And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Philippians 2:11 (References Jesus): And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Peter 1:21 (Faith): Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Romans 8:34 (Resurrection): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Romans 14:11 (References God): For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (References Jesus): Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

2 John 1:7 (References Jesus): For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

John 9:22 (Parallel theme): These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

Acts 8:36 (Parallel theme): And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?