

## **Jesus and Pilate: John 18:28-19:16**

### **09-18-16 PM**

When Jesus was arrested, He went through a series of remarkable (and absurd) trials. First he was tried before Annas (where he was beaten). Then He went to Caiaphas (where again He was beaten). Third, He went to Pilate. Then He was sent to Herod (where He was abused again). Finally, He was returned to Pilate (where He was scourged, beaten and abused) and ultimately sent for crucifixion. During the trial with Pilate He was declared innocent by the Judge three times; yet still He was sentenced to die. No other trial(s) in history was quite as corrupt and obscene as this one, yet in the midst of it is one of the most remarkable conversations in history: Jesus and Pilate discussing the kingdom, and the confession made to Pilate by Jesus. *"Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth."* (John 18:37a)

Consider this statement by Paul in I Timothy 6:13: *"I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate"*. Why is it that Jesus' confession (or Pilate's confession depending on the view) is so important?

It is interesting to note that Jesus had not confessed being the Christ directly throughout His time on earth. Consider this passage: *Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."* (John 10:24). It is the next verse that tells us that Jesus "confessed" His identity by works: Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me." (John 10:25)

One consideration is that Jesus expected others to confess Him. We see that with John the Baptist and the Apostle Nathanael in John 1; the Samaritan woman in John 4; Peter in Matthew 16; the blind man in John 9; Martha in John 11, and the Centurion in Mark 15.

So why was this confession such a big deal? First, consider that what Pilate came to understand is the foundational truth of Christianity. Second, God had revealed it to a Gentile. The import is the same as the importance of our own confession. We know that words are important; consider John 1:1 if you doubt it. Also, confession relates understanding, which is the cornerstone of the reception of the Gospel. Jesus told Peter and Pilate that flesh and blood does not tell us of Christ; it is the Father Himself!

*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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."* Romans 10:9-11