

# **JESUS, THE MASTER SOUL-WINNER**

## **(Part Nine – Christ’s Confession before Pilate)**

**TEXT:** John 18:28-38; 1 Timothy 6:13

**INTRODUCTION:** We come now to the end of Christ’s earthly ministry. After an illegal trial conducted at night by the high priest, Jesus is taken by the Jewish leaders to appear before Pilate, the Roman governor. Here He “*witnessed a good confession,*” according to the inspired Apostle. It was “good” both because of His meek manner and because of the matter of His witness. Jesus is indeed “**the** faithful and true witness” (Rev. 1:5; 3:14). He was a faithful Witness before both paupers and procurators.

What was the content of this “good confession”? What did Jesus witness to? He bore witness to enough spiritual truth that Pilate could have been saved if he had only acted on it.

**OUTLINE:** To what did Jesus bear witness before Pontius Pilate?

### **I. The DEPRAVITY of Man**

- A. The hatred and hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders (vv. 28-30; Matt. 27:18)
- B. The weakness and cowardice of Pilate (vv. 29,33,34,38; 19:4,9,12)
- C. The fickleness of the rabble (Mk. 15:11,13)

### **II. The DEITY of Christ**

- A. The faultless Man (vv. 30,38; 19:5,6)
- B. The Savior of Jew and Gentile (vv. 31,32; Mk. 10:32,33; John 12:32)

### **III. The DIADEM of Christ (His Kingship)**

(v. 36 - “*not of this world*”)

- A. The un-earthly origin of His kingdom
- B. The spiritual nature of His kingdom

### **IV. The DESTINY of Christ (the purpose of His Incarnation)**

- A. Attestation to the truth (v. 37b “*that I should bear witness to the truth*”)
- B. Invitation to embrace the truth (v. 37c “*Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice*”)

**CONCLUSION:** After considering Christ’s magnificence and Pilate’s vacillation in this passage, we feel like asking, “Who was really on trial – Jesus or Pilate”? The question for us is “*What will you do with Jesus?*” (Matt. 27:22). We cannot be neutral. Pilate tried unsuccessfully. He released a robber and crucified Christ. God

help us to respond differently from Pilate!

Before Pontius Pilate, Jesus indeed “*witnessed a good confession.*” He gave the Roman governor profound and convincing truth about Himself. Sadly, Pilate left Christ’s presence abruptly to go out again to the people. He was confronted with the One Who was truth Incarnate, but he rejected Him.