

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

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

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

**INTRODUCTION:** The Apostle Paul said that before Pilate the Roman governor Jesus “witnessed a good confession.” Jesus is indeed “**the** faithful and true witness” (Rev. 1:5; 3:14). He gave Pilate enough spiritual truth that he could have been saved if he had only acted on it. Sadly, he did not. When confronted with the truth, he turned away from it. In rejecting the One Who is “the way, the truth, and the life” and delivering Jesus to be crucified, Pilate unwittingly **proved** the truthfulness of God’s Word. He fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and predictions of Christ Himself that He would be delivered into the hands of Gentiles and be “lifted up” to die (Deut. 21:23; Mk. 10:32,33; John 12:32).

**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 (implications)
  - 1. Not an argument for the so-called “separation of church and state”
  - 2. No proof against a literal millennium
  - 3. A rebuke of a misplaced emphasis on political activism, militancy

### **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:** Our mission as His 21<sup>st</sup> century disciples is the same as Christ's – to *"bear witness to the truth,"* to stand for God's truth, even if we have to stand alone. God's power resides in His truth! It is virtually impossible for a liar to perfectly imitate or simulate the inflexible majesty of truth! May God help us to respond differently from Pilate who, when he was confronted with the One Who was truth incarnate, rejected Him. Have you proved that you are "of the truth" by hearing Christ's voice?