

THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER

Losing Ourselves in the Confession of the One Name of Salvation



Background: The lessons during the Epiphany is intended to create an Epiphany (a surprising new awareness) in our lives. The most important being 'Jesus Christ was not only a man, but He was also true God - capable of living a sinless life that would be acceptable as a sacrifice to pay for the sins of the world. This weekend we are led to understand that while Peter recognized Christ as the Son of God, he did not

Peter rebukes Jesus, and gets rebuked right back James Tissot 1836-1902 accept that the "Prince of Life" needed to suffer and die for the sins of the world. Christ did not say "*believe what you want to*" to Peter, but firmly rebuked Peter for not accepting what God first said to Eve and what all the old testament prophets clearly stated about Christ—That while he would shed His blood on the cross (The price to redeem wrongs or sins) Christ would crush Satan when he rose from the grave on the third day. Like Peter spoke on Pentecost Sunday, we testify to all our friends and neighbors that 1. Sin, as defined by all 10 of the Commandments, is unacceptable to God and if not redeemed, separates us from God and 2. Christ is our Redeemer with no reluctance to shade the truth.

The Lessons: Acts 4:8–13, 2 Peter 1:1–15, & Mark 8:27–35 (36–9:1) St. Peter speaks for all disciples when he confesses, "You are the Christ" (Mark 8:29). This confession is the bedrock of the Church, which Christ Himself builds (Matt. 16:18), for "this Jesus," the stone rejected by earthly builders, "has become the cornerstone" (Acts 4:11). This was a scandal even to Peter. The Christ must suffer, be rejected, be killed, "and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31), for through this work of salvation received by faith, God's "precious and very great promises" are granted, "so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). Wherever Jesus is the Christ, His disciples deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow Him (Mark 8:34). They have been cleansed from their former sins and increase in faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love, effective and fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5–9). All who trust in Jesus, the Christ of Peter's confession, will save their life, though for His sake they lose it (Mark 8:35). "For there is no other name ... by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:1